



**ORTHODOX
PRAYERS
OF OLD ENGLAND**

A Western Rite
Prayer-Book
for Orthodox Christians



Third Edition

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HOLY SYNOD OF MILAN
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Psalms from 'The Psalter According to the Seventy,'
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O almighty, everlasting God, we humbly pray to Thy majesty, that even as Thine only-begotten Son was presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so also, after death hath come upon this woman who is purified after her childing, Thou wouldst make her to be presented before Thee with mercy. O Through Christ our Lord. *℞ Amen.*

END OF LITURGY

After blessing bread, the Priest walks to the mother, gives her the first portion, & says:

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon thee, and remain for ever.

She says, “Amen,” and kisses his hand.



HOLY BAPTISM

Godparents: A godparent (sponsor) of the same gender as the baptizand is chosen—(s)he must be a practising Orthodox Christian. The godparent is responsible for the baptized’s growth in godliness, chastity and charity.

Naming and Study: The candidate for Baptism receives a name which is of a Saint of the Church. He is first made a catechumen, as shown below, and—unless he is an infant—begins a thorough instruction in the Orthodox Faith.

Order of the Catechumenate

The candidates arriving at church, an acolyte records their names. When the Priest has come to doors of the church, outside the nave, the baptizands are summoned:

Acolyte: Let the candidates for Holy Baptism, N. & N., draw near.

The males assemble on the right or south side, the females on the left or north.

FOR CONVERTS FROM PAGANISM / SHAMANISM

Receive the sign of the Cross both upon thy forehead and upon thy heart. Take up the Faith of heavenly commandments. So conduct thyself that thou mayest be able now to become the temple of God. Having entered into the Church of God, be glad and confess that thou hast escaped the snares of death. Loathe the idols. Spit on the graven images. Worship God, the O Father almighty, and Jesus Christ His Son, Who liveth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages of ages. Amen.

℣. The Lord be with you. ℞. And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray.

Intreat Thee, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, that Thou wouldst command the way of truth and knowledge of Thee to be revealed to this Thy (servant) N., who wandereth dubious and uncertain in the dark night of this age: so that once the eyes of (his) heart have been opened (he) may know Thee, the one God, the Father in the Son, and the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit, and may be counted worthy to partake of the fruit of this confession both here and in the age hereafter. O Through the same our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

The Priest lays his hand upon the head(s) of the candidate(s), saying:

Depart, O Devil, from this image of God, being rebuked by Him, and give place to the Holy Spirit.

The Priest signs the candidate(s), saying:

I sign thee with the seal of God, of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit. I sign thine eyes, that thou mayest see God's glory. Thine ears, that thou mayest hear of His mighty works. Thy nostrils, that thou mayest smell the fragrance of His sweetness. Thy heart, that thou mayest believe in Him. Thy mouth, that thou mayest confess Him. The seal of God, of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, do I impose upon thy whole body, and may it make thee whole through all seasons of thy life, that the Devil may have no portion or power in thee, but the Divine Trinity have His kingdom in thee, unto ages of ages. **℞ Amen.**

The Priest places his hand upon each candidate's head, then says:

℣. The Lord be with you. ℞. And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, vouchsafe to look down upon this Thy (servant),

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? Godparent(s): N.

whom Thou hast deigned to call to (his) first steps in the Faith. Drive far from (him) all blindness of heart: free (him) from the snares of Satan, by which (he) was held. Open to (him), O Lord, the door of Thy tender mercy, that instructed by the sign of Thy wisdom, (he) may be relieved of the stench of all evil desires, and, rejoicing in the sweet savour of Thy commandments, may diligently serve Thee in Thy Church, and progress from day to day: that, receiving healing, (he) may be made worthy to approach unto the grace of Thy Baptism. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. **℞ Amen.**

Let us pray. Mercifully hearken, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to our prayers, and guard this Thy chosen one,

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? Godparent(s): N. The Priest signs him:

N., by the power of the Lord's Cross, with which mark we sign (him), that remaining faithful to (his) first steps towards a glory of greatness by keeping Thy commandments, (he) may be counted worthy to attain the glory of being born again. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. **℞ Amen.** Let us pray.

O God, Who didst create the human race in such wise that Thou couldst also redeem it: be merciful to Thine adopted people, and enroll this new (son) in the new covenant, that the children of promise may rejoice to have received by grace what they could not achieve by nature. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. **℞ Amen.**

BLESSING OF SALT

I exorcise thee, O creature of salt, in the name of God the Father almighty and in the charity of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. I exorcize thee by the living God, by the true God, by the holy God, by the God Who brought thee forth for the protection of the human race, and commanded thee to be consecrated by His servants for people entering into the Faith, that in the name of the Holy Trinity thou mightest become a health-giving, holy mystery to put the enemy to flight. Wherefore we beseech Thee, O Lord our God, that this creature of salt Thou wouldst, sanctifying, sanctify; and, blessing, bless, that it may be to all receiving it a perfect healing remedy abiding deep within

them. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. *℞ Amen.*

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? Godparent(s): N.

N., receive the salt of wisdom, that the Lord may be gracious to thee unto life eternal. *℞ Amen.*

℣ The Lord be with you. ℞ And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray.

O God of our fathers, O God the Creator of all creation, we humbly beseech Thee that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to look with favour upon this Thy (servant) N., and wouldst not suffer (him) any longer to hunger, who is tasting this first food of salt, but wilt grant that (he) be filled with heavenly food: so that (he) may be always, O Lord, fervent in spirit, joyful in hope, a servant of Thy name: and bring (him) to the laver of new regeneration, that with Thy faithful (he) may deserve to obtain the eternal rewards of those things Thou hast promised. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.* Let us pray.

OVER A MAN OR BOY

O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, God Who didst appear to Thy servant Moses on Mount Sinai, and leddest the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt, appointing them an Angel of Thy mercy, who would guard them by day and by night: we beseech Thee, O Lord, that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to send Thy holy Angel from the heavens, who may in like manner guard this Thy servant N., and bring him to the grace of Thy Baptism.

Therefore, accursed devil, remember thy sentence, and give honour to the living and true God; give honour to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Spirit: and depart from this servant of God N., for our Lord and God Jesus Christ hath deigned to call him to Himself, to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism, by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this sign of the Holy Cross which we give his forehead do thou, accursed devil, never dare to desecrate. O Through Him Who shall come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. *℞ Amen.*

O God, immortal guardian of all who make request of Thee, the liberation of the humble, the peace of them that pray, the life of them that believe, the resurrection of the dead: I invoke Thy name upon this Thy servant N., who, seeking the gift of Thy Baptism, hopeth, through spiritual rebirth, to obtain eternal grace. Receive him, O Lord, and because Thou hast deigned to say: "Ask, and ye shall receive, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you," offer Thy recompense to him

OVER A WOMAN OR GIRL

O God of heaven, God of earth, God of Angels, God of Archangels, God of Patriarchs, God of Prophets, God of Apostles, God of Martyrs, God of Confessors, God of Virgins, God of all that live rightly, God to Whom every tongue confesseth and every knee is bent, of those in heaven, on the earth, and beneath the earth, I invoke Thy name, O Lord, over this Thy handmaiden N., that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to guard her and bring her to the grace of Thy Baptism.

Therefore, accursed devil, remember thy sentence, and give honour to the living and true God, & give honour to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Spirit, and depart from this handmaiden of God N., for our Lord and God Jesus Christ hath deigned to call her to Himself, to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism, by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this sign of the Holy Cross which we give her forehead do thou, accursed devil, never dare to desecrate. Through Him Who shall come to judge the living & the dead & the world by fire. *℞ Amen.*

O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, Who didst deliver the tribes of Israel from the slavery of Egypt, and by Thy servant Moses didst instruct them in the wilderness concerning the keeping of Thy commandments, and Who didst deliver Susanna from false accusation: Thee I humbly entreat, O Lord, that Thou wouldst also deliver this Thy handmaiden N., and wouldst deign to bring her to the grace of Thy Baptism.

MALE

that asketh; open the door to him that knocketh: that having attained to the eternal blessing of the heavenly laver, he may partake of the promised kingdom Thou shalt give. O Who livest & reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

Give ear, O accursed Satan. Being adjured by the name of the eternal God and our Saviour His Son, depart with thine envy, conquered, trembling, and groaning. Mayest thou have nothing in common with the servant of God, N., now pondering the things of heaven, who shall renounce thee and thy world and achieve the victory of blessed immortality. Give honour, then, to the approaching Holy Spirit, Who, descending from the uppermost height of heaven, and putting thy wiles to confusion, shall make perfect his breast, once cleansed at the Divine font, that is, the temple and dwelling-place made holy to God: so that this servant of God, completely freed from all the evils of his past sins, may for ever give thanks to the eternal God, and bless His holy name unto ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

Iexorcise thee, unclean spirit, in the name of God, the Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit, that thou go out of and depart from this servant of God N., for He commandeth thee, accursed one, damned one, thou that art to be damned, He Who with His feet walked upon the sea, & stretched out His right hand to Peter when he was sinking.

Therefore, accursed devil, remember thy sentence, and give honour to the living and true God; give honour to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Spirit: and depart from this servant of God N., for our Lord and God Jesus Christ hath deigned to call him to Himself, to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism, by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this sign of the Holy Cross which we give his forehead do thou, accursed devil, never dare to desecrate. O Through Him Who shall come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. *℞ Amen.*

FEMALE

Therefore, accursed devil, remember thy sentence, and give honour to the living and true God: and give honour to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Spirit: and depart from this handmaiden of God N., for our Lord and God Jesus Christ hath deigned to call her to Himself, to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism, by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this sign of the Holy Cross which we give her forehead do thou, accursed devil, never dare to desecrate. O Through Him Who shall come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. *℞ Amen.*

Iexorcise thee, unclean spirit, by the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, that thou go out of and depart from this handmaiden of God N., for He commandeth thee, accursed one, damned one, thou that art to be damned, He Who opened the eyes of the man born blind, and raised Lazarus to life from the grave after four days.

Therefore, accursed devil, remember thy sentence, and give honour to the living and true God, and give honour to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Spirit, and depart from this handmaiden of God N., for our Lord and God Jesus Christ hath deigned to call her to Himself, to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism, by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this sign of the Holy Cross which we give her forehead do thou, accursed devil, never dare to desecrate. O Through Him Who shall come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. *℞ Amen.*

CONTINUATION—MEN & WOMEN

He signs the forehead, & briefly places his hand upon the head, of each, then says:

Ibeseech Thine eternal and most righteous compassion, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, Who art the Author of light and truth: look with favour upon this Thy (servant) N., that Thou mayst deign to enlighten (him) with the light of Thine understanding. Cleanse and sanctify (him); grant (him) true knowledge, that (he) may be made worthy to draw near to the grace of Thy Baptism. May (he) retain solid hope, sound judgment, holy doctrine: that (he) may be fit to receive the grace of Thy Baptism. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

It is no secret to thee, Satan, that the punishments threaten thee, the torments threaten thee, the Day of judgment threateneth thee, the Day of everlasting pain, the Day which shall come as a burning furnace, on which Day eternal destruction shall come upon thee and all thine angels. And therefore, thou that art damned and to be damned because of thy wickedness, give honour to the living and true God; give honour to Jesus Christ His Son; give honour to the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, in Whose name and by Whose power I command thee—whosoever thou art, unclean spirit—that thou go out of and depart from this (servant) of God N., whom the same our Lord and God Jesus Christ hath deigned this day to call to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism, that—by the water of regeneration, and unto the remission of all (his) sins—(he) may become His temple. In the name of the same our O Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. *℟̄ Amen.*

GOSPEL(S)

OLDER CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULTS

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

℟̄. And with thy spirit.

℣̄. The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

℟̄. Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time Jesus answered, and said: I confess to Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to little ones. Yea, Father; for so hath it seemed good in Thy sight. All things are delivered to Me by My Father. And no one knoweth the Son, but the Father: neither doth any one know the Father but the Son, and he to whom it shall please the Son to reveal Him. Come to Me, all ye that labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you. Take up My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, because I am meek, and humble of heart: and ye shall find rest to your souls. For My yoke is sweet and My burden light. (Mt. 11:25-30)

INFANTS, YOUNG CHILDREN

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

℟̄. And with thy spirit.

℣̄. The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

℟̄. Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time there were little children presented to Jesus, that He should impose hands upon them and pray. And the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said to them: Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come to Me: for the kingdom of heaven is for such. And when He had imposed hands upon them: He departed from thence. (Mt. 19:13-15)

The Gospel Book is kissed by—or touched to the lips of—each catechumen.

OPENING OF THE SENSES

The Priest touches his thumb, with spittle, to the right ear, nostrils, & left ear (see Mark 7:33-34 & John 9:6).

Effetá, that is, be thou opened, to an odour of sweetness. But thou, Devil, flee, for the judgment of God draweth nigh.

CALL FOR PRAYER

Godfathers and godmothers, and all that be here round about: say ye, in reverence of God and Our Lady and of the Twelve Apostles, an Our Father, Rejoice Mary, and I Believe, that we may so administer this blessed and holy Mystery that it may be pleasing to almighty God and serve for the confusion of our spiritual enemy, and for the salvation of (this) soul(s).

The Priest, godparents, catechumens, & bystanders say:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen. (Mt. 6:9-13)

Rejoice, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. (Lk. 1:28,42)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. And born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, consubstantial to the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He is to come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, of Whose kingdom there shall be no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life: Who proceedeth from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And in one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GIVING OF THE SIGN

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? Godparent(s): N. Priest:

N., I entrust thee with the seal of our Lord Jesus Christ in thy right hand, that thou mayest sign thyself, and keep thyself from the enemy's party, and possess life eternal, and live unto ages of ages. ℞ **Amen.**

The catechumen crosses himself (if he is too young, the Priest directs his hand).

BLESSING

May the blessing of God the Father almighty, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, come down upon (thee), and remain for ever. ℞ **Amen.**

ENTRY INTO CHURCH

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? Godparent(s): N. Priest:

The Priest leads the catechumen(s) into the church by the right hand, saying:

N., enter into the temple of God, that thou mayest possess life eternal, and live unto ages of ages. ℞ **Amen.**

FOR CONVERTS FROM PAGANISM / SHAMANISM

∿ **The Lord be with you.** Ⲛ **And with thy spirit.** *Priest:* **Let us pray.**

O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, Who art and Who wast, and Who shalt be, even unto the end, Whose beginning is unknowable, Whose end likewise is past all understanding: we humbly invoke Thy name, O Lord, over this Thy (servant) N., whom Thou hast set free from the error of the heathen and a most sinful way of life. Vouchsafe to hearken unto (him) that boweth down (his) neck before Thee. Let (him) arrive at the font of washing, that being reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, and having been divested of the old man, (he) may be clothed in the new man, which is created according to God. Let him receive the incorrupt and immaculate garment, and be found worthy to serve Thee, the Lord our God. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. Ⲛ **Amen.**

End of the Order of the Catechumenate.



Blessing of the Font

The font is usually blessed on the day of Baptism. Customarily, water from a holy well or from the Jordan River is poured in prior to, or during, the blessing. *Priest:*

*CALL TO PRAYER*¹

Godfathers and godmothers, and all that be here round about: say ye, in reverence of God and Our Lady and of the Twelve Apostles, an Our Father, Rejoice Mary, and I Believe, that we may so administer this blessed and holy Mystery that it may be pleasing to almighty God and serve for the confusion of our spiritual enemy, and for the salvation of (this) soul(s).

Our Father... Rejoice Mary... I believe in one God... (*see facing page*)

LITANY OF SAINTS

Note: At Pascha and Pentecost the Sevenfold and Fivefold Litanies are done instead.

Kryieléyson. **Xristeléyson.** (Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.)
Christ, hear us.

O God, Father of the heavens: (*All.:*) have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: (*All.:*) have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit: have mercy upon us.

O Holy Trinity, one God: have mercy upon us.

Holy Mary: (*All.:*) pray for us.

Holy Theotókos: pray for us.

Holy Virgin of virgins: *etc.*

Holy Michael: *etc.*

Holy Gabriel:

Holy Raphael:

¹ If the Font Blessing follows on the Catechumenate, the Call to Prayer is not made again.

**All holy Angels and Archangels
of God: pray for us.**
All holy orders of blessed spirits:

Holy John the Baptist:
All holy Patriarchs and Prophets:

Holy Peter:
Holy Paul:
Holy Andrew:
Holy John:
Holy James:
Holy Thomas:
Holy Philip:
Holy James:
Holy Matthew:
Holy Bartholomew:
Holy Simon:
Holy Thaddeus:
Holy Matthias:
Holy Barnabas:
Holy Mark:
Holy Luke:
**All holy Apostles and
Evangelists:**
All holy Disciples and Innocents:

Holy Stephen:
Holy Linus:
Holy Cletus:
Holy Clement:
Holy Fabian:
Holy Sebastian:
Holy Alban:
Holy Cosmas:
Holy Damian:
Holy Primus:

Holy Felician:
**Holy Dionysius with thy
companions:**
**Holy Victor with thy
companions:**
All holy Martyrs:

Holy Sylvester:
Holy Leo:
Holy Jerome:
Holy Augustine:
Holy Isidore:
Holy Julian:
Holy Gildard:
Holy Medard:
Holy Albinus:
Holy Eusebius:
Holy Swithin:
Holy Birinus:
All holy Confessors:

All holy Monks and Hermits:

Holy Mary Magdalene:
Holy Mary of Egypt:
Holy Margaret:
Holy Scholastica:
Holy Petronilla:
Holy Genevieve:
Holy Praxedes:
Holy Sotheris:
Holy Prisca:
Holy Thecla:
Holy Afra:
Holy Edith:
All holy Virgins:

All ye holy ones: pray for us.

Priest: For in Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light. (Ps. 35:10)

If the Bishop celebrates: {

- ∿ **Our help is in the name of the Lord.**
- ℟. **Who hath made heaven and the earth.** (Ps. 120:3)
- ∿ **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**
- ℟. **From henceforth and for evermore.** (Ps. 112:3)

℣ The Lord be with you. ℞ And with thy spirit. Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, be with us and assist at the Mysteries of Thy great mercy, be with us and assist us in the Sacraments, and send forth the Spirit of adoption to recreate the new people whom the font of Baptism, as a mother, bringeth forth to Thee, that what is to be performed by the ministry of our lowliness may be filled with the effectual working of Thy power. (*softly:*) O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, ...

...through all the ages of ages. ⇨ ℞ Amen.

℣ The Lord be with you. (Ruth 2:4) ℞ And with thy spirit. (2 Tim. 4:22)

℣ Lift up your hearts. (Lam. 3:41) ℞ We have them unto the Lord.

℣ Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. (cf Col 1:3, 1 Thess. 1:2)

℞ It is meet and just.

PREFACE

It is truly meet and just, right and availing to salvation, that we should always and in all places give thanks to Thee, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who with unseen power dost wondrously work the effect of Thy Holy Mysteries. And although we are unworthy to perform such great Mysteries, yet Thou, leaving us not bereft of the gifts of Thy grace, shalt bow down the ears of Thy mercy to our prayers. O God, Whose Spirit hovered over the waters¹ at the very beginnings of the world, so that even then the nature of water received the power of sanctification, O God Who, washing away the sins of a guilty world by the waters, didst signify an image of regeneration in that downpour of the Flood,² that by the mystery of one and the same element there might be both an end to sinful evils and a spring of virtues. Look down, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon the face of Thy Church, and multiply in her Thy regenerations, Who makest glad Thy city with the rushings of Thine abundant grace,³ and throughout the whole round world openest the font of Baptism for calling in the Gentiles, that at the command of Thy majesty, it may receive the grace of Thine Only-begotten from the Holy Spirit. May He make this water prepared for the regeneration of men fruitful by the hidden admixture of His light, that by its sanctifying virtue, every one conceived in her may rise up out of the spotless womb of the Divine font as a creature new and reborn, and a heavenly offspring.⁴ And to all that differ either by the gender of their bodies or by the number of their years, may Grace, as a mother, give birth into a single infancy. Therefore, as Thou commandest, O Lord, let every unclean spirit be gone far from hence. Let the evil of diabolic delusions depart far from hence. Let no intrusion of the opposing power have any place here; let him not fly about, setting snares; let him not creep in, concealing himself, let him seduce no-one by tainting them with his poison. Let this creature be holy and innocent, free of assault by any adversary and purified by the departure of all wickedness. Let it be a living font, a regenerating water, a purifying stream, that all who are to be washed in this salvation-bringing laver may obtain the forgiveness of perfect purification, the Holy Spirit working in them. Therefore I bless thee, O creature of water, by the living God, by the true God, by the holy God, by God Who in the beginning didst separate thee from the dry land at His word,⁵ Whose Spirit hovered over thee,¹ Who made thee to flow out of Paradise, and commanded thee to water the whole earth in four rivers,⁶

He casts water in the four directions.

Who, when thou wast bitter in the wilderness, infused sweetness into thee, & made thee fit to drink,⁷ & brought thee forth from the rock for the thirsting people.⁸ I bless thee through Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who at Cana of Galilee changed thee by His power into wine,⁹ by a wonderful miracle. Who with His feet walked over thee¹⁰ and was baptized in thee by John in the Jordan.¹¹ Who, together with blood, brought thee forth out of His side,¹² and commanded His disciples that believers should be baptized in thee, saying, 'Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'¹³

¹ Gen. 1:2 ² ib. 6:17-9:16 ³ Ps. 45:5 ⁴ Jn. 3:3 ⁵ Gen. 1:9 ⁶ ib. 2:10-14 ⁷ Ex. 15:23-25 ⁸ Num. 20:8-11 ⁹ Jn. 2:1-11 ¹⁰ Mt 14:25 ¹¹ Mk. 1:9 ¹² Jn. 19:34 ¹³ Mt. 28:19

Do Thou, almighty and merciful God, be with and help us as we keep these commandments; do Thou graciously breathe upon us.

He breathes on the waters.

Do Thou with Thy mouth bless these clear waters, that apart from the natural cleansing they can bring to the bodies of them that wash therein, they may also be effectual for purifying souls.

He drips the Paschal candle into the font & holds it in the waters.

Let the power of the Holy Spirit descend into the fullness of this font, and make fruitful all the substance of this water with the power to regenerate. Here let the stains of all sins be blotted out. Here let that nature made in Thine image and refashioned into the glory of its primal beginning be cleansed from all the impurities of the old man. That every man entering into this Holy Mystery of regeneration may be born again into a new infancy of true innocence. ○ Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. ℞ **Amen.**

ANOINTING OF THE WATERS

The union of the Oil of unction and the water of Baptism. ○ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ℞ **Amen.**

Let this font be made fruitful and sanctified by this health-bringing Chrism of salvation. ○ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ℞ **Amen.**

The union of the Chrism of sanctification and the Oil of anointing and the water of Baptism. ○ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ℞ **Amen.**



Rite of Baptism

The godparents lead the catechumens to the font.

RENUNCIATIONS

The Priest places his right hand for a moment upon the head of each catechumen.

Deacon: What is (his) name? Godparent: N. Priest:

N., dost thou renounce Satan? ℞ I do renounce him.

And all his works? ℞ I do renounce them.

And all his pretensions? ℞ I do renounce them.

UNCTION

Deacon: What is (his) name? Godparent: N. Priest:

N., I also anoint thee with the oil of salvation, in Christ Jesus our Lord, that thou mayest possess life eternal and live unto ages of ages. ℞ **Amen.**

SCRUTINY OF FAITH

Deacon: What is (his) name? Godparent: N. Priest:

N., dost thou believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? (*catechumen or godparent:*)

℞ I do believe.

N., dost thou believe also in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, Who was born and Who suffered?

℞ I do believe.

N., dost thou believe also in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the flesh, and life everlasting after death?

℞ I do believe.

TRIPLE IMMERSION

Deacon: What is (his) name? *Godparent(s):* N. *Priest:*

N., what seekest thou? ℞ **Baptism.**

N., dost thou wish to be baptised? ℞ **I wish it.**

Deacon: What is (his) name? *Godparent(s):* N. *Priest:*

The Priest baptizes him with a triple immersion:

N., therefore I baptize thee, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The godparent takes or leads the baptized out of the font. If it is a baby, they have a cloth in their arms into which to receive the baby. If there is more than one godparent, both touch the child. If there be an assisting Priest, they bring him to this second Priest for the crown-anointing.

CROWN-ANOINTING

✠ **The Lord be with you.** ℞ **And with thy spirit.** *Priest:* **Let us pray.**

God almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath regenerated thee by water and the Holy Spirit, and Who hath granted thee the remission of all thy sins, it is He Who anointeth thee with the Chrism of salvation in the same His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, unto life everlasting. ℞ **Amen.**

BAPTISMAL ROBE

The godparent clothes the baptized in a white robe.

Deacon: What is (his) name? *Godparent:* N. *Priest:*

N., receive this holy and unspotted garment of white; mayest thou bear it before the judgment-seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thou mayest possess life eternal and live unto ages of ages. ℞ **Amen.**

If the baptized is old enough, he now places one foot over the right foot of his godparent. Infants continue to be held by the godparents.

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? *Godparent(s):* N. *Priest:*

GIVING OF THE CANDLE

N., receive this burning and blameless light; preserve thy Baptism; keep the commandments; that when the Lord cometh to the wedding feast, thou mayest be able to run to meet Him in the palace of heaven, together with the Saints, that thou mayest possess life eternal, and live unto ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

(GOSPEL FOR SICK & INFANTS)

The Priest goes to the altar followed by the newly-baptized. The baptized (or godparent having him) kneels. The Deacon sings:

- ℣. The Lord be with you.*
℞. And with thy spirit.
℣. The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.
℞. Glory O be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time one of the multitude, answering, said to Jesus: Master, I have brought my son to Thee, having a dumb spirit. Who, wheresoever he taketh him, dasheth him, and he foameth, and gnasheth with the teeth, and pineth away. And I spake to Thy disciples to cast him out, and they could not. Who answering them, said: O incredulous generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto Me. And they brought him. And when He had seen him, immediately the spirit troubled him; and being thrown down upon the ground, he rolled about foaming. And He asked his father: How long time is it since this hath happened unto him? But he said: From his infancy; and oftentimes hath he cast him into the fire and into waters to destroy him. But if Thou canst do any thing, help us, having compassion on us. And Jesus saith to him: If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And immediately the father of the boy, crying out with tears, said: I do believe, Lord; help mine unbelief. And when Jesus saw the multitude running together, He threatened the unclean spirit, saying to him: Deaf and dumb spirit, I command thee, go out of him and enter not any more into him. And crying out, and greatly tearing him, he went out of him, and he became as dead, so that many said: He is dead. But Jesus, taking him by the hand, lifted him up.

The Deacon bids them rise & helps them up.

And he arose. And when He was come into the house, His disciples secretly asked Him: Why could not we cast him out? And He said to them: This kind can go out by nothing; but by prayer & fasting. (Mk. 9:16-28)

LAST GOSPEL

- ℣. The Lord be with you.*
℞. And with thy spirit.
℣. The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to John.
℞. Glory O be to Thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was made nothing that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to give testimony of the light, that all men might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to give testimony of the light. That was the true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, He gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in His name. Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we saw His glory, the glory as it were of the Only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (Jn. 1:1-14)

WASHING OF HANDS

The godparents wash their hands in the basin held by the servers.

CHRISMATION

The Bishop confers Chrismation if present; otherwise the Priest. In the West this Mystery is also known as “Confirmation,” which means “The Setting of the Seal.”



The Bishop imposes his hand upon the head of each confirmand, saying:

May the Holy Spirit come upon (thee), and the power of the Most High preserve (thee) here and everywhere, unto ages of ages. *R.* Amen.

If the Bishop Celebrates:

{	<i>℣.</i> Our help is in the name of the Lord.	
	<i>℟.</i> Who hath made heaven and the earth.	(Ps. 120:3)
	<i>℣.</i> Blessed be the name of the Lord.	
	<i>℟.</i> From henceforth and for evermore.	(Ps. 112:3)

℣. The Lord be with you. *℟.* And with thy spirit. *Bishop:* Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, Who hast deigned to regenerate (this) Thy (servant) by water and the Holy Spirit, and Who hast granted (him) the remission of all (his) sins, do Thou, O Lord, send forth upon (him) from the heavens the sevenfold Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. *R.* Amen. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding. *R.* Amen. The Spirit of knowledge and piety. *R.* Amen. The Spirit of counsel and fortitude. *R.* Amen. Fill (him) with the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, (Is. 11:2) and do Thou, O merciful One, seal (him) with the sign of Thy Holy Cross, unto life everlasting. *R.* Amen.

CHRISMATION

Deacon: What is (his) name(s)? *Godparent(s):* N. *Bishop:*

N., receive the seal of the holy Cross of Christ, with the Chrism of salvation, in Christ Jesus, unto life everlasting. *R.* Amen.

Bishop: The peace and blessing of the Lord be with (thee) for ever.

Newly-confirmed: And with thy spirit.

The godparent ties fast the chrismal band. Meanwhile, the Bishop continues, singing:

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit confirm (thee), that (thou mayest) possess life eternal, and live unto ages of ages. *R.* Amen. May(est) (thou) so live in this world that (thou mayest) please almighty God in that age which is to come. *R.* Amen. Behold, so shall every man be blessed that feareth the Lord. May the Lord bless (thee) out of Sion, and (mayest thou) see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of (thy) life. *R.* Amen.

In reception by Chrismation, the white robe & candle are given at this point (pp. 237 and 238), & the robe is worn for eight days, just as for Baptism.

Let us pray. O God, Who gavest to Thine Apostles the Holy Spirit, and Who hast willed that He be given through them, by their successors, to the other faithful as well, mercifully regard the servitude of our humility, and grant to (him) whose forehead(s) we have anointed today with the most sacred Chrism and sealed with the sign of the Holy Cross, that, the same Holy Spirit coming to (him), He might in condescending to dwell in (his) heart(s) make (him) the temple of His glory. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *R. Amen.*

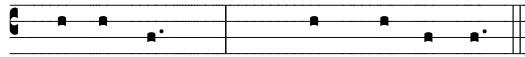
Bishop: Peace be with (thee). Newly-confirmed: And with thy spirit.

BISHOP

Deacon: O Prince of the Church, shepherd to the sheep, may it please thee to bless the people entrusted to thy care. (to the people:) With meekness and with charity, bow down yourselves for a blessing. R. Thanks be to God. He sings six appointed blessings; each time we answer: R. Amen.

PRIEST

May almighty God bless (thee), the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.



Deacon: Go in peace. All: Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

Divine Liturgy follows and the newly-baptized is communed.

WEARING OF THE CHRISMAL BAND & ROBE

They are worn eight days, until the ablution and tonsure. However, in practice the ablutions and tonsure are often done after Liturgy on the same day. If this is done, the robe is worn eight days nonetheless. New Christians ought to offer and commune daily for these eight days—at each Liturgy holding the lit baptismal candle.



Ablution & Tonsure

The godparent and baptized assemble at the church. The chrismal band and robe are returned to the Priest, although the robe may be kept, if it does not belong to the church. The Priest washes the parts of the body which were anointed, over the font.

Note: If a newly-baptized child's hair is not long enough to cut, the parents and godparents return to church with the child on the fortieth day.

Priest: The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spirit. Priest:

Let us pray. O Lord God, Who laying the blessing of Thy holy hand upon the little children coming to Thee didst say that the kingdom of heaven is for such, bless (this) Thy (servant) N., whose superfluous hair we cut in Thy name. Give (him) fulness of years, and the understanding of wisdom. Grant (him) that (he) may know Thee and have

understanding of Thee, our Lord Jesus Christ. O Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

Almighty, everlasting God, Who didst lay the holy hands of Thine imposition upon the innocents who came to Thee, we entreat Thee that Thou bless (this) Thy (servant) N., whose hairs we cut this day, and bestow on (him) a complete age, that (he) may love Thee, that (he) may know Thee. With Thine assistance, may (he) be found worthy to fulfill Thy commandments. O Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

TONSURE

The godparent—or, in his absence, the Priest himself—cuts the hairs of the baptized in the shape of a Cross, the Priest saying, “In the name of the Father...” Then:

Let us pray. We give Thee thanks, O Lord almighty God, in Whose name we have cut the locks from the head of (this) Thy (servant) N., beseeching Thee, that with Thy help (he) may come unto the deepest old age, and be found worthy to partake of life everlasting. O Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God through all the ages of ages. *℞ Amen.*

The baptized & godparent take the Priest’s blessing & depart in peace.



Emergency Baptisms

In emergencies—and only in emergencies—the faithful laity may baptize, immersing the believer three times in water, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If immersions are impossible, water may be poured over the head three times, with the same words as above. These things should be thoroughly committed to memory.

Note: In emergencies, parents should baptize their own children only if there is no other Orthodox Christian at hand who can do so.

Baptismal Customs

Robe: If those baptized as adults provided their own baptismal robe, they may keep it in their home, near the icon corner. It must not be put to any secular use. These persons are buried in the robe.

Candle: The baptismal candle is kept at home in the icon corner. The faithful are buried holding this candle in the right hand.

Godparents: They must take great pains over their godchildren, ensuring they are taught the Faith, giving them good example, and sending them greetings and presents—such as the gods-kichell (a sweet bread sent on their namesdays).

Anniversary: The year after one is baptized, on the calendar date of the Baptism, the baptized come to—or are brought to—church for the Pascha Annotina, an anniversary Liturgy.