

The Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation

**THE OFFICE FOR RECEIVING THOSE COMING TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH
FROM THE ANGLICAN CONFESSION**

The Priest shall stand at the doors of the church in epitachelion and phelonion. And he questions the one converting to the Orthodox faith, saying:

Priest: Do you wish to renounce the transgressions and errors of the Anglican Confession?

Convert: I do.

Priest: Do you wish to enter into union with the Orthodox-Catholic Faith?

Convert: I do.

Then the Priest blesses him (her), making the sign of the Cross with his right hand, saying:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

And laying his hand upon the bowed head of the convert, he recites the following prayer:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, God of truth, look down upon Thy servant (*handmaiden*), *N.*, who seeks to make haste unto Thy Holy Orthodox Church, and to take refuge under her shelter. Turn him (*her*) from his (*her*) former error to the path of true faith in Thee, and grant him (*her*) to walk in all Thy commandments. Let Thine eyes ever look down upon him (*her*) with mercy, and let Thine ears hearken unto the voice of his (*her*) supplication, that he (*she*) may be numbered with Thine elect flock.

For all the Powers of Heaven hymn Thee, and Thine is the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

After this Prayer, he shall question the convert:

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous doctrine that, for the expression of the dogma concerning the Procession of the Holy Spirit, the declaration of the Saviour Christ Himself, “who proceeds from the Father”, does not suffice, and that the addition, “and from the Son”, to the word of Christ Himself, is necessary?

And he (she) replies:

I renounce it.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you renounce all the other doctrines of the Anglican confession of faith, both old and new, which are contrary to the Word of God, and to the true Tradition of the Church, and to the decrees of the Seven Ecumenical Councils?

He (she) replies:

I renounce them.

Again the Priest questions the convert:

Priest: Do you desire, therefore, to be joined unto the Holy Orthodox Catholic Eastern Church?

And the convert answers:

I desire it with all my heart.

Again the Priest questions the convert:

Priest: Do you believe in One God, glorified in the Trinity, and do you worship Him?

And the convert answers:

I believe in One God, glorified in the Trinity: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and I worship Him.

Then, having made a bow to the ground, he (she) reads the Symbol of Faith:

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 Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light: true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; And arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; And ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Then the Priest says:

Priest: Blessed is God, Who enlighteneth every man that comes into the world.

Choir: Amen.

And again, he inquires:

Priest: Do you accept the Apostolic Canons and the others established at the Seven Ecumenical and Nine Provincial Councils, and the other traditions and rules of the Orthodox Church?

And he (she) replies:

I accept them.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you confess that it is meet to accept and interpret the books of Divine Scripture according to the understanding which the Orthodox Church holds concerning them?

He (she) replies:

I confess it.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you accept also this, that there are seven Mysteries, instituted by Christ God, necessary to be kept according to the order of the Orthodox Church, but not otherwise given to the faithful?

He (she) replies:

I accept and embrace it, for such is necessary.

Priest: Do you confess that the head of the Orthodox-Catholic Church is our Lord Jesus Christ, and promise unfeigned obedience to the Shepherds appointed by the Holy Spirit?

He (she) replies:

I confess it, and I promise to obey the Shepherds of the Orthodox Church.

Then the priest gives the convert the end of his epitrachelion, and says:

Enter into the Orthodox Church, and utterly rejecting the errors wherein you have dwelt, honour the Father Almighty, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father, the Trinity One is Essence and Undivided.

And thus leading the convert into the church, he places him (her) before a table, upon which is laid a Cross and Gospel Book. And Psalm 67 is sung by those coming with him:

O God be gracious unto us and bless us; and make Thy face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us, that Thy way may be known upon earth, and thy salvation among all nations. Let the peoples give praise unto Thee, O God; let all the peoples give praise unto Thee. Let the nations rejoice and be glad, for thou shalt judge the peoples with equity, and guide the nations upon the earth. Let the peoples give praise unto Thee, O God; let all the peoples give praise unto Thee. The earth has yielded its fruit. Do Thou bless us, O God, O our God. Do Thou bless us, O God; and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Then the priest commands him (her) to kneel down; and the Priest says these verses:

Send forth Thy spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Save Thy servant, O my God, that hopes in Thee.

Be unto him, O lord, a pillar of strength against the face of the enemy.

O Lord, hearken unto my prayer, and let my cry come unto Thee.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord God almighty, Who has set before sinners models of repentance and showest the right path unto them that have gone astray, that not one of them should perish, but that all may be saved: We give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast illumined this Thy servant, N., with the light of understanding off Thy truth, and Thou hast counted him (*her*) worthy to make haste unto Thy Holy Orthodox-Catholic Church. Grant, therefore, that he (*she*) may be joined to it, sincerely and irrevocably. Number him (*her*) with Thy chosen Flock. Make him (*her*) a pure vessel and the abode of Thy Holy Spirit, that, ever being illumined and guided by the Same, he (*she*) may preserve, without change, Thy saving commandments, and thus be counted worthy to receive Thy heavenly good things.

For Thou art a God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and willest that all men should be saved, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and of the Son, and of

the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

After this Prayer, he commands him (her) to stand, saying:

Stand aright. Stand with fear. And before the Gospel and the Holy Cross of the Saviour affirm your vow.

And he (she), rising, says:

The Orthodox-Catholic Faith, which I now voluntarily confess, I will firmly maintain whole and inviolate even unto my last breath, God helping me, and I shall strive to fulfil its precepts zealously and joyfully, preserving my heart in purity, as far as possible. In confirmation of this, my vow, I kiss the Words and Cross of my Saviour. Amen.

After he (she) has kissed them, the Priest says:

Blessed is God, who willeth that all men should be saved, and should come unto the knowledge of the Truth. Blessed is He unto the ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then the convert stands and makes ready for baptism.

THE OFFICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Before the performing of the Baptism, a font with water is placed in the centre of the church, and at the edge of it three lit candles. To one side of the font is placed a small table on which the Priest places a Cross, Gospel, and a chest containing appurtenances related to the Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation: vessels containing the Chrism and Oil, anointing brushes, a sponge and scissors.

The convert and his (her) sponsors stand before the font, their faces turned towards it.

The Priest vests himself with white vestments. Taking up the censer, he goes to the font and censers round about it. And having done this, he bows three times.

Deacon: Bless, Master.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(This is repeated after each petition)*

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Great Lord and Father His Holiness Kyrill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; for our Lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our Lord the Right Reverend Bishop George; for the honourable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may be sanctified by the power, operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may be sent down into it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may come upon this water the purifying operation of the supersubstantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be illumined by the illumination of understanding and piety through the descent of the Holy spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may be manifested the averting of every counsel of enemies, both visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

That he (*she*) that is baptized therein may be shown worthy of the incorruptible Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

For him (*her*) that now comes to holy Illumination, and for his her salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That he (*she*) be manifested a son (*daughter*) of light, and an heir of eternal good things, let us pray to the Lord.

That he (*she*) may be planted with, and become a partaker of the death and resurrection of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

That he (*she*) may preserve the garment of Baptism, and the pledge of the Spirit undefiled and blameless in the dread Day of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may be unto him (*her*) the bath of regeneration, unto the forgiveness of sins, and a garment of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord God may hearken unto the voice of our supplication, let us pray to the Lord.

That He will deliver him (*her*) from all tribulation, wrath and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Let it be known that he makes no exclamation, but says the "Amen" to himself.

Then the Priest says with a loud voice:

Priest: Great art Thou, O Lord, and wondrous are Thy works; and no word shall be sufficient to hymn Thy wonders (*Thrice*).

For Thou, by Thy will, from nothingness hast brought all things into being, by Thy might Thou upholdest creation, and by Thy providence Thou orderest the world. From four elements Thou hast formed creation; Thou hast crowned the course of the year

with four seasons. All the rational powers tremble before Thee. The sun hymns Thee. The moon glorifies Thee. The stars meet together before Thee. The light hearkens unto Thee. The deeps shudder before Thee. The springs of water serve Thee. Thou hast stretched out the heaven as a curtain. Thou hast established the earth upon the waters. Thou hast bounded the sea with sand. Thou hast spilled out the air for breathing. The Angelic Powers serve Thee. The choirs of Archangels worship Thee. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, standing and flying round about, cover themselves with fear at Thine unapproachable glory. For Thou Who art God inexpressible, unoriginate, and ineffable, didst come down upon earth, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of man. For Thou, O Master, for the sake of Thy tender mercy, couldst not endure to behold the race of man tormented by the devil; but Thou didst come and save us. We confess Thy grace. We proclaim Thy mercy. We conceal not Thy benevolent acts. Thou hast liberated the nature of our race. Thou didst sanctify the Virginal womb by Thy nativity. All creation sings the praises of Thee who hast manifested Thyself. For Thou, O our God, hast revealed Thyself upon earth, and hast dwelt among men. Thou didst sanctify the streams of Jordan, sending down from heaven Thy Holy Spirit, and didst crush the heads of the dragons that lurked therein.

Do Thou, therefore, O King, the Lover of mankind, come now through the descent of Thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water (*Thrice*).

And give it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan. Make it a fountain of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a loosing of sins, a healing of sicknesses, a destruction of demons, unapproachable by hostile powers, filled with angelic might. Let them that take counsel together against Thy creature flee far from it. For I called upon Thy Name, O Lord, which is wonderful and glorious, and terrible to adversaries.

And he signs the water thrice with the Sign of the Cross, dipping his fingers therein.

And, breathing upon it, he says:

Let all hostile powers be crushed beneath the sign of the image of Thy Cross (*Thrice*).

We pray Thee, O Lord, let every aerial and invisible spectre withdraw itself from us, and let not a demon of darkness conceal itself in this water, neither let an evil spirit, bringing darkening of intentions and rebelliousness of thought, descend into it with him (*her*) that is about to be baptized. But do Thou, O Master of all,

show this water to be water of redemption, water of sanctification, a cleansing of flesh and spirit, a loosing of bonds, a remission of sins, an illumination of soul, a bath of regeneration, a renewal of the Spirit, a gift of sonship, a garment of incorruption, a fountain of life. For Thou hast said, O Lord, "Wash and be clean; put away evil from your souls". Thou hast bestowed upon us from on high a new birth through water and the Spirit. Therefore, manifest Thyself, O Lord, in this water, and grant that he (*she*) that is to be baptized may be transformed therein to the putting away of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and to the putting on of the new, which is renewed according to the image of Him that created him (*her*), that, being planted in the likeness of Thy death through Baptism, he (*she*) may become a partaker of resurrection; and, preserving the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, and increasing the deposit of grace, he (*she*) may receive the prize of his (*her*) high calling, and be numbered with the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven, in Thee, our God and Lord, Jesus Christ. For unto Thee are due glory, dominion, honour and worship, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thy Most-holy, Good and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to Thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

And he breathes thrice upon the vessel containing the Oil, and signs this thrice with the Sign of the Cross, as it is held by the Deacon.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: O Master, Lord God of our fathers, Who didst send to them that were in the ark of Noah a dove bearing a twig of olive in its mouth as a sign of reconciliation and salvation from the Flood, and by the same didst foreshadow the mystery of grace, and Who hast provide the fruit of the olive for the fulfilling of Thy Holy Mysteries, and thereby hast filled them that were under the law with the Holy Spirit, and perfected them that are under grace: Do Thou Thyself bless also this oil by the might, and operation, and descent of Thy Holy Spirit, that it may become an anointing of incorruption, a shield of righteousness, a renewal of soul and body, a driving away of every diabolical action, to the removal of all evils from them that

are anointed with it in faith, or that are partakers of it to Thy glory, and to that of Thy Most-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us attend!

And the Priest, singing Alleluia thrice with the people, makes three Signs of the Cross with the Oil in the water. Then he exclaims

Priest: Blessed is God, who illumineth and sanctifieth every man that comes into the world, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And he (she) that is to be baptized is brought forward. Then the Priest takes the Oil and the anointing brush and makes the sign of the Cross upon his (her) forehead, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, N., is anointed with the oil of gladness, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And he signs his (her) breast, saying:

For the healing of soul and body.

And on the ears:

For the hearing of faith.

On the hands:

Thy hands have made and fashioned me.

On the feet:

That he (she) may walk in the path of Thy commandments.

And the Priest then baptises him (her), saying:

The servant of God, N., is baptized in the Name of the Father. Amen. And of the Son. Amen. And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

At each invocation he immerses him (her), and raises him (her) again.

And after the Baptism, the Priest washes his hands, singing with the people Psalm 31(2):

Choir: Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, / and whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord hath not imputed sin, / and in whose mouth there is no guile.

Because I kept silence my bones waxed old; / from crying all the day long.

For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: / I was turned in my anguish, whilst the thorn stuck fast in me.

Mine iniquity I have acknowledged, / and I have covered not my sin.

I said I will confess my transgression against myself unto the Lord: / and thou forgavest the ungodliness of my heart.

For this shall every one that is holy pray unto thee in a seasonable time; / moreover, in a flood of many waters they shall not come near unto him.

Thou art my refuge from the trouble that encompasses me. / O my joy, deliver me from them that have surrounded me.

I will give thee instruction and guide thee in this way wherein thou shalt go; / I will fix Mine eyes upon thee.

Be not as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding. / With bit and bridle bind fast their jaws, lest they come near unto thee.

Many are the scourges of the sinner, / but mercy shall encompass him that hopes in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous, // and glory, all you that are upright in heart.

And putting his (her) white robe and neck cross upon him (her), he says:

Priest:

The servant of God, *N.*, is clothed with the robe of righteousness, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And the troparion is sung in Tone 8:

Choir:

Give unto me a shining robe, O Thou who clothest Thyself with light as with a garment, O greatly-merciful Christ our God.

THE OFFICE OF HOLY ANOINTING

Chrismation, or Confirmation

And when he has put the garment on him (her), the Priest prays, saying this Prayer:

Priest: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God Almighty, Fountain of good things, Sun of righteousness, Who shinest to them that are in darkness the light of salvation, through the manifestation of Thine only-begotten Son, and our God, and Who grantest unto us who are unworthy blessed cleansing in Holy Water, and divine sanctification in lifegiving Anointing, and Who now art well-pleased for Thy newly-illuminated servant to be born again through water and the Spirit, and Who grantest unto him (her) remission of sins, both voluntary and involuntary: Do Thy Thyself, O Master, O Compassionate King of All, grant him (her) also the seal of Thy Holy, All-powerful, and Worshipped Spirit, and the communion of the holy Body and precious Blood of Thy Christ. Keep him (her) in Thy sanctification; confirm him (her) in the Orthodox Faith; deliver him (her) from the evil one and all his devices; and preserve his (her) soul in purity and righteousness, through the saving fear of Thee, that, in every deed and word, being acceptable unto Thee; he (she) may become a son (daughter) and heir of Thy heavenly Kingdom.

For Thou art our God, the God of mercy and salvation, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And, after the Prayer, he anoints the one who has been baptised with the holy Chrism, making the sign of the Cross: On the forehead, on the eyes, and the nostrils, and the lips, and on both ears, and the breast, and the hands, and the feet, saying, each time:

The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the priest, accompanied by the newly-baptised one and by the sponsor(s), makes a circular procession around the font. And all sing:

As many as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ.
Alleluia. (*Thrice*).

Then:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokimenon in the Third Tone:
The Lord is my Light and my Saviour; Whom, then, shall I fear?

Choir: The Lord is my Light and my Saviour; Whom, then, shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom, then, shall I be afraid?

Choir: The Lord is my Light and my Saviour; Whom, then, shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is my Light and my Saviour;

Choir: Whom, then, shall I fear?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend!

And the Reader reads the lesson from the Apostol:

The Epistle to the Romans (§91 – Romans 6:3-11)

Reader: Brethren: As many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should begin to walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection, knowing this: that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ being raised from the dead shall die no more; death no more has possession of Him. For in that He died, he died unto sin once: but in that He lives, He lives unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Priest: Peace be unto you.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Then the priest reads the Gospel over the bowed head of the newly-baptised:

The Gospel according to Matthew (§116 – Matthew 28:16-20)

Priest: At that time, the disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had commanded them. And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him: but some doubted. And Jesus approached and spoke unto them, saying: “All power is given unto Me in Heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.” Amen.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

THE ABLUTION AND TONSURE

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Thou Who by holy Baptism hast granted forgiveness of sins unto Thy servant, and hast bestowed upon him (*her*) a life of regeneration: Do Thou Thyself, O Master and Lord, be pleased that the light of Thy countenance may shine in his (*her*) heart evermore. Keep the shield of his (*her*) faith undefamed by enemies. Preserve for him (*her*) the garment of incorruption, which he (*she*) has put on, pure and undefiled, preserving unbroken in him (*her*) the spiritual seal by Thy grace. And be merciful unto him (*her*) and unto us, according to the multitude of Thy compassions.

For blessed and glorified is Thy most-honourable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

A Second Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Who, through the font, bestowest heavenly Illumination upon them that are baptised, Who hast regenerated Thy newly-illumined servant by water and the Spirit, and hast granted unto him (*her*) forgiveness of his (*her*) voluntary and involuntary sins: Do Thou lay upon him (*her*) Thy mighty hand, and keep him (*her*) in the power of Thy goodness. Preserve his (*her*) pledge inviolate, and count him (*her*) worthy of eternal life, and of Thy favour.

For Thou art our sanctification, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: He (*she*) that has put on Thee, (Christ, and our God), bows also his (*her*) head with us, unto Thee. Do Thou keep him (*her*) that he (*she*) may abide a warrior undefeated against them that bear vain enmity against him (*her*) and us, and by Thy crown of incorruption show us all to be victors, even unto the end.

For it is Thine to have mercy and to save, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy Most-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And he sprinkles him (her), saying:

Priest: You are justified. You are illumined. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.

And he takes a sponge dipped in warm water, and wipes the face, head, breast and the rest of the newly-illumined one, saying:

Priest: You are baptised. You are illumined. You are anointed with Chrism. You are sanctified. Thou art washed: in the Name of the

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit. Amen.

Prayer at the Tonsure of the Hair

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Who didst honour man with Thine image, fashioning in him a rational soul and a comely body (that the body might serve the rational soul); for Thou didst set the head in superiority, and didst endow it with the greater number of the senses, which, nevertheless, impede not one another; and Thou didst cover the head with hair that it be not injured by the changes of the weather, and, according to need, didst join together all its members, that by all of them it might render thanks unto Thee, the Great Artisan: Do Thou Thyself, O Master, Who, by Thy chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul, hast commanded us to do all things to Thy glory, bless Thy servant, *N.*, who is come to make the first offering by the cutting of the hair of his (*her*) head, and with him (*her*), his (*her*) Sponsor(s) (godparents – if a child); and grant unto them all that they may exercise themselves in Thy law, and do those things that are acceptable unto Thee.

For Thou art a merciful God, and the Lover of Mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who, through the fullness of the baptismal font, hast, by Thy goodness, sanctified them that believe in Thee: Do Thou bless the child (newly-baptised – if an adult) here present, and may Thy blessing come down upon his (*her*) head. And as by Samuel the prophet Thou didst bless David the King, so also bless the head of Thy servant, *N.*, by the hand of me, a sinner, visiting him (*her*) with Thy Holy Spirit, that he (*she*) may increase unto maturity, and in the grey hairs of old age may send up glory unto Thee, and may see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of his (*her*) life.

For unto Thee are due all glory, honour and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

And he tonsures him (her) in the form of a Cross, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, *N.*, is tonsured: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice, repeated after each petition.*)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Great Lord and Father His Holiness Kyrill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; for our Lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and forgiveness of sins for the servant(s) of God, *N.*, the sponsor(s), and for the newly-illuminated, *N.*

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God, and the Lover of Mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Lord, have mercy (*Thrice*).

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His Most-pure Mother, by the power of the precious and lifegiving Cross, of the holy glorious and all-praised Apostles, of Saints, *N. (of the church and of the day, and the patron of the newly-baptised)*, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: A prosperous and peaceful life, health and salvation, good in all things hastening, grant, O Lord, to Thy newly-illuminated servant *N.*, and preserve him (*her*) for many years!

Choir: Many years! (*thrice, repeated*)

Save him (*her*), O Christ our God! (*Thrice*)