

Deacon: That, by the grace *he has received*, he may increase in every virtue, prosper in obedience to Christ our God, and that, by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, *he* may mature to the fullness and stature of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: We so pray for *his* increase in virtue, diligence in obedience, and full maturity in Christ!

Deacon: Remembering the Blessed God-bearer, Mary, and all the saints and angels who rejoice this day, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Procession Around the Font and the Little Entrance

Each new member/parent may be given a lit candle, then the Priest says:

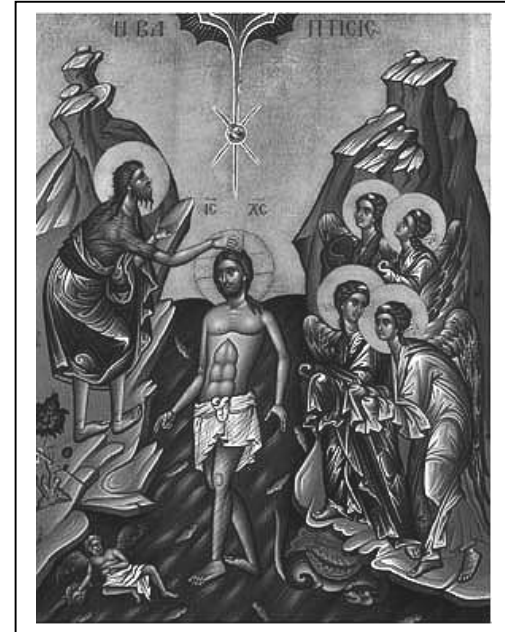
Priest: You are washed, you are justified, you are enlightened, you are sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God! Come, now, join the people of God as we make our entrance into the heavenly Holy of Holies to join the worship that is continually offered there!

People: Amen!

As a processional song is sung (preferably "This Our Procession" because of its baptismal theme) the clergy and assistants lead the newly received in a three-fold procession around the baptismal font. After they have gone around the font 3 times they continue to process with the clergy in the usual fashion as the beginning of the Liturgy of Divine Worship.

Liturgy for the Reception of New Members

(Baptism, Chrismation, Renewal)



**The
Evangelical
Orthodox
Church**

Chrismation and the Litany

The Priest anoints each of the newly baptized and any others who are to be chrismated, placing oil on the forehead, eyes, nose, lips, ears, chest, hands, and feet, each time saying:

Priest: The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit!

People: Sealed!

Then the Deacon says:

Deacon: Let us pray for our newly baptized and/or chrismated *brother* and/or *him* who is being received into this church today: That through the Holy Sprit *he* has received, divine power might be granted that *he* may henceforth overcome all the wiles of the devil and the attacks which come through the flesh and the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: We so pray for overcoming power.

Deacon: That *he* may be a valiant and Victorious soldier of Christ our God, through the power, effectual operation, and grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: We so pray that *he* may be a soldier of Christ.

Deacon: That by the anointing of the Holy Spirit *he* may remain unshakable in the orthodox Christian faith, maintaining hope and love all the days of *his* life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: We so pray that *he* may remain unshakable.

Deacon: That grace may be granted to the end that *he* may fearlessly and boldly confess the Name of Christ our God before all men and always be ready to lovingly suffer and die for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom.

People: We so pray that *he* may be bold in confessing Christ our Lord!

Then the people sing the following (together or antiphonally) or another such song as the first candidate is baptized, and they continue singing until all the baptisms are finished.

Awake, awake, O sleeper; Arise from the dead! (2x)

Come out, come out from darkness; Arise from the dead! (2x)

And Christ will shine on you! (2x)

Awake, awake, O sleeper; Arise from the dead!

As each is baptized by triple immersion using the best means available, the Priest says:

Priest: The servant of God, *N.*, is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When all the baptisms are completed, the song is brought to an end. As all are drying and changing into what they will wear under their white baptismal garments, Romans 6:3-11 is read. Then the Priest blesses the baptismal garments, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, *N.*, is clothed with the garment of righteousness; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The newly baptized are clothed with the white baptismal garments as the following or another such song is sung until all are clothed.

**ALLELUIA (3x) SAINT(S) OF GOD ARISE!
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, SAINT(S) OF GOD ARISE
AND FOLLOW THE LORD!**

**Come and be clothed in His righteousness.
Come join the band, who are called by His name. ***

**Look at the world which is bound by sin.
Walk into the midst of it proclaiming my life. ***

All gather where the baptism is to take place before the Liturgy of Divine Worship, preferably at the back of or outside the worship space. A table by the baptistery is set with towels and, if available, a clean white garment and a cross necklace for each candidate to put on after being baptized. Oil and any items to be used in the procession later should also be close by. Infants should be undressed and wrapped in a towel. When all are gathered, the Priest begins.

Presentation, Examination, and Reception of Candidates

The candidates come forward or are presented by a sponsor, then the Priest addresses them according to one of the following questions:

If the candidate is to be baptized and chrismated:

Priest: *N.*, is it your unconstrained will and desire to be baptized into the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and to be chrismated and received into her communion at _____ Evangelical Orthodox Church?

Candidate: It is my desire.

If the candidate has previously received baptism in the name of the Trinity and is to be chrismated only:

Priest: *N.*, is it your unconstrained will and desire to be chrismated, renew your baptismal vows, and be received into the membership of _____ Evangelical Orthodox Church?

Candidate: It is my desire.

If the candidate has previously received baptism and chrismation and is being received by renewal of vows:

Priest: *N.*, is it your unconstrained will and desire to renew your baptismal confession and be received into the membership of _____ Evangelical Orthodox Church?

Candidate: It is my desire.

If the candidate is a child, the Priest asks the parents (and godparents) the following two questions:

Priest: *N.*, is it your unconstrained will and desire to have *N.* baptized into the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and to have *him* chrismated and received into the Church's communion at _____ EOC?

Parents: It is my/our desire.

Priest: Will you be responsible for seeing that *N.* is brought up in the orthodox Christian Faith and encourage *him* in every way possible to make that Faith *his* own?

Parents: We will with the help of God.

Then addressing all those present, the Priest says:

Priest: Upon witnessing these intentions, will you, the Faithful of _____ Evangelical Orthodox Church, receive this/these beloved into your hearts and fellowship, and will you support *him*/them in their lives in Christ?

People: We will.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Turning to those who are to be baptized, the Priest says:

Priest: ✠ In Your Name, O Lord God of truth, and in the Name of Your Only-begotten Son, and of Your Holy Spirit, I lay my hand upon Your servant, *N.*, who has been found worthy to flee unto Your holy Name, and to take refuge under the shelter of Your wings.

Remove far from *him* every delusion and fill *him* with the faith, hope and love which are in You; that *he* may know that You are the only true God with Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your Holy Spirit.

The Priest then blesses the water by tracing the sign of the Cross in it with a blessing cross or the fingers of his right hand, saying:

Priest: ✠ Let all adverse powers be crushed beneath the sign of the image of Your Cross, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

Priest: Manifest Yourself in this water, O Lord, and grant that *he* who is baptized in it may be transformed; that *he* may put away the old man, which is corrupt through the lusts of the flesh, and that *he* may put on the new man, and be renewed after the image of Him who created *him*; that being buried, after the pattern of Your death, in baptism, *he* may, in like manner, be a partaker of Your Resurrection; and having preserved the gift of Your Holy Spirit, and increased the measure of grace committed unto *him*, *he* may receive the prize of *his* high calling, and be numbered with the firstborn whose names are written in heaven, in You, our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

♪ For unto You are due all glory, dominion, honor, and worship, together with Your Father, who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

If it is the custom, an anointing with oil may be done before baptism:

Priest: *N.*, because of your repentance and confession of faith, the Lord forgives your sins and grants you healing and deliverance from the effects of sin and death. ✠ You are anointed with the blessed oil of unction to be healed from the body of sin and death in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who is worshipped and glorified together with the Father and the Son, who spoke through the prophets; and in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

All candidates are called to kneel and put their heads to the floor.

Priest: Let this posture of your body always be the posture of your heart – humble adoration before our Almighty God. For blessed is He, who desires that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen!

Baptism and Clothing With Baptismal Garment

The candidates rise and the Priest prays the following as the deacon censes around the baptismal font.

Priest: GREAT ARE YOU, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and there is no word which is sufficient to hymn Your wonders. Therefore, O King who loves mankind, send Your Holy Spirit upon this water and sanctify it. Grant unto it the grace of redemption, the blessing of the Jordan. Make it the fountain of incorruption, the gift of sanctification, the forgiveness of sins, the remedy of infirmities, the final destruction of demons, unassailable by hostile powers, filled with angelic might. Let those who would ensnare Your creature flee far from it; For we have called upon Your Name, O Lord, and it is wonderful, and glorious, and terrible unto adversaries.

Enable *him* to walk in all Your commandments, and to fulfill those things which are well pleasing unto You. Inscribe *him* in Your Book of Life, and unite *him* to the flock of Your inheritance. And may Your holy Name be glorified in *him*, together with that of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-giving Spirit. Let Your eyes ever regard *him* with mercy, and let Your ears attend unto the voice of *his* supplication. Make *him* to rejoice in the works of *his* hands, and in all *his* generation; that *he* may render praise unto You, that *he* may sing, worship and glorify Your great and exalted Name always, all the days of *his* life.

♪ For all the Powers of Heaven sing praises unto You, and Yours is the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Expulsion and Renunciation of Satan, Profession of Faith

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord and Master; who created man in Your own likeness, and bestowed upon him the power of life eternal; who also despises not those who have fallen away through sin, but has provided salvation for the world through the Incarnation of Your Christ: Deliver also this Your creature from the bondage of the enemy and receive *him* into Your heavenly kingdom. Open the eyes of *his* understanding, that the illumination of Your Gospel may shine brightly in *him*.

Assign unto *him* an angel of light, who shall deliver *him* from every snare of the adversary, from demonic forces of darkness, and from everything that opposes You.

Expel from *him* any evil and unclean spirit which hides and makes its lair in *his* heart, (*The Priest breathes on the child*) — the spirit of deceit, the spirit of evil, the spirit of idolatry and of every covetousness; the spirit of falsehood and of every uncleanness which operates through the prompting of the Devil. Speedily crush down Satan under *his* feet, and give *him* victory over all the powers of darkness; that, having obtained mercy from You *he* may be made worthy to partake of Your heavenly Mysteries, and may ascribe unto You glory. Make *him* a reason-endowed sheep in the holy flock of Your Christ, an honorable member of Your Church, a child of the light, and an heir of Your Kingdom; that having lived in accordance with Your commandments, and preserved inviolate the Seal, and kept *his* garment undefiled, *he* may receive the blessedness of the Saints in Your Kingdom.

♪ Through the grace and bounties, and love towards mankind of Your Only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

All those being received by any means turn to the west/away from the altar, then the Priest asks the following question three times:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his angels, and all his service, and all his pride?

Candidate: I renounce them.

The candidates turn and face east/toward the altar, and the Priest calls for their confession of Christ three times.

Priest: Do you unite yourself to Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I unite myself to Christ, and by God's grace I will follow Him as my Savior and Lord, my King and my God.

Priest: (*One time*) Do you embrace all the essential tenets of the orthodox Christian Faith, as they are confessed in the Scriptures, expressed by the Historic Ecumenical Creeds, and taught by the Evangelical Orthodox Church?

Candidate: I embrace them and will guard them with the help of God.

Priest: Then make your full confession in the presence of these witnesses.

Candidates: 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, begotten from the Father before all time; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, consubstantial with the Father, through whom all things came into being; who for us all, and because of our salvation, came down from heaven and was made flesh by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and rose on the third day according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father, and will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead! His kingdom shall have no end.