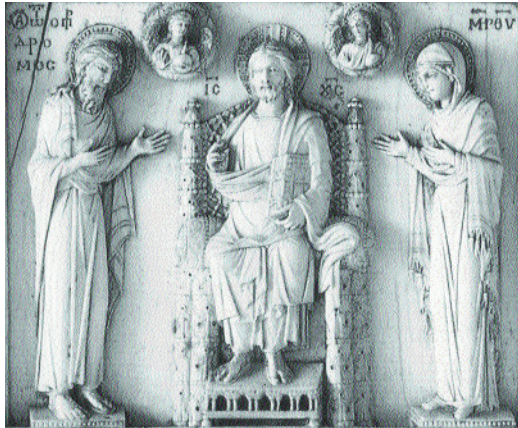


Тайнства Християнського Втаємничення



Mysteries of Christian Initiation



RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMEN

The priest in epitrachelion and phelonion goes to the narthex, loosens the belt of the candidate, removes his outer garment and positions him facing the East, clothed in one garment only, unshod and with head uncovered, with the arms downwards. The priest breathes on the face of the candidate, makes a sign of the cross three times over the forehead and the breast of the candidate, and lays his hand on the candidate's head.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: **O Lord, God of truth, it is in Your Name and in the Name of Your only-begotten Son and in the Name of Your most Holy Spirit, that I place my hand upon this Your servant, *N.*, who has been accounted worthy to take refuge in Your holy Name, and to be protected under the shelter of Your wings. Remove from him (*or her*) that deception of old, and fill him (*or her*) with faith in You, with hope in You, and with love for You, so that he (*or she*) will come to know that You together with Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and with Your Holy Spirit, are the only true God. Enable him (*or her*) to carry out all Your commandments and to observe all Your precepts, for the man who does these things will find life in them. Inscribe him (*or her*) in Your Book of Life, and unite him (*or her*) to the flock of Your inheritance, so that Your holy Name may be glorified in him (*or her*), together with the holy Name of Your beloved Son,**

our Lord Jesus Christ and with the holy Name of Your life-giving Spirit. Let Your eyes always look mercifully upon him (or her), and let Your ears be attentive to the voice of his (or her) supplication. Grant that he (or she) find joy in the works of his (or her) own hands and in all his (or her) posterity, so that he (or she) will acknowledge You by worshipping and glorifying Your great and exalted Name, and will praise You all the days of his (or her) life.

Exclamation:

For all the powers of heaven sing Your praises, O God, and Yours is the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Exorcism:

Priest: The Lord forbids you, O devil — the Lord Who came into the world and dwelt among men, to cast down your tyranny and deliver everyone — the Lord Who vanquished the adverse powers on the Tree when the sun grew dark and the earth quaked, when graves were opened and bodies of saints arose, - the Lord Who destroyed death by death and rendered powerless the one who had dominion over death, that is you, the devil! I adjure you by God Who revealed the tree of life and stationed the cherubim and the revolving fiery sword to guard it: be banished! For I expel you by Him Who walked on

the surface of the sea as though on dry land and quelled the raging winds. His very glance dries up the depths of the sea, and His rebuke causes mountains to fade away. It is He Who commands you through us even now: stand in dread, begone and stay far away from this creature. You must never return, nor hide himself in him *(or her)* neither by night nor by day. Do not encounter him *(or her)* nor attack him *(or her)* neither in the morning nor at noon, nor at any time, but rather depart into your own Tartarus until the day prepared for the great judgment. Tremble in fear before God Who is enthroned upon the cherubim and beholds the depths of the sea. Before Him tremble angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, virtues, the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim. Heaven and earth tremble before Him, as does the sea and all that is therein. Begone and depart from this newly chosen sealed soldier of Christ our God. For I adjure you by Him Who walks on the wings of the wind and makes His angels like blazing fire! Begone and depart from this creature with all your power and your angels.

Exclamation:

For glorified is the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: **O Lord and Master, Who have created man to Your own image and likeness, and have given him the power of attaining to eternal life; Who furthermore did not abandon him when he fell into sin, but rather did bring about the salvation of the world through the incarnation of Christ, Your Anointed One, deliver also this Your creature from the bondage of the Enemy, and receive him (or her) into Your heavenly kingdom. Open the eyes of his (or her) understanding so that the enlightenment of Your Gospel may shine brightly within him (or her); and assign to him (or her) during his (or her) lifetime the companionship of an angel of light, who shall rescue him (or her) from every snare and encounter with the evil one, and from evil imaginings.**

The priest breathes in the form of a cross over the candidate's mouth, forehead and breast, thrice, saying each time:

Drive out from him (or her), O Lord, every evil and unclean spirit that lies concealed and is making its lair within his (or her) heart. *Thrice.*

The spirit of deceit, the spirit of wickedness, the spirit of idolatry and the spirit of insatiable greed, the spirit of lying, and the spirit of every impurity which is brought about by the prompting of the devil. Make of this creature a spiritual lamb of the holy flock of Christ, Your Anointed One, a worthy member of Your Church, a sanctified vessel, a child

of light, and a son (or daughter) and heir to Your kingdom, so that living in accordance with Your commandments, keeping intact the Seal, and preserving his (or her) baptismal robe without stain, he (or she) may attain to the blessedness of the Saints in Your kingdom.

Exclamation:

Through the grace and mercies and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The priest has the catechumen unclad and unshod turn to the west; the catechumen lifts up his hands. The priest says:

Do you renounce satan, together with all his works, and all his angels, and all service to him, and all his arrogance?

The catechumen or his sponsors, if he is a foreigner or a child, respond:

I do renounce him!

The priest says a second time:

Do you renounce satan, together with all his works, and all his angels, and all service to him, and all his arrogance?

Answer: I do renounce him!

The priest says a third time:

Do you renounce satan, together with all his works, and all his angels, and all service to him, and all his arrogance?

Answer: I do renounce him!

The priest again asks the catechumen:

Have you renounced satan?

The catechumen or his sponsors respond:

I have renounced him!

The priest then has the catechumen face the East, and says:

Do you join yourself to Christ?

The catechumen or his sponsors respond:

I do join myself to Him.

The priest says a second time:

Do you join yourself to Christ?

Answer: I do join myself to Him.

The priest says a third time:

Do you join yourself to Christ?

Answer: I do join myself to Him.

Then the priest asks him:

Have you joined yourself to Christ?

Answer: I have joined myself to Him.

The priest says:

Do you believe in Him?

Answer: I believe in Him as king and God.

Then he continues:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from

heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

After the holy symbol of faith, the priest asks him again:

Have you joined yourself to Christ?

The catechumen or his sponsors respond:

Answer: I have joined myself to Him.

The priest says a second time:

Have you joined yourself to Christ?

Answer: I have joined myself to Him.

The priest says a third time:

Have you joined yourself to Christ?

Answer: I have joined myself to Him.

The priest says:

Then bow down and worship Him.

The catechumen makes a prostration, saying: I worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, One in Being and undivided.

The priest says:

Blessed be God Who wishes that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: **O Lord, our Master and our God: call Your servant, *N.*, to your Holy Illumination and account him (*or her*) worthy of the great grace of Holy Baptism. Strip him (*or her*) of his (*or her*) old self and renew him (*or her*) unto everlasting life. Fill him (*or her*) with the power of Your Holy Spirit unto union with Christ, Your Anointed One, so that he (*or she*) may no longer be a child of natural descent but rather a child of Your kingdom.**

Exclamation:

Through the benevolence and grace of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

When all the candles are lit, the priest puts on bright vestments, takes the censer, proceeds to the baptismal font, incenses around it and, giving away the censer, makes a bow.

Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

Priest:

Blessed be the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon says the lityany:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the most holy universal Pontiff *N.*, Pope of Rome; our most blessed Patriarch *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan *N.*, our God-loving Bishop *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan may descend upon it, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For him (*or her*) who is now presented for holy illumination, and for his (*or her*) salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That he (*or she*) may prove himself (*or herself*) a son (*or daughter*) of light and an heir to everlasting blessings, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

While the deacon says this, the priest says the following prayer in a low voice:

O compassionate and merciful God, You search our hearts and innermost being. You alone know the secrets of all of us, for nothing is hidden from Your eyes. You know everything about me. Do not despise me, nor turn Your face from me. At this present moment, do not consider my iniquities, for You disregard the sins of mankind when we repent. Cleanse my body and soul of every stain, and sanctify me thoroughly by Your invisible power most perfect and by Your spiritual right hand, so that, while proclaiming liberty to others, and bestowing this Mystery with perfect faith in Your ineffable love for mankind, I may not become a depraved slave of sin. Sovereign Master, You alone are good and love mankind. Let me, Your humble servant, not be led astray; but send down upon me power from on high and strengthen me that I may administer Your great and most heavenly Mystery which awaits us. Create the image of Your Christ in him (or her) who seeks to be born again through my unworthiness. Establish him (or her) upon the firm foundation of Your apostles and prophets that he (or she) may not fall. Cultivate him (or her) as a plant of truth in Your holy, catholic and apostolic Church that he (or she) may not be uprooted, but rather as he (or she) advances in piety, Your most holy name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, may also be glorified through him (or her), now and for ever and ever. Amen.

It is important to note that the priest does not say the exclamation aloud.

The priest says the following prayer, aloud:

O Lord God almighty, creator of all things seen and unseen, You created heaven and earth and sea, and everything in it. You gathered the waters into one, You closed the abyss and sealed it with Your awesome and glorious name, You raised the waters above the heavens. You established the earth on the waters, You established the sea with Your power, and destroyed the heads of the serpents in the waters. You are awesome; who can stand against You? Look, O Lord, on this Your creature and on this water, and give to it the grace of redemption, Jordan's blessing, make it the source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification that absolves from sins, heals infirmities, destroys the demons, the water that inaccessible to the power of the enemy, full of angelic strength. Let all those, who pursue Your creature flee, for I have called, O Lord, on Your wondrous and glorious name, that makes the enemy tremble.

With his hand, the priest makes a sign of the cross in the water, breathes on it, and says:

Let all the adverse powers be crushed, beneath the sign of the image of Your cross (*thrice*).

Exclamation:

For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Priest:

Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The priest breathes three times upon the vial of oil, held by the deacon, and makes a sign of the cross upon it three times.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The priest says the following prayer:

Lord and Master, God of our fathers, You sent to those in Noah's ark a dove bearing an olive branch in its beak as a sign of reconciliation and salvation from the flood, thereby prefiguring the mystery of grace. You have given us olive oil for the celebration of Your Holy Mysteries. By the anointing with olive oil You filled those under the Law with the Holy Spirit, and now by this anointing You bring to perfection those under grace. Bless now this oil by the power, the working and descent of Your Holy Spirit, that it may be an ointment of incorruption, a weapon of righteousness, the renewal of soul and body, the expulsion of every diabolic activity, for deliverance from all evils for those anointed with it in faith or taste it, unto Your glory and that of Your only-begotten Son, and Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The priest, while singing Alleluia (three times) together with the people, makes three crosses in the water with the oil.

Then he exclaims:

Blessed be God Who enlightens and sanctifies everyone who comes into the world, now and for ever, and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes some of the oil and makes a sign of the cross on the forehead, breast, shoulders, ears, hands and feet.

He first anoints the forehead, saying:

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 so that his (or her) mind may be opened to understand and accept the mysteries of the Faith of Christ, and to recognize His truth, now and for ever and ever.

He anoints the breast, saying:

For the healing of his (or her) soul and body, and that he (or she) may love the Lord God with all his (or her) heart, with all his (or her) soul, and with all his (or her) mind; and that he (or she) may love his (or her) fellowman as himself (or herself).

Anointing the shoulders, he says:

So that he (or she) may willingly take upon himself (or herself) the easy yoke of Christ, and with glad heart carry His light burden, and that he (or she) may shun all cravings of sensuality.

Anointing the ears:

So that his (or her) ears may serve in listening to the teachings of the Faith, and in accepting the words of the Divine Gospel.

Anointing the hands:

So that he (or she) may raise up his (or her) hands in innocence to heaven; that he (or she) may do the right thing at all times; and that he (or she) may bless the Lord.

Anointing the feet:

So that he (or she) may walk in the way of the commandments of Christ.

Once the candidate's whole body has been anointed, the priest baptizes him by holding him facing East, and says:

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

The priest immerses the candidate or, if such is the custom, pours water on the head of the candidate. After the baptism, the priest washes his hands.

The priest then vests the newly baptized in the white robe, and says:

The servant of God, N., is clothed with the robe of justice, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The troparion in the 8 tone is then sung:

Grant to me a robe of light, O most merciful Christ our God,
Who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment.

The priest gives the newly baptized (or the sponsors if the newly baptized is a child), a lighted candle, and says:

Take this lighted candle, and strive throughout your entire lifetime to shine brightly with the light of faith and of good deeds, so that, when the Lord will come, you may go forth in radiance to meet Him together with all the Saints, and may enter unhindered into the court of His heavenly glory and reign with Him throughout all the ages. Amen.

If the newly baptized is an infant, the priest makes a sign of the cross with the child, saying:

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

He (or she) will enter Your house and bow down before Your holy temple.

The priest advances to the middle of the church, saying:

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

In the midst of assembly he (or she) will sing Your praises.

Then the priest advances to the holy doors, saying:

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

The priest brings the child to the sanctuary, if it is a boy, or to the holy doors, if it is a girl. The priest says:

Now You dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word, in peace; because my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people, Israel.

Afterwards the godfather comes forward, makes three bows, receives the child and departs.

THE RITE OF CHRISMATION

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

The priest says the prayer of the holy chrismation:

Blessed are You, O Lord, God almighty, source of all good things and Sun of Justice, Who, through the manifestation of Your only-begotten Son, our God, did make the light of salvation shine upon those who were in the darkness; and have graciously granted to us, unworthy as we are, a blessed cleansing in holy water, and also divine sanctification through life-giving unction. Blessed are You, Who now again have been graciously pleased to cause the rebirth of Your servant newly enlightened through water and the Holy Spirit. O Master and most merciful King of all, grant unto him (or her) also the Seal of the Gift of Your holy, almighty, and adorable Spirit and the partaking of the most holy Body and precious Blood of Your Christ. Keep him (or her) in Your sanctification, and strengthen him (or her) in the Catholic Faith. Deliver him (or her) from the evil one and from all his cunning, and through a salutary fear of You preserve his (or her) soul in purity and in righteousness, so that he (or she) may please You in his (or her) every word and deed, and thus become a son (or daughter) and heir to Your heavenly kingdom.

Exclamation:

For You are our God, the God of mercy and salvation, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

After the prayer, the priest anoints the newly baptized with the Holy Chrism, making a sign of the cross on his forehead, eyes, mouth, ears, breast, hands and feet, saying:

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

Choir: All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia (*thrice*).

Then, prokimenon, tone 3:

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

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

Epistle to the Romans, §91, (6:3-11).

Brethren! All we who have been baptized into Christ Jesus, have been baptized into His death. For we were buried with Him by means of baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ has risen from the dead through the glorious power of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. For since we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, so too we shall be sharers in His resurrection. For we know that our old self has been crucified with Him, in order that the body enslaved to sin may be made powerless, and we may no longer be slaves to sin; for he who is dead is acquitted of sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, since knowing that Christ has risen from the dead. He will die no more, death shall no longer have dominion over Him. For the death that He died was a death to sin once for all, but the life that He lives is a life for God. Thus you too must consider yourselves dead to sin, but as living to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Priest: **Peace be with you.**

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Choir: Alleluia.

Then, the deacon says:

Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest:

Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Priest: **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The priest reads the Gospel, §116, (28:16-20).

At that time, the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

The deacon says the litany:

Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

We also pray for the most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch *N.*, our most reverend metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving bishop, *N.*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all in the military.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

We also pray for the newly baptized servant of God, *N.*, that he (*or she*) may be preserved in a pure profession of faith, in all piety and in the fulfillment of the commandments of Christ all the days of his (*or her*) life.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*thrice*).

The priest exclaims:

For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The priest then enters the sanctuary and takes the holy gifts from the tabernacle.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: **Presanctified holy things for the holy.**

All recite: I believe, O Lord...

Those who wish to receive communion then approach. The newly baptized, whether an infant or adult, along with his godparents and parents, receives communion first.

The priest, distributing communion, says:

The servant of God, N., partakes of the precious, most holy and most pure body and blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of his (or her) sins and life everlasting. Amen.

If the newly baptized is an infant, the priest communicates him with the holy blood.

The child of God, N., partakes of the precious, most holy and most pure blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for life everlasting. Amen.

During the communion, the choir sings:

Receive the body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality.
Alleluia (*thrice*).

After the communion, the priest says: **Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.**

Choir: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Give the blessing.

The priest says the dismissal:

Christ our true God, Who willed to be baptized in the River Jordan by John for our salvation, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

The priest intones the polychronion:

To the newly baptized servant of God, *N.*, grant, O Lord, in health and salvation, many and happy years.

Choir: Many years! (*thrice*).

SHORT FORM OF THE MYSTERIES IN DANGER OF DEATH

Let it be known that the newly born child (or anyone not baptized) who is in danger of death must be baptized at once, through immersion into water (or pouring of water) thrice, saying:

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

If a priest is present, he anoints the person with chrism, saying:

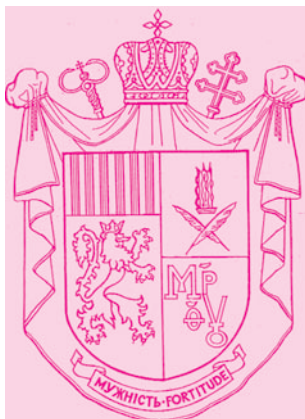
The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If the baptized person should live, when the appropriate time comes for his chrismation, he is brought to the church.

If the person, who is baptized and chrismated in the danger of death should live, the priest commences:

Blessed be our God:

Usual beginning; and we sing: All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia (thrice); and all the rest, as in the rite of baptism.



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