

The Service for the Commissioning and Sending of Missionaries

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Priest: Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O Good One.

People: Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3)

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

O Most-Holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Hymn of Pentecost:

Blessed are You, O Christ Our God,
Who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon Your disciples
made the fishermen wise.
And through them You illumined the world;
And to You, as in a net, all the peoples of the world
were drawn;
O Lord, glory to You!

The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us listen attentively!

Reader: Their voice went out through all the earth and their words to the far ends of the world. (*Psalm 19:4*).
- The heavens declare the glory of God. (*Psalm 19:1*).

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (*12:24 - 13:4a*).

Priest: Let us listen attentively!

Reader: Brethren, the Word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission, Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off, being sent out by the Holy Spirit.

Priest: Peace be with you the reader.

People: Alleluia! (3)

The Gospel Reading

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (28:16-20).
Let us listen attentively!

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Priest: At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age."

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Priest: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we beg You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: Again we pray for all faithful and Orthodox Christians.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop (name) and all our brothers in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for the servants of God (*names*) who are now being commissioned and sent forth as missionaries to spread the Good News of Christ and for the forgiveness and remission of all of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3)

A Prayer for Protection

Priest: O great and Most High God: look upon these your servants *[names]* and bless them. Accept their good intentions as incense before You. Guide them, guard them and protect them. Keep them safe from any danger. As You sent the Archangel Raphael to accompany the righteous Tobias on his journey, so now we beg You: send an angel of peace to be a faithful guardian of your servants as they begin their journey to Tanzania to build a house in which You, the one, true and living God, will be praised, worshipped and glorified. May their labor be pleasing in Your sight. Grant that they may return in safety, having accomplished their mission for the glory of Your holy Name.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Prayer for the Commissioning and Sending of Missionaries

Priest: O God, our Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to redeem and save the world. On the day of Pentecost, at His bidding, You sent the Holy Spirit upon His disciples, clothing them with power from on High that they might proclaim salvation in His Name to all nations. Master, send down Your Holy Spirit upon these your servants *{names}* and as You commissioned the Apostles Paul and Barnabas, so we ask that You commission them for this ministry of proclaiming Your Good News. Deliver them from all fear and apprehension and every deceit of the Evil One. Keep them strong in body and soul so that they may be light to those still in darkness and so fulfill in righteousness Your command to go and make disciples of all nations. May their service be pleasing in Your sight that they may praise and glorify Your most Holy and magnificent Name, together with that of Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

**The Hymn to honor Sts. Cyril and Methodios,
The Apostles to the Slavs**

(Feast Day - May 11)

Fourth tone

O Cyril and Methodios, inspired by God,
you became equal to the Apostles in their way of life.
Since you were the Teachers of the Slavs,
intercede with the Master of All
that He may strengthen all peoples in the True Faith,
and that He may grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

DISMISSAL

Priest: May the blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you through His divine grace and love, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God and our hope; Lord, glory to You!

May Christ our true God, Who sent out His holy disciples to the ends of the earth for our salvation, through the intercessions of our all pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of His precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles Peter and Paul and all the holy apostles; the holy and righteous missionaries Cyril and Methodios, apostles to the Slavs; Nina of Georgia; Stephen of Perm; Herman of Alaska; Innocent of Moscow and Nicholas of Japan, equals to the apostles; of St. _____ whose memory we celebrate on this day, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us as our good and loving God.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.