



## **On the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates the liturgy at the Church of Christ the Saviour**

On March 17, 2019, the First Sunday of Lent, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, and the commemoration day of the Holy Prince Daniel of Moscow, His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, celebrated the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and the Service of the Triumph of Orthodoxy at the Cathedral Church of Christ the Saviour in Moscow.

His Holiness was assisted by numerous metropolitans, archbishops and bishops, high church officials, abbots and Moscow clergy. Among his concelebrants were representatives of Local Orthodox Churches to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia from the Orthodox Churches of Alexandria, Antioch, Serbia, Bulgaria, Czech Lands and Slovakia and from the Orthodox Church of America, as well as Moscow clergy.

Present at the service were high-ranking state officials, State Duma deputies, representatives of federal agencies and business community. Traditionally, there were ambassadors and diplomats from Abkhazia, Serbia, Macedonia, South Ossetia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Belarus, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Romania.

The service was broadcast live by the Soyuz TV channel.

During the Lesser Entrance, Patriarch Kirill elevated several clergy to higher ranks and granted two clerics the right to wear Doctor's crosses according to the decision of the All-Church Doctor's Dissertation Board.

During the Prayer of Fervent Supplication, prayers were lifted up for the unity of the Orthodox Church and for safeguarding the Church from divisions and schisms. After that, Patriarch Kirill lifted up a prayer for peace in Ukraine.

After the Service of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, Patriarch Kirill delivered a primatial homily and presented church awards to several hierarchs.

In conclusion of the service, His Holiness said, 'Once again I greet all of you on the occasion of the feast

of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. May the Lord give us strength to preserve the joy of sharing in the life of the Church till our last breath. May the Lord help us go through Great Lent beneficially and celebrate the bright Resurrection of Christ in a dignified way'.

After the service, His Holiness, in the Throne Hall, awarded Serbian Ambassador Slavenko Terzic the Order of St. Seraphim of Sarov in recognition of his contribution to the development of relations between the Russian and Serbian Orthodox Churches and on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Patriarchal Press Service*

*DECR Communication Service*

*Photos by Patriarchal Press Service*

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