



Serbian hierarchs and members of official delegations concelebrated.

Praying at the service were President Tomislav Nikolic of the Republic of Serbia, representatives of the Serbian government, President Milorad Dodik of the Republica Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina), ambassador Alexander Chepurin of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Serbia, ambassador Victor Nedopas of Ukraine, ambassador Vladimir Chushev of Belarus, members of the diplomatic corps and public figures.

Thousands of worshippers came to the service that was celebrated in the Serbia, Church Slavonic, Greek, Arabic, Georgian, Albanian, Polish, and Czech languages.

Among those present there were representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the Armenian Apostolic Church participating the celebrations.

After the divine service, His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia delivered a welcoming address in which he underscored the importance of the event which happened 1700 years ago.

Patriarch Irinej conferred on Patriarch Kirill and other heads of the Local Orthodox Churches the awards of the Serbian Orthodox Church the Orders of St. Constantine the Great.

Metropolitan Hilarion and Bishop Sergy of Solnechnogorsk were also awarded the Orders of St. Constantine.

In his address delivered in the square His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew noted that Christians in different countries are persecuted at present, 1700 after the Edict of Milan. He expressed his concern over the fate of the abducted Syrian Christian hierarchs.

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