

administrative secretariat of the Moscow Patriarchy; the bishop of Zraisk Constantine; archpriest Mikhail Ryazantsev, the sacristan of the Christ the Saviour Cathedral; archimandrite Alexis (Turikov), personal secretary to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; Father Alexander Paramonov, cleric of the Russian Orthodox diocese of Australia and New Zealand under the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad; the clergy of the Christ the Saviour Cathedral; and clergy from the diocese of Moscow.

Attending the service in the cathedral were: the director of the Russian gas and oil company Surgutneftegaz Vladimir Bogdanov; the first deputy of the director general of the Russian Railway Company Vladimir Mikhailov; the first deputy of the head of corporate communications under the Russian Railway Company Andrei Gutz; and the director of the secretariat of the Russian World Popular Council Sergei Rudov.

The hymns at the service were sung by the Patriarchal Choir of Christ the Saviour Cathedral under the direction of Ilya Tolkachev.

The TV stations Spas, Soyuz and the official site of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarchia.ru broadcast the Patriarchal service live.

Special petitions for Holy Russia were offered up at the litany of fervent supplication.

The homily before holy communion was delivered by Father Maxim Romanov, a priest of the Church of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist at Presna in Moscow.

According to tradition on the feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord His Holiness Patriarch Kirill blessed the first fruits of the harvest.

The Patriarch then addressed the gathered faithful.

For his help rendered to the Russian Orthodox Church His Holiness Patriarch Kirill awarded the director general of the Russian gas and oil company Surgutneftegaz Vladimir Bogdanov the Order of Saint Andrew the Iconographer, 1st Degree.

At the conclusion of the service His Holiness went out onto the east platform of the Christ the Saviour Cathedral where he blessed the fruits. The blessed apples and other fruits were then distributed to the pious faithful.