



## His Holiness Patriarch Kirill celebrates Little Vespers at the Lavra of the Holy Trinity and St. Sergius and reads akathist to the saint



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On July 17, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' arrived at the Lavra of the Holy Trinity and St. Sergius on the eve of the commemoration day of the uncovering of the venerable relics of St. Sergius, hegumen of Radonezh.

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church was met at the holy gates by Bishop Kirill of Sergiev Posad and Dmitrov, abbot of the Lavra and rector of the Moscow theological academy (MTA); Mr. Sergei A. Pakhomov, chairman of the State Duma Committee on construction and housing and communal services; Mr. Dmitry A. Akulov, head of the Sergiev Posad municipal district of the Moscow region; Mr. Alexander N. Dronyaev, municipal prosecutor of Sergiev Posad; and brethren of the Lavra,

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill proceeded to the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. He venerated the venerable relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh, the icon of the Holy Trinity painted by St. Andrei Rublev, and also the shrines at the Serapion's Chamber.

At the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill officiated at Little Vespers and read the akathist to St. Sergius of Radonezh.

Concelebrating with His Holiness were ten hierarchs, including eight metropolitans, bishops Kirill of Sergiev Posad and Dmitrov and Alexiy of Ramenskoye, as well as Lavra's brethren in holy orders, including three archimandrites and two hegumens.

The liturgical chants were sung by the joint choir of the Lavra and the MTA conducted by hieromonk Nestor (Volkov).

Praying at the service were also three abbesses of convents in Moscow, Shamordino and Byvalino, and many pilgrims who arrived in the Lavra for the celebration.

The service was broadcast live on the Soyuz and Spas TV channels, and on Patriarchia.ru, the official website of the Russian Orthodox Church. Besides, the service was shown on large screens installed on the Cathedral and Red Hill squares of the Lavra.

Little vespers with the akathist was celebrated at the refectory with the church of St. Sergius by Metropolitan Sergius of Samara and Novokuibyshevsk and other archpastors who arrived in the Lavra to celebrate the commemoration day of St. Sergius.

Photo by the Patriarchal Press Service