

Order, Taking Place in Churches, which are Found on the Way of the Imperial Processions

The Moscow Metropolitan Philaret of Blessed Memory in 1824 made and issued in the management to the clergy of the Moscow diocese the following Order of meeting the Sovereign Emperor.

1) After the approach of his Majesty the Emperor to the settlement, begins the knelling of the bells, but after the entry into the settlement is the bell.

2) When His Imperial Majesty passes by the church, the priest stands on the church porch in festal vestments, holding in his hands the holy cross, the deacon with a censer, and attendants with candles, in sticharions; there also may be banners, depending on convenience¹.

3) If His Imperial Majesty does not desire to stop, the priest signs his Majesty with the cross, without descending from his place, the deacon censes, but then they return to the church.

4) If His Imperial Majesty desires to lead his entourage into the church, the priest brings to His Imperial Majesty a cross for a kissing, holding it in his hands, but not on a dish². During this time the bell stops ringing.

5) If His Imperial Majesty desires to go into the church, the priest with clergy precede him with singing of a verse: "God is the Lord and reveals Himself" and so forth, once, and, having shown His Imperial Majesty between the ambo and the choir a place, on which appropriately is placed a carpet, stands in his place before the ambo, the deacon on the left hand of the priest, but the attendants in the klerosi.

6) The deacon says the ektenia: "Have mercy on us, O God" and so forth, "Again we pray for the Pious" and so forth, "Again we pray for the Holy" and so forth, "Again we pray for all their religious armed forces", "Again we pray for all brethren and for all Christians".

7) The priest says the exclamation: "For You are a merciful God" and so forth.

8) After this the dismissal.

9) The deacon says the Many Years to the Sovereign Emperor and Exalted Family, beginning so: "A prosperous and peaceful life" and so forth. Singers sing: "God grant Him many years". One must place that in this time, His Imperial Majesty will desire to be placed before the local icons of Christ the Savior and the Mother of God.

10) In the procession of His Majesty the Emperor from the church, the priests with clergy precede him as before, and the bell begins to ring again.

11) To observe that during the stay of His Majesty the Emperor in church, the people were not restricted towards the sanctuary, but so much the more that he did not enter into the sanctuary.

12) When His Imperial Majesty will go the further way, the priest with clergy at the same time sing a molieben with bells ringing for the safe procession of His Imperial Majesty.

According to this rite one also meets Her Imperial Majesty, the Imperial Relatives and other Persons of the Highest Family (Tserkovniia Vedomosti [Church News] 1890, 45).

¹ Under the Royal Decree of 10 Apr. 1828 (Polnoie Sobranie Zakonov [Full Collection of Laws], No. 1930), during the journey of His Majesty not to leave the church **at night** for His meeting.

² Decree of the Holy Synod of 15 Oct. 1843, No. 14285, confirms **not to deliver speeches** during the travel of the Sovereign Emperor.