

Phrasebook 6—Public Prayer

Public prayers offered before meetings or meals are formal in their wording and generally cover a limited number of subjects. The most common expressions are listed below. Note that in all of these examples Jehovah is addressed as “thou” since in Russian it would be considered comical to address him as “you”.

Introduction

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| Дава́йте обра́тимся к Иего́ве с моли́твой. | Let us turn to Jehovah in prayer. |
| Всемо́гущий Бог | All powerful God |
| Лю́бящий Бог | Loving God |
| Небе́сный о́тец | Heavenly father |
| Милосе́рдный о́тец | Merciful father |
| Вели́кий наста́вник | Grand instructor |

Thanks

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| Спаси́бо за... | We thank thee for... |
| ...э́то собра́ние. | ...for this meeting. |
| ...э́ту пи́щу. | ...for this food. |
| ...Би́блию. | ...for the Bible. |
| ...на́ше всеми́рное бра́тство. | ...our worldwide brotherhood. |
| ...преиму́щество тебе́ служи́ть. | ...for the privilege of serving thee. |
| Спаси́бо за то что ты... | We thank thee that thou... |
| ...посла́л свое́го сы́на. | ...didst send thy son. |
| ...посла́л Иису́са Хри́ста что́бы он у́мер за на́ши грехи́. | ...didst send Jesus Christ so that he might die for our sins. |
| ...разреша́ешь нам к тебе́ обра́щаться в моли́тве. | ...peritest us to approach thee in prayer. |
| ...даёшь свято́й дух. | ...givest the holy spirit. |

Requests

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| Пусть приде́т твоё Ца́рство. | Let thy Kingdom come. |
| Прости́ нам на́ши грехи́. | Forgive us our sins. |
| Благослови́... | Bless... |
| ...нас. | ...us. |
| ...на́ше всеми́рное бра́тство. | ...our worldwide brotherhood. |
| ...докла́дчика. | ...the speaker. |
| ...уча́ствующих в э́той програ́мме. | ...those participating in this program. |
| ...на́ше служе́ние. | ...our service. |
| Дай нам... | Give us... |
| ...свято́й дух. | ...the holy spirit. |
| ...руково́дство. | ...guidance. |
| Помоги́ нам... | Help us... |

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| ...сосредоточиться. | ...to concentrate. |
| ...оставаться верными. | ...to remain faithful. |
| ...проповедовать со смелостью. | ...to preach with boldness. |
| ...найти искренних людей. | ...to find sincere persons. |
| ...умело пользоваться твоём словом. | ...to use thy word skillfully. |
| ...выстоять до конца. | ...to endure to the end. |
| ...понимать и применять истину. | ...to understand and apply the Truth |
| ...расти духовно. | ...to grow spiritually. |
| ...исполнять твою волю от всего сердца. | ...to do thy will wholeheartedly. |
| Помоги... | Help... |
| ...тем, кто болен. | ...those who are (lit. “is”) sick. |
| ...тем, кого преследуют. | ...those whom [they] persecute. |
| ...пожилым в собрании. | ...the elderly in the congregation. |
| ...тем, кто берёт на себя руководство в собрании. | ...those taking the lead in the congregation. |

Conclusion

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| В имя Иисуса Христа мы молимся. | We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. |
| Аминь. | Amen. |

Common Mistaken Translations

Try to compose a new prayer in Russian rather than deciding what to say in English and then translating it. The phrases used in public prayer contain traps for the beginning translator. In particular:

- Do not say “чтобы мы можем”. It is a meaningless jumble of words. Say “чтобы мы могли”. Better yet, use one of the simpler and more natural expressions in the examples above.
- Do not say “Иисус умер для нас.” That would mean that he died for our use or amusement which is not only incorrect but is also in bad taste. Say “Иисус умер за нас.” which means that he died instead of us.
- Do not say “Прости нас для наших грехов.” since we are not asking a favor for our sins. Do not say “Прости нас за наши грехи.” since then we would be forgiven instead of our sins. Say as Jesus did in the Model Prayer “Прости нам наши грехи.” (Forgive us our sins.)

Improving Naturalness and Clarity

Once you have learned to say basic public prayers, work on using expressions which sound natural in Russian. Borrowed English words and expressions will obscure your meaning even when translated correctly.

- Replace confusing English lone words with authentic Russian words:

| English Word | Lone Word | Authentic Russian |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| focus | фокусироваться | сосредоточиваться |
| privilege | привилегия | преимущество |
| sovereignty | суверенитет | владычество |

- Notice that the word “быть” (to be) does not appear in any of the phrases suggested in this phrasebook. For example, rather than asking for help “to *be* bold preachers” we ask for help “to *preach* boldly”. In English we love to say what things *are*, but in Russian it is better to say what they *do*.
- Pay close attention to the prayers of native speakers to learn how ideas commonly expressed in public prayers are conveyed. Add their wordings to your personal phrasebook.