

THE FORM AND MANNER OF
ORDAINING *and*
CONSECRATING A BISHOP

The Archbishop normally presides at the Consecration of a Bishop; however, the Archbishop may choose to designate another Bishop to be the Chief Consecrator. When this happens, all rubrics referring to the Archbishop are to be taken to mean "Chief Consecrator."

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

The People standing, the Archbishop says this or an appropriate seasonal greeting

The Lord will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh;

People **And your sons and daughters shall prophesy.**

Archbishop Your old men shall dream dreams,

People **And your young men shall see visions.**

Archbishop Ye shall know that the Lord is in the midst
of his people,

People **And that he is the Lord, and none else.**

Archbishop And it shall come to pass;

People **That whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord
shall be delivered.**

JOEL 2:27-28, 32; ACTS 2:17, 21

The Archbishop prays (and the People may be invited to join)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PRESENTATION

The Archbishop and People sit.

The Bishop Elect, properly vested, is presented to the Archbishop by at least two Bishops of this Church, the Bishops who present him saying

Reverend Father in God, we present unto thee *N.N.*, a godly and well-learned man, to be ordained and consecrated Bishop.

Then the Archbishop causes to be read Testimonials from the President of the Standing Committee and the Secretary of the College of Bishops regarding the person presented for Consecration.

The Archbishop then requires the Bishop Elect to take the Oath of Conformity and the Oath of Canonical Obedience saying

The Canons of this Church require that no Priest may be consecrated as a Bishop in the Church before subscribing without reservation to the Oath of Conformity. It is also required that he subscribe without reservation to the Oath of Canonical Obedience. In the presence of this Congregation, I now charge thee to make thy solemn declaration of these oaths.

The Bishop Elect then declares

I, *N.N.*, do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation, and I consequently hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and therefore I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them.

And I do promise, here in the presence of Almighty God and of the Church, that I will pay true and canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America, and his successors, so help me God.

The Bishop Elect then signs the Oath of Conformity and Oath of Canonical Obedience in the sight of all present.

Then the Archbishop invites the Congregation present to pray, saying

Brethren, it is written in the Gospel of Saint Luke, that our Savior Christ continued the whole night in prayer, before he chose and sent forth his twelve Apostles. It is written also in the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples at Antioch fasted and prayed before they sent forth Paul and Barnabas by laying their hands upon them. Let us, therefore, following the example of our Savior Christ, and his Apostles, offer up our prayers to Almighty God, before we admit and send forth this person presented unto us, to the work whereunto we trust the Holy Ghost hath called him.

THE LITANY FOR ORDINATIONS

All kneel. Then the Litanist appointed, with the Clergy and People present, says or sings the Litany for Ordinations (Page 510). The Bishop Elect either kneels or lies prostrate during the Litany.

At the conclusion of the Litany for Ordinations, the Archbishop stands and prays the following Collect, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Archbishop Let us pray.

Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy holy Apostles many excellent gifts, and didst charge them to feed thy flock; Give grace, we beseech thee, to all Bishops, the Pastors of thy Church, that they may diligently preach thy Word, and duly administer the godly Discipline thereof; and grant to the people, that they may obediently follow the same; that all may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The following Lessons are appointed for the ordination and consecration of a Bishop. On a Major Feast, or on a Sunday, the Archbishop may select Lessons from the Propers of the Day.

ISAIAH 61:1-11

PSALM 100

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 *or* ACTS 20:17-35

JOHN 21:15-19 *or* JOHN 20:19-23 *or* MATTHEW 28:18-20

The People sit. One or more Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from _____.

A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After each Lesson the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Or the Reader may say Here endeth the Reading.

Silence may follow.

A psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each reading.

All standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to _____.**

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

All stand to recite the Nicene Creed, the Archbishop first saying

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

Archbishop and People

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered and was buried;
 and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
 and ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
 and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick
 and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.
 And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 who proceedeth from the Father [and the Son];†
 who with the Father and the Son together
 is worshiped and glorified;
 who spake by the Prophets.
 And I believe one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church;
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE EXHORTATION AND EXAMINATION

All are seated except the Bishop Elect, who stands before the Archbishop.

The Archbishop addresses and examines the Bishop Elect as follows

† The phrase “and the Son” (Latin *filioque*) is not in the original Greek text. See the resolution of the College of Bishops concerning the *filioque* in *Documentary Foundations* (page 776).

Brother, forasmuch as the Holy Scripture and the ancient Canons command, that we should not be hasty in laying on hands, and admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ, which he hath purchased with no less price than the effusion of his own blood; before we admit you to this administration, we will examine you in certain articles, to the end that the Congregation present may have a trial, and bear witness, how you are minded to behave yourself in the Church of God.

Are you persuaded that you are truly called to this ministration, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Order of this Church?

Answer I am so persuaded.

The following questions are addressed to the Bishop Elect by one or more of the Bishops.

Question Do you believe that the Holy Scriptures contain all Doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the same Holy Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge; and to teach or maintain nothing, as necessary to eternal salvation, but that which may be concluded and proved by the same?

Answer I do so believe, and I am so determined, the Lord being my helper.

Question Will you then faithfully exercise yourself in the same Holy Scriptures, and call upon God by prayer for the true understanding of the same; so that you may be able by them to teach and exhort with wholesome Doctrine, and to withstand and convince the gainsayers?

Answer I will so do, by the help of God.

Question Are you ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away from the Church all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's Word; and both privately and openly to call upon and encourage others to the same?

Answer I am ready, the Lord being my helper.

Question Will you deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; that thou may show yourself in all things an example of good works unto others, that the adversary may be ashamed, having nothing to say against you?

Answer I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

Question Will you maintain and set forward, as much as shall lie in you, quietness, love, and peace among all men; and diligently exercise such discipline as is, by the authority of God's Word and by the Ordinance of this Church, is committed to you?

Answer I will so do, by the help of God.

Question Will you be faithful in examining, confirming, ordaining, and sending the people of God?

Answer I will so be, by the help of God.

Question Will you show yourself gentle, and be merciful for Christ's sake, to poor and needy people and to all strangers destitute of help?

Answer I will so show myself, by God's help.

The Congregation may kneel, and prays silently for the fulfillment of these purposes.

The Archbishop prays

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hath given you a good will to do all these things; Grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same; that, he accomplishing in you the good work which he has begun, you may be found perfect and irreprehensible at the latter day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Bishop Elect kneels or lies prostrate, facing the Archbishop, with the bishops present surrounding the Bishop Elect. The Veni, Creator Spiritus is sung or said over him as follows

VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but One;
That, through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE BISHOP

All now stand as witnesses, except the Bishop Elect, who kneels facing the Archbishop.

The Archbishop prays the following Prayer of Consecration, first praying

Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come unto thee.**

Archbishop Let us pray

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, who, of thine infinite goodness, hast given thine only and dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the Author of everlasting life; who, after that he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, poured down his gifts abundantly upon men, making some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors, and Doctors; by the Holy Ghost, through their labor and ministry, he gathered together a great flock in all the parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy Name: Grant, we beseech thee, to this thy servant, such grace, that he may evermore be ready to spread abroad thy Gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with thee; and use the authority given him, not to destruction, but to salvation; not to hurt, but to help: so that, as a wise and faithful servant, giving to thy family their portion in due season, he may at last be received into everlasting joy; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the Archbishop and at least two other Bishops lay their hands upon the head of the Bishop Elect, the Archbishop and other Bishops saying

Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Bishop in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Archbishop then continues

Most merciful Father, send down, we beseech thee, upon this thy servant thy heavenly blessing; and so endue him with thy Holy Spirit, that he, preaching thy Word, may not only be earnest to reprove, beseech, and rebuke with all patience and doctrine; but also may be to such as believe a wholesome example, in word, in conversation, in love, in faith, in chastity, and in purity; that, faithfully fulfilling his course, at the latter day he may receive the crown of righteousness laid up by the Lord the righteous Judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

The People in a loud voice respond

Amen.

The new Bishop is now vested according to the Order of Bishops. During the presentations that follow, the Archbishop may be assisted by others.

The Archbishop presents the new Bishop with a Bible, saying

Give heed unto reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men; for by so doing thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost. Be so merciful, that you be not too remiss; so minister discipline, that you forget not mercy; that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the never-fading crown of glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Archbishop presents him with a pastoral staff saying

Take thou this staff and watch over the flock of Christ.

The Archbishop may anoint the forehead of the new Bishop with the Oil of Chrism saying

Receive the anointing of this oil, and remember continually to stir up the grace of God which is given to thee; for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and soberness.

The Archbishop may give him a pectoral cross saying

Receive this cross; remember that he whom thou servest reconciled us to God by his own blood.

The Archbishop may give him an episcopal ring saying

Take thou this ring; be faithful to the Bride of Christ.

The Archbishop may give him a miter saying

Receive this miter, and remember that thine authority rests in God's Word and Holy Ghost.

The Archbishop then says to the People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The liturgy continues with the Offertory. The Deacon prepares the Table.

Standing at the Holy Table, with the Archbishop and other Ministers, the newly consecrated Bishop joins in the celebration of the Holy Communion and in the Breaking of the Bread.

When the Communion is finished, after the Post Communion Prayer, the new Bishop prays the following Collect

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Archbishop, or at his direction the newly-consecrated Bishop, then blesses the People saying

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
People **Who hath made heaven and earth.**
Bishop Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
People **From this time forth for evermore.**
Bishop The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon
you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon dismisses the People saying

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power
of the Holy Ghost.
People **Thanks be to God.**

From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost, "Alleluia, alleluia" is added to the dismissal. It may be added at other times, except during Lent and on other penitential occasions.

The People respond

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**