

THE FORM AND MANNER OF
ORDAINING DEACONS

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

The People standing, the Bishop 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.**
Bishop Your old men shall dream dreams,
People **And your young men shall see visions.**
Bishop Ye shall know that the Lord is in the midst
of his people,
People **That he is the Lord and there is none else.**
Bishop And it shall come to pass
People **That everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord
shall be saved.** JOEL 2:27-28, 32; ACTS 2:17, 21^T

The Bishop 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 Bishop and People sit. The Presenters, standing before the Bishop, present each Ordinand, saying

Reverend Father in God, we present *N.N.* to be admitted to the Order of Deacons.

Bishop Have these persons been selected in accordance with the Canons of this Church? And do you believe *their* manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Presenters We certify to you that *they* have satisfied the requirements of the Canons, and we believe *them* to be qualified for this order.

The Bishop then requires the Ordinand(s) to take the Oath of Conformity and the Oath of Canonical Obedience saying

The Canons require that no one may be ordained a Deacon in the Church before subscribing without reservation to the Oath of Conformity. It is also required that each Ordinand subscribe without reservation to the Oath of Canonical Obedience. In the presence of this Congregation, I now charge you to make your solemn declaration of these oaths.

Each Ordinand then individually 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 Bishop of _____, and his successors, so help me God.

Each Ordinand then signs the Oath of Conformity and the Oath of Canonical Obedience in the sight of all present.

All stand. The Bishop says to the People

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, ye know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting *these persons* for ordination to the sacred Order of Deacons. Therefore, if any of you know of any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now and make it known.

If no objection is made, the Bishop continues

Is it your will that *these persons* be ordained as Deacons?

People **It is.**

Bishop Will you uphold *them* in *their* ministry?

People **We will.**

Bishop In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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 Ordinands either kneel or lie prostrate during the Litany.

At the conclusion of the Litany for Ordinations, the Bishop stands and prays the following collect, first saying

The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hast appointed diverse Orders of Ministers in thy Church, and didst inspire thine Apostles to choose into the Order of Deacons the first martyr Saint Stephen, with others; Mercifully behold *these* thy *servants* now called to the like office and administration: so replenish *them* with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn *them* with innocency of life, that, both by word and good example, *they* may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy Name, and the edification of thy Church; through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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 of a Deacon. On a Major Feast, or on a Sunday, the Bishop may select Lessons from the Propers of the Day.

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

PSALM 119:1-8

1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13 *or* ACTS 6:1-7

LUKE 12:35-40

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, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

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

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

Bishop and People

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],[†]
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The text of the Nicene Creed according to the Book of Common Prayer 1662, as found on page 144, may be used.

THE EXHORTATION

All are seated except the Ordinand(s), who stand before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the Ordinand(s) as follows

It appertaineth to the office of a Deacon to share in the humility and service of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the strengthening of the Church, which is his body. Ye are to read the Gospel and proclaim Christ at all times through your service, to instruct

[†] *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 768).*

both young and old in the Catechism, and, at the direction of the Bishop or Priest, to baptize and preach.

Ye are to assist the Priest in divine service, to guide the intercessions of the Congregation, to aid in the administration of Holy Communion, and to carry the Sacrament to those who are kept from the Table by illness, infirmity, or imprisonment.

Furthermore, ye are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. It is the Deacon's office to encourage and equip the household of God to search for the stranger, to embrace the poor and helpless, and to seek them out, so that they may be relieved.

THE EXAMINATION

The Bishop examines the Ordinands as follows

Will you take up this charge gladly and willingly?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon yourself this Office and ministry, to serve God for the promoting of his glory and the edifying of his people?

Answer I do so trust.

Bishop Do you believe that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in accordance with the Canons of this Church, to this Office and ministry?

Answer I do so believe.

Bishop Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer I am so persuaded.

Bishop Will you diligently read these Scriptures to the people assembled in the church where you are appointed to serve?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you be diligent to frame and fashion your own *lives* [and the *lives* of your *families*], according to the Doctrine of Christ, and to make *yourselves* [and them, as much as in you lieth], wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Will you reverently obey your Bishop and other Ministers who, according to the Canons of the Church, may have charge and authority over you, following with a glad mind and a good will their godly admonitions, and submitting yourself to their godly judgments?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

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

The Bishop 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 hath begun, you may be found perfect and without reproach at the latter day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Ordinands kneel or lie prostrate, facing the Bishop. The Veni, Creator Spiritus (page 492) or other hymn to the Holy Spirit may be sung or said as a prayer for the renewal of the Church.

THE ORDINATION OF THE DEACONS

All now stand as witnesses, except the Ordinands, who kneel facing the Bishop. The Bishop then prays the following prayer, first saying

Let us pray.

O God, most merciful Father, thou didst send thy Son Jesus Christ to take upon himself the form of a servant. He humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death on a Cross. Yet thou hast highly exalted him, making him Lord of all. For this great mystery, and for *these thy servants* whom thou now callest to obedience after his example, we offer unto thee our most hearty thanks; and we ask that we may daily increase in humility and service, that by *their* ministry as well as by those with whom *they* serve, thy holy Name may for ever be glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop lays his hands upon the head of every one to be made Deacon, each one humbly kneeling before him, and says

Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and work of a Deacon in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of my hands; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Bishop then prays the following over the Ordinands.

In thy great goodness, O Lord, make *these thy servants* to be *Deacons* in thy Church; give *them* grace to be modest, humble, and constant in *their* ministry; give *them* a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; and with the testimony of a good conscience always before *them*, may *they* continue stable and strong in the service of thy Son Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honor, world without end.

The People in a loud voice respond

Amen.

The new Deacons may now be vested according to the Order of Deacons.

As the Deacon is vested with a maniple, the Bishop says

Receive this maniple as a sign of thy service, for thy Lord came among us as one who served.

As the Deacon is vested with a stole, the Bishop says

Receive this stole as a sign of the yoke of Christ, thy Savior.

As the Deacon is vested with a dalmatic, the Bishop says

Receive this dalmatic as a sign that thou must daily take up the whole armor of God, that thou mayest be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Then the Bishop delivers to every one of them a Book of Gospels or New Testament saying

Take thou authority to read the Gospel in the Church of God and to teach the same.

The Bishop 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 newly ordained Deacons prepare the Table.

When the Communion is finished, after the Post Communion Prayer, the 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 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 for ever. **Amen.**

The newly ordained Deacons together dismiss the People saying

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
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.**