

THE FORM AND MANNER OF
ORDAINING A PRIEST

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 the Ordinand, saying

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

Bishop Hath *he* been selected in accordance with the Canons of this Church? And do you believe *his* manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Presenters We certify to you that *he* hath satisfied the requirements of the Canons, and we believe *him* to be qualified for this Order.

The Bishop shall then require the Ordinand to take the Oath of Conformity and the Oath of Canonical Obedience saying

The Canons require that no Deacon may be ordained a Priest 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.

The Ordinand 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 Bishop of _____, and his successors, so help me God.

The 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 *N.N.* for ordination to the sacred Priesthood. 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 *N.* be ordained a Priest?

People **It is.**

Bishop Will you uphold *him* in this 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 Ordinand either kneels or lies 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, giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed diverse Orders of Ministers in thy Church; Mercifully behold *this thy servant* now called to the Office of Priesthood; and so replenish *him* with the truth of thy doctrine and adorn *him* with innocency of life, that, both by word and good example, *he* 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 Priest. On a Major Feast, or on a Sunday, the Bishop may select Lessons from the Propers of the Day.

ISAIAH 6:1-8

PSALM 119:33-40

EPHESIANS 4:7-16 or PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

LUKE 10:1-9 or JOHN 10:1-16

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, who stands before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the Ordinand as follows

You have heard, during the Church's discernment of your vocation and in the Holy Scriptures themselves, how weighty is this Office to which you are called. I now exhort you, in the

[†] *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).*

Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be a messenger, watchman, and steward of the Lord. You are to teach, to premonish, to feed, and to provide for the Lord's family, and to seek for Christ's sheep which are in the midst of this fallen world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always therefore printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The Church and congregation whom you must serve, is his spouse, and his body. And if it shall happen that the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue.

Wherefore, consider the ends of your ministry to the children of God. Work diligently, with your whole heart, to bring those in your care into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of God, and to maturity in Christ, that there may be among you neither error in religion nor immorality in life. Finally, arm and lead your Congregation to proclaim tirelessly the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And seeing that the demands of this holy Office are so great, lay aside all worldly distractions and take care to direct all that you do to this purpose: read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Scriptures, that you may show yourself both dutiful and thankful to the Lord; and frame your conduct, and that of your household and those committed to thy care, according to the doctrine and discipline of Christ. Know, however, that you cannot accomplish this of yourself; for the will and the ability needed are given by God alone. Therefore, pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind and strengthen your resolve.

THE EXAMINATION

The Bishop then examines the Ordinand, saying

So that this Congregation of Christ's Church may know your intent in these things, I charge you to answer plainly these questions, which I, in the Name of God and his Church, now ask:

Do you believe in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the Canons of this Church, to the Order and ministry of the Priesthood?

Answer I do so believe.

Bishop Do you believe that the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the 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 Scriptures?

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

Bishop Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine, sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded and as this Church hath received them, according to the Commandments of God, so that you may teach the people committed to your cure and charge with all diligence to keep and observe them?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away from the Body of Christ all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private admonitions and exhortations, to the weak as well as the strong within your cure, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Will you be diligent in prayer, and in the reading of Holy Scripture, and in such study as may further the knowledge of the same, laying aside all distractions of the world and the flesh?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Will you be diligent to frame and fashion your own *life* [and the *life* of your *family*], according to the doctrine of Christ, and to make *yourself* [and them, as much as in you lieth], a wholesome example and pattern to the flock of Christ?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Will you maintain and set forward, as much as you are able, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among those who are or shall be committed to your charge?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Will you reverently obey your Bishop and other chief 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 Ordinand kneels or lies prostrate, facing the Bishop, with the priests present surrounding the Ordinand. The Veni, Creator Spiritus is sung or said as a prayer for the renewal of the Church.

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 PRIEST

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

The Bishop prays the following prayer, first saying

Let us pray.

Almighty God, and heavenly Father, who, of thine infinite love and goodness towards us, hast given to us thy only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our redeemer, and the author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and doctors; by the Holy Spirit, 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: For these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness, and for that thou hast vouchsafed to call *this* thy *servant* here present to the same office and ministry, we render unto thee most hearty thanks; and we humbly beseech thee that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, and that by *this minister*, as well as by them over whom *he* shall be appointed, thy holy Name may be for ever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop with the Priests present lay their hands upon the head of each one to receive the Order of Priesthood. The Bishop says

Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the Imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Bishop then prays the following over the Ordinand.

Send thy heavenly blessing upon *this* thy servant, that *he* may be clothed with righteousness, and that thy Word, spoken by *his* mouth, may have such success that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and receive what *he* shall deliver out of thy most holy Word as the means of our salvation; that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the increase of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

The People in a loud voice respond

Amen.

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

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

Take thou the yoke of the Lord, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light.

As the Priest is vested with a chasuble, the Bishop says

Receive this priestly garment which symbolizes charity; for God is well able to give thee an increase of charity and a perfect work.

The Bishop then anoints the hands of the new Priest with the Oil of Chrism, saying

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to consecrate and sanctify these hands by this unction and by our blessing, that whatsoever they bless may be blessed, and whatsoever they consecrate may be consecrated and sanctified, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Bishop then gives the new Priest a Bible in one hand and a chalice in the other hand saying

Take thou authority to preach the Word of God and to minister the Holy Sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed unto thee as a Priest in the Church of God.

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 Deacon prepares the Table.

Standing at the Holy Table with the Bishop and other Ministers, the newly ordained Priest 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 Priest 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.**

Or the Bishop may ask the newly ordained Priest to bless the People saying

The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst 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 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.**