

**The Book of Common Prayer,  
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# Episcopal Services

## Preface to the Ordination Rites

The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostles' time, there have been different ministries within the Church. In particular, since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ's holy catholic Church. First, there is the order of bishops who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Secondly, associated with them are the presbyters, or ordained elders, in subsequent times generally known as priests. Together with the bishops, they take part in the governance of the Church, in the carrying out of its missionary and pastoral work, and in the preaching of the Word of God and administering his holy Sacraments. Thirdly, there are deacons who assist bishops and priests in all of this work. It is also a special responsibility of deacons to minister in Christ's name to the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the helpless.

The persons who are chosen and recognized by the Church as being called by God to the ordained ministry are admitted to these sacred orders by solemn prayer and the laying on of episcopal hands. It has been, and is, the intention and purpose of this Church to maintain and continue these three orders; and for this purpose these services of ordination and consecration are appointed. No persons are allowed to exercise the offices of bishop, priest, or deacon in this Church unless they are so ordained, or have already received such ordination with the laying on of hands by bishops who are themselves duly qualified to confer Holy Orders.

It is also recognized and affirmed that the threefold ministry is not the exclusive property of this portion of Christ's catholic Church, but is a gift from God for the nurture of his people and the proclamation of his Gospel everywhere. Accordingly, the manner of ordaining in this Church is to be such as has been, and is, most generally recognized by Christian people as suitable for the conferring of the sacred orders of bishop, priest, and deacon.

[Note that earlier versions of the ordinand's declaration in these Ordination rites had, instead of "The Episcopal Church", "the [Protestant] Episcopal Church [in the United States of America]".

## Concerning the Ordination of a Bishop

In accordance with ancient custom, it is desirable, if possible, that bishops be ordained on Sundays and other feasts of our Lord or on the feasts of apostles or evangelists.

When a bishop is to be ordained, the Presiding Bishop of this Church, or a bishop appointed by the Presiding Bishop, presides and serves as chief consecrator. At least two other bishops serve as co-consecrators. Representatives of the presbyterate, diaconate, and laity of the diocese for which the new bishop is to be consecrated, are assigned appropriate duties in the service.

From the beginning of the service until the Offertory, the chief consecrator presides from a chair placed close to the people, so that all may see and hear what is done. The other bishops, or a convenient number of them, sit to the right and left of the chief consecrator.

The bishop-elect is vested in a rochet or alb, without stole, tippet, or other vesture distinctive of ecclesiastical or academic rank or order.

When the bishop-elect is presented, *his* full name (designated by the symbol *N.N.*) is used. Thereafter, it is appropriate to refer to *him* only by the Christian name by which *he* wishes to be known.

At the Offertory, it is appropriate that the bread and wine be brought to the Altar by the family or friends of the newly ordained.

The family of the newly ordained may receive Communion before other members of the congregation. Opportunity is always given to the people to communicate.

Additional Directions are on page 552.

# The Ordination of a Bishop

*Hymns, psalms, and anthems may be sung during the entrance of the bishops and other ministers.*

*The people standing, the Bishop appointed says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.

*In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*In Lent and on other penitential occasions*

Bishop Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
People His mercy endures for ever.

*The Bishop then says*

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

# The Presentation

*The bishops and people sit. Representatives of the diocese, both Priests and Lay Persons, standing before the Presiding Bishop, present the bishop-elect, saying*

N., Bishop in the Church of God, the clergy and people of the Diocese of N., trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have chosen N.N. to be a bishop and chief pastor. We therefore ask you to lay your hands upon *him* and in the power of the Holy Spirit to consecrate *him* a bishop in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

*The Presiding Bishop then directs that the testimonials of the election be read.*

*When the reading of the testimonials is ended, the Presiding Bishop requires the following promise from the Bishop-elect*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I, N.N., chosen Bishop of the Church in N., solemnly declare that I 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 do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

*The Bishop-elect then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present. The witnesses add their signatures.*

*All stand.*

*The Presiding Bishop then says the following, or similar words, and asks the response of the people*

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, you have heard testimony given that N.N. has been duly and lawfully elected to be a bishop of the Church of God to serve in the Diocese of N. You have been assured of *his* suitability and that the Church has approved *him* for this sacred responsibility. Nevertheless, if any of you know any reason why we should not proceed, let it now be made known.

*If no objections are made, the Presiding Bishop continues*

Is it your will that we ordain N. a bishop?

*The People respond in these or other words*

That is our will.

*Presiding Bishop*

Will you uphold N. as bishop?

*The People respond in these or other words*

We will.

*The Presiding Bishop then says*

The Scriptures tell us that our Savior Christ spent the whole night in prayer before he chose and sent forth his twelve apostles. Likewise, the apostles prayed before they appointed Matthias to be one of their number. Let us, therefore, follow their examples, and offer our prayers to Almighty God before we ordain N. for the work to which we trust the Holy Spirit has called *him*.

*All kneel, and the Person appointed leads the Litany for Ordinations, or some other approved litany. At the end of the litany, after the Kyries, the Presiding Bishop stands and reads the Collect for the Day, or the following Collect, or both, first saying*

The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Ministry of the Word

*Three Lessons are read. Lay persons read the Old Testament Lesson and the Epistle.*

*The Readings are ordinarily selected from the following list and may be lengthened if desired. On a Major Feast or on a Sunday, the Presiding Bishop may select Readings from the Proper of the Day.*

*Old Testament* Isaiah 61:1-8, or Isaiah 42:1-9

*Psalm* 99, or 40:1-14, or 100

*Epistle* Hebrews 5:1-10, or 1 Timothy 3:1-7, or 2 Corinthians 3:4-9

*The Reader first says*

A Reading (Lesson) from\_\_\_\_\_.

*A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or the Reader may say* Here ends the Reading (Epistle).

*Silence may follow.*

*A Psalm, canticle, or hymn follows each Reading.*

*Then, all standing, a Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to\_\_\_\_\_.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 20:19-23, or John 17:1-9,18-12, or Luke 24:44-49a

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

*After the Sermon, the Congregation sings a hymn.*

## **The Examination**

*All now sit, except the bishop-elect, who stands facing the bishops. The Presiding Bishop addresses the bishop-elect*

My *brother*, the people have chosen you and have affirmed their trust in you by acclaiming your election. A bishop in God's holy Church is called to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ's resurrection and interpreting the Gospel, and to testify to Christ's sovereignty as Lord of lords and King of kings.

You are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant; to ordain priests and deacons and to join in ordaining bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.

With your fellow bishops you will share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your heritage is the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to God in hope. Your joy will be to follow him who came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Are you persuaded that God has called you to the office of bishop?

*Answer* I am so persuaded.

*The following questions are then addressed to the bishop-elect by one or more of the other bishops*

*Bishop* Will you accept this call and fulfill this trust in obedience to Christ?  
*Answer* I will obey Christ, and will serve in his name.

*Bishop* Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the study of Holy Scripture, that you may have the mind of Christ?  
*Answer* I will, for he is my help.

*Bishop* Will you boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people?  
*Answer* I will, in the power of the Spirit.

*Bishop* As a chief priest and pastor, will you encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries, nourish them from the riches of God's grace, pray for them without ceasing, and celebrate with them the sacraments of our redemption?  
*Answer* I will, in the name of Christ, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

*Bishop* Will you guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church of God?  
*Answer* I will, for the love of God.

*Bishop* Will you share with your fellow bishops in the government of the whole Church; will you sustain your fellow presbyters and take counsel with them; will you guide and strengthen the deacons and all others who minister in the Church?  
*Answer* I will, by the grace given me.

*Bishop* Will you be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper?  
*Answer* I will, for the sake of Christ Jesus.

*All stand. The Presiding Bishop then says*

N., through these promises you have committed yourself to God, to serve his Church in the office of bishop. We therefore call upon you, chosen to be a guardian of the Church's faith, to lead us in confessing that faith.

*Bishop-elect*

We believe in one God.

*Then all sing or say together*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 Consecration of the Bishop

*All continue to stand, except the bishop-elect, who kneels before the Presiding Bishop. The other bishops stand to the right and left of the Presiding Bishop.*

*The hymn, Veni Creator Spiritus, or the hymn, Veni Sancte Spiritus, is sung.*

*A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing.*

*The Presiding Bishop then begins this Prayer of Consecration*

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies  
and God of all comfort, dwelling on high but having regard  
for the lowly, knowing all things before they come to pass:  
We give you thanks that from the beginning you have  
gathered and prepared a people to be heirs of the covenant of  
Abraham, and have raised up prophets, kings, and priests,  
never leaving your temple untended. We praise you also that  
from the creation you have graciously accepted the ministry  
of those whom you have chosen.

*The Presiding Bishop and other Bishops now lay their hands upon the head of the bishop-elect, and say together*

Therefore, Father, make N. a bishop in your Church. Pour  
out upon him the power of your princely Spirit, whom you  
bestowed upon your beloved Son Jesus Christ, with whom he  
endowed the apostles, and by whom your Church is built up in  
every place, to the glory and unceasing praise of your Name.

*The Presiding Bishop continues*

To you, O Father, all hearts are open; fill, we pray, the heart  
of this your servant whom you have chosen to be a bishop in  
your Church, with such love of you and of all the people, that  
*he* may feed and tend the flock of Christ, and exercise  
without reproach the high priesthood to which you have  
called *him*, serving before you day and night in the ministry  
of reconciliation, declaring pardon in your Name, offering the  
holy gifts, and wisely overseeing the life and work of the  
Church. In all things may *he* present before you the acceptable  
offering of a pure, and gentle, and holy life; through Jesus  
Christ your Son, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be  
honor and power and glory in the Church, now and for ever.

*The People in a loud voice respond Amen.*

*The new bishop is now vested according to the order of bishops.*

*A Bible is presented with these words*

Receive the Holy Scriptures. Feed the flock of Christ  
committed to your charge, guard and defend them in his  
truth, and be a faithful steward of his holy Word and  
Sacraments.

*After this other symbols of office may be given.*



*The Presiding Bishop presents to the people their new bishop.*

*The Clergy and People offer their acclamation and applause.*

## **The Peace**

*The new Bishop then says*

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

*The Presiding Bishop and other Bishops greet the new bishop.*

*The People greet one another.*

*The new Bishop also greets other members of the clergy, family members, and the congregation.*

*The new Bishop, if the Bishop of the Diocese, may now be escorted to the episcopal chair.*

## **At the Celebration of the Eucharist**

*The liturgy continues with the Offertory.*

*Deacons prepare the Table.*

*Then the new Bishop goes to the Lord's Table as chief Celebrant and, joined by other bishops and presbyters, proceeds with the celebration of the Eucharist.*

## **After Communion**

*In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, one of the bishops leads the people in the following*

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that N. may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with *him*, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The new Bishop blesses the people, first saying*

Our help is in the name of the Lord;  
*People* The maker of heaven and earth.

*New Bishop* Blessed be the name of the Lord.  
*People* From this time forth for evermore.

*New Bishop* The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

*A Deacon dismisses the people*

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

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, "Alleluia, alleluia," may be added to the dismissal and to the response.*

## Concerning the Service

When a bishop is to confer Holy Orders, at least two presbyters must be present.

From the beginning of the service until the Offertory, the bishop presides from a chair placed close to the people, and facing them, so that all may see and hear what is done.

The ordinand is to be vested in surplice or alb, without stole, tippet, or other vesture distinctive of ecclesiastical or academic rank or order.

When the ordinand is presented, *his* full name (designated by the symbol *N.N.*) is used. Thereafter, it is appropriate to refer to *him* only by the Christian name by which *he* wishes to be known.

At the Offertory, it is appropriate that the bread and wine be brought to the Altar by the family and friends of the newly ordained.

At the Great Thanksgiving, the new priest and other priests stand at the Altar with the bishop, as associates and fellow ministers of the Sacrament, and communicate with the bishop.

The family of the newly ordained may receive Communion before other members of the congregation. Opportunity is always given to the people to communicate.

Additional Directions are on page 552.

## The Ordination of a Priest

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

*The people standing, the Bishop says*

*People* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.

*In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*In Lent and on other penitential occasions*

*Bishop* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* His mercy endures for ever.

*Bishop*

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

# The Presentation

*The bishop and people sit. A Priest and a Lay Person, and additional presenters if desired, standing before the bishop, present the ordinand, saying*

N., Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of N., we present to you N.N. to be ordained a priest in Christ's holy catholic Church.

*Bishop*

Has *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* has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe *him* to be qualified for this order.

*The Bishop says to the ordinand*

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

*Answer*

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I 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 do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

*The Ordinand then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present.*

*All stand. The Bishop says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, you 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 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?

*The People respond in these or other words*

It is.

*Bishop*

Will you uphold him in this ministry?

*The People respond in these or other words*

We will.

*The Bishop then calls the people to prayer with these or similar words*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*All kneel, and the Person appointed leads the Litany for Ordinations, or some other approved litany. At the end of the litany, after the Kyries, the Bishop stands and reads the Collect for the Day, or the following Collect, or both, first saying*

*People*      The Lord be with you  
                  And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Ministry of the Word

*Three Lessons are read. Lay persons read the Old Testament Lesson and the Epistle.*

*The Readings are ordinarily selected from the following list and may be lengthened if desired. On a Major Feast, or on a Sunday, the Bishop may select Readings from the Proper of the Day.*

*Old Testament* Isaiah 6:1-8, or Numbers 11:16-17,24-25  
(omitting the final clause)

*Psalms* 43, or 132:8-19

*Epistle* 1 Peter 5:1-4,\* or Ephesians 4:7,11-16, or Philippians 4:4-9

*\* It is to be noted that where the words elder, elders, and fellow elder, appear in translations of 1 Peter 5:1, the original Greek terms presbyter, presbyters, and fellow presbyter, are to be substituted.*

The Reader first says

A Reading (Lesson) from\_\_\_\_\_.

*A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or the Reader may say* Here ends the Reading (Epistle).

*Silence may follow.*

*A Psalm, canticle, or hymn follows each Reading.*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon, or if no deacon is present, a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to\_\_\_\_\_.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 9:35-38, or John 10:11-18, or John 6:35-38

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

*The Congregation then says or sings the Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one 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 Examination

*All are seated except the ordinand, who stands before the Bishop.*

*The Bishop addresses the ordinand as follows*

My *brother*, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world. Now you are called to work as a pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

As a priest, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

My *brother*, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this priesthood?

*Answer* I believe I am so called.

*Bishop* Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Answer* I do.

*Bishop* Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you do you best to pattern your life [and that of your family, *or* household, *or* community] in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.

*Answer* Amen.

## The Consecration of the Priest

*All now stand except the ordinand, who kneels facing the Bishop and the presbyters who stand to the right and left of the Bishop.*

*The hymn, Veni Creator Spiritus, or the hymn, Veni Sancte Spiritus, is sung.*

*A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing.*

*The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration*

God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn among many brethren, and the head of the Church. We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and, having ascended into heaven, has poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of his body.

*Here the Bishop says hands upon the head of the ordinand, the Priests who are present also laying on their hands. At the same time the Bishop prays*

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to N.; fill *him* with grace and power, and make *him* a priest in your Church.

*The Bishop then continues*

May *he* exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people; offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. Make *him* a faithful pastor, a patient teacher, and a wise councilor. Grant that in all things *he* may serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your Name glorified in all the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*The People in a loud voice respond* Amen.

*The new priest is now vested according to the order of priests.*

*The Bishop then gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying*

Receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God and to administer his holy Sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed to you as a priest of the Church of God.

*The Bishop greets the newly ordained.*

## The Peace

*The new Priest then says to the congregation*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*The Presbyters present greet the newly ordained; who then greets family members and others, as may be convenient. The Clergy and People greet one another.*

## At the Celebration of the Eucharist

*The liturgy continues with the Offertory. Deacons prepare the Table.*

*Standing at the Lord's Table, with the Bishop and other presbyters, the newly ordained Priest joins in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and in the Breaking of the Bread.*

## After Communion

*In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said*

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that *N.* may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with *him*, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The Bishop then asks the new priest to bless the people.*

*The new Priest says*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

*A Deacon, or a Priest if no deacon is present, dismisses the people*

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, "Alleluia, alleluia," may be added to the dismissal and to the response.*

## Concerning the Service

When a bishop is to confer Holy Orders, at least two presbyters must be present.

From the beginning of the service until the Offertory, the bishop presides from a chair placed close to the people, and facing them, so that all may see and hear what is done.

The ordinand is to be vested in surplice or alb, without tippet, or other vesture distinctive of ecclesiastical or academic or order.

When the ordinand is presented, *his* full name (designated by the symbol *N.N.*) is used. Thereafter, it is appropriate to refer to *him* only by the Christian name by which *he* wishes to be known.

At the Offertory, it is appropriate that the bread and wine be brought to the Altar by the family and friends of the newly ordained.

After receiving Holy Communion, the new deacon assists in the distribution of the Sacrament, ministering either the Bread or the Wine, or both.

The family of the newly ordained may receive Communion before other members of the congregation. Opportunity is always given to the people to communicate.

Additional Directions are on page 552.

## The Ordination of a Deacon

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

*The people standing, the Bishop says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*In Lent and on other penitential occasions*

*Bishop* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* His mercy endures for ever.

*Bishop*

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



# The Presentation

*The bishop and people sit. A Priest and a Lay Person, and additional presenters if desired, standing before the bishop, present the ordinand, saying*

N., Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of N., we present to you N.N. to be ordained a deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church.

*Bishop*

Has 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 has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe him qualified for this order.

*The Bishops say to the ordinand*

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

*Answer*

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I 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 do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

*The Ordinand then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present.*

*All stand. The Bishop says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting N.N. for ordination to the sacred order of deacons. Therefore if any of you know 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 deacon?

*The People respond in these or other words*

It is.

*Bishop*

Will you uphold *him* in this ministry?

*The People respond in these or other words*

We will.

*The Bishop then calls the people to prayer with these or similar words*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*All kneel, and the Person appointed leads the Litany for Ordinations, or some other approved litany. At the end of the litany, after the Kyries, the Bishop stands and reads the Collect for the Day, or the following Collect, or both, first saying*

*People*      The Lord be with you  
                  And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Ministry of the Word

*Three Lessons are read. Lay persons read the Old Testament Lesson and the Epistle.*

*The Readings are ordinarily selected from the following list and may be lengthened if desired. On a Major Feast, or on a Sunday, the Bishop may select Readings from the Proper of the Day.*

*Old Testament* Jeremiah 1:4-9, or Ecclesiasticus 39:1-8

*Psalm* 84, or 119:33-40

*Epistle* 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, or 1 Timothy 3:8-13, or Acts 6:1-7

*The Reader first says*

A Reading (Lesson) from\_\_\_\_\_.

*A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or the Reader may say* Here ends the Reading (Epistle).

*Silence may follow.*

*A Psalm, canticle, or hymn follows each Reading.*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon, or if no deacon is present, a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to\_\_\_\_\_.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 12:35-38, or Luke 22:24-27

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

*The Congregation then says or sings the Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 Examination

*All are seated except the ordinand, who stands before the Bishop.  
The Bishop addresses the ordinand as follows*

My *brother*, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

My *brother*, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

*Answer* I believe I am so called.

*Bishop* Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Answer* I do.

*Bishop* Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?  
*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?  
*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you do your best to pattern your life [and that of your family, *or* household, *or* community] in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?  
*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?  
*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.  
*Answer* Amen.

## The Consecration of the Deacon

*All now stand except the ordinand, who kneels facing the Bishop.*

*The hymn, Veni Creator Spiritus, or the hymn, Veni Sancte Spiritus, is sung.*

*A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing.*

*The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration*

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling this your servant to the order of deacons.

*Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of the ordinand, and prays*

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to *N.*; fill *him* with grace and power, and make him a deacon in your Church.

*The Bishop continues*

Make *him*, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let *his* life and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through *him* many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may this deacon share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*The People in a loud voice respond* Amen.

*The new deacon is now vested according to the order of deacons.*

*The Bishop then gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying*

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

## The Peace

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People And also with you.

*The Bishop and the Clergy now greet the newly ordained.*

*The new Deacon then exchanges greetings with family members and others, as may be convenient.*

*The Clergy and People greet one another.*

## At the Celebration of the Eucharist

*The liturgy continues with the Offertory.*

*The newly ordained Deacon prepares the bread, pours sufficient wine (and a little water) into the chalice, and places the vessels on the Lord's Table.*

*The Bishop goes to the Table and begins the Great Thanksgiving.*

## After Communion

*In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said*

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry

of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that *N.* may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with *him*, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The Bishop blesses the people, after which the new Deacon dismisses them*

Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
People Thanks be to God.

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, "Alleluia, alleluia," may be added to the dismissal and to the response.*

# The Litany for Ordinations

*For use at Ordinations as directed. On Ember Days or other occasions, if desired, this Litany may be used for the Prayers of the People at the Eucharist or the Daily Office, or it may be used separately.*

God the Father,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit,  
*Have mercy on us.*

We pray to you, Lord Christ.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For N., our Presiding Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For N., chosen bishop (priest, deacon) in your Church,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That *he* may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your Name,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit he may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For *his* family [the members of *his* household *or* community], that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those in positions of public trust [especially \_\_\_\_\_],  
that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and  
freedom of every person,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use  
of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from  
poverty, famine, and disaster,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for  
refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may  
be relieved and protected,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the  
grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and  
those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the  
saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain  
or grief, but life eternal,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [the ever-blessed Virgin Mary,  
(*blessed N.*) and] all the saints, let us commend ourselves,  
and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.  
*To you, O Lord our God.*

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord, have mercy.

*At Ordinations, the Bishop who is presiding stands and says*

                  The Lord be with you.  
*People*      And also with you.  
*Bishop*     Let us pray.

*The Bishop says the appointed Collect.*

*When this Litany is used on other occasions, the Officiant concludes  
with a suitable Collect.*

## *Additional Directions*

### *At all Ordinations*

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist may be according to Rite One or Rite Two. In either case, the rubrics of the service of ordination are followed. The Summary of the Law, the Gloria in excelsis, the Prayers of the People after the Creed, the General Confession, and the usual postcommunion prayer are not used.

At the Presentation of the Ordinand, the Declaration “I do believe the Holy Scriptures . . .” is to be provided as a separate document to be signed, as directed by Article VIII of the Constitution of this Church and by the rubrics in each of the ordination rites. (Where there are more ordinands than one, each is to be presented with a separate copy for signature.)

The hymn to the Holy Spirit before the Prayer of Consecration may be sung responsively between a bishop and the congregation, or in some other convenient manner.

If vestments or other symbols of office are to be dedicated, such blessing is to take place at some convenient time prior to the service. The following form may be used.

- V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
R. The maker of heaven and earth.  
V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Everliving God, whose power is limitless, we place before you, with our praise and thanks, *these tokens* of your servant’s ministry and dignity. Grant that *N.*, who has been called to leadership in your Church, and bears *these signs*, may faithfully serve you and share in the fullness of your life-giving Spirit; through the high priest and good shepherd of us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *At the Ordination of a Bishop*

Following the Consecration Prayer, and while the new bishop is being clothed with the vesture of the episcopate, instrumental music may be played.

Following the presentation of the Bible, and the formula “Receive the Holy Scriptures . . .” a ring, staff, and mitre, or other suitable insignia of office may be presented.

During the Eucharistic Prayer, it is appropriate that some of the consecrating bishops, and representative presbyters of the diocese, stand with the new bishop at the Altar as fellow ministers of the Sacrament.

The newly ordained bishop, assisted by other ministers, distributes Holy Communion to the people. When necessary, the administration may take place at several conveniently separated places in the church.

After the pontifical blessing and the dismissal, a hymn of praise may be sung.

The bishops who are present are not to depart without signing the Letters of Consecration.

### *At the Ordination of a Priest*

Reasonable opportunity is to be given for the priests present to join in the laying on of hands.

The stole worn about the neck, or other insignia of the office of priest, is placed upon the new priest after the entire Prayer of Consecration is completed, and immediately before the Bible is presented. Afterwards, other instruments or symbols of office may be given.

If two or more are ordained together, each is to have *his* own presenters. The ordinands may be presented together, or in succession, as the bishop may direct. Thereafter, references to the ordinand in the singular are changed to the plural where necessary. The ordinands are examined together.

During the Prayer of Consecration, the bishop and priests lay their hands upon the head of each ordinand. During the laying on of hands, the bishop alone says over each ordinand “Father, through Jesus Christ your



Son, give your Holy Spirit to *N.*; fill *him* with grace and power, and make *him* a priest in your Church.” When they have laid their hands upon all the ordinands, the bishop continues “May the exalt you, O Lord, in the midst . . .”

A Bible is to be given to each new priest, and the words “Receive this Bible . . .” are to be said to each one.

All the newly ordained take part in the exchange of the Peace, and join the bishop and other priests at the Altar for the Great Thanksgiving. Similarly, all the new priests break the consecrated Bread and receive Holy Communion.

### *At the Ordination of a Deacon*

The stole worn over the left shoulder, or other insignia of the office of deacon, is placed upon the new deacon after the entire Prayer of Consecration is completed, and immediately before the Bible is given.

If two or more are ordained together, each is to have *his* own presenters. The ordinands may be presented together, or in succession, as the bishop may direct. Thereafter, references to the ordinand in the singular are changed to the plural where necessary. The ordinands are examined together.

During the Prayer of Consecration, the bishop is to lay hands upon the head of each ordinand, and say over each one “Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to *N.*; fill *him* with grace and power, and make *him* a deacon in your Church.” After laying hands upon all the ordinands, the bishop continues “Make them, O Lord, modest and humble . . .”

A Bible is to be given to each new deacon, and the words “Receive this Bible . . .” are also to be said to each one.

After participating in the Peace, the deacons go to the Altar for the Offertory. If there are many deacons, some assist in the Offertory and others administer Holy Communion. One, appointed by the bishop, is to say the dismissal.

When desired, deacons may be appointed to carry the Sacrament and minister Holy Communion to those communicants who, because of sickness or other grave cause, could not be present at the ordination.

If the remaining Elements are not required for the Communion of the absent, it is appropriate for the deacons to remove the vessels from the Altar, consume the remaining Elements, and cleanse the vessels in some convenient place.