

# 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*

Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the 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 place of the above, on Ember days in the season of Lent*

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

*Bishop*

Almighty God, to 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 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. The Presenters, standing before the Bishop, shall present each Ordinand, saying*

Right 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 shall then require the Ordinands to take the Oath of Conformity saying*

The Canons require that no one may be ordained a Deacon in the Church until such person has subscribed 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 declares separately*

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 therefore I hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them.

*Each Ordinand then declares the following Oath of Canonical Obedience as well, saying*

And I do swear by Almighty God 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, you 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 Bishop or Litanist appointed shall, with the Clergy and People present, say or sing the Litany for Ordinations. The Ordinands shall either kneel or lie prostrate during the Litany.*

*At the conclusion of the Litany for Ordinations, the Bishop shall stand and pray the following collect, first saying*

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

Almighty God, who by your divine providence has appointed diverse Orders of Ministers in your Church, and who inspired your Apostles to choose into the Order of Deacons the first martyr Stephen, with others; mercifully behold *these* your *servants* now called to the same Office and Administration: so fill *them* with the truth of your Doctrine and adorn *them* with holiness of life, that, both by word and good example, *they* may faithfully serve you in this Office, to the glory of your Name and the edification of your Church; through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

### **The Lessons**

*Following are the readings appointed for the ordination of a Deacon. On a Major Feast, or on a Sunday, the Bishop may select readings from the Proper 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 two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

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

*After each Reading, the Reader shall say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow. A psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.*

## **The Gospel**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or other Minister reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, 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 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.

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\* The *filioque* [and the Son] is not in the original Greek text. Nevertheless, in the Western Church the *filioque* [and the Son] is customary at worship and is used for the explication of doctrine [*39 Articles of Religion*]. The operative resolution of the College of Bishops concerning use of the *filioque* is printed with the General Instructions at the end of the Holy Communion, Long Form.

## The Exhortation and Examination

*All are seated except the Ordinands, who stand before the Bishop.*

*Bishop*

It belongs to the Office of a Deacon, to assist the Priest in public worship, especially in the administration of Holy Communion; to lead in public prayer; to read the Gospel, and to instruct both young and old in the Catechism; and at the direction of the Priest, to baptize and to preach. Furthermore, it is the Deacon's Office to work with the laity in searching for the sick, the poor, and the helpless, that they may be relieved.

*The Bishop examines the Ordinands as follows*

Will you do this gladly and willingly?

*Answer* I will do so, 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 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 the ministry of the same?

*Answer* I so believe.

*Bishop* Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all Doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

*Answer* I am so persuaded.

*Bishop* Will you diligently read the same 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 both *yourselves* and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples to the flock of Christ?

*Answer* I will do so, 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?

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

*The congregation shall pray silently for the fulfillment of these purposes.*

*The Bishop shall pray*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has given you a good will to do all these things, grant you also the 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 without reproach on the last day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*All may kneel.*

*The Ordinands shall kneel or lie prostrate, facing the Bishop. The Veni, Creator Spiritus 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, 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 a 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 *these* your *servants* to the Order of Deacons.

*Then the Bishop shall lay his hands upon the head of every one to be made Deacon, each one humbly kneeling before him, and he shall say*

Receive the Holy Spirit for the Office and Work of a Deacon in the Church of God, now committed to you by the Imposition of Hands; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

In your great goodness, O Lord, make *this* your *servant* a Deacon in your Church; give *him* grace to be modest, humble, and constant in *his* ministry; give *him* a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; and with the testimony of a good conscience always before *him*, may *he* continue stable and strong in the service of your 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 your service, for your Lord came among us as one who served.

*As the Deacon is vested with the Stole, the Bishop says*

Receive this Stole as a sign of the yoke of Christ, your Savior.

*As the Deacon is vested with the Dalmatic, the Bishop says*

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

*Then the Bishop shall deliver to every one of them a Book of Gospels or New Testament saying*

Take the Authority to read the Gospel in the Church of God and to preach the same.



*The Bishop then says to the People*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And with your 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 shall pray the following collect*

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

*The Bishop shall then bless the People saying*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*People* The maker of heaven and earth.  
*Bishop* Blessed be the Name of the Lord;  
*People* From this time forth forevermore.  
*Bishop* The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you,  
and remain with you forever. *Amen.*

*The newly-ordained 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" may be added to any of the dismissals.*

*The People respond*

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.