

THE ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION

NOTE. -- The Candidates for Confirmation shall be carefully instructed by the Minister in the doctrines of the Christian religion, and examined as touching their personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here shall be sung a Hymn, during which the Candidates for confirmation shall take their appointed places before the Bishop.

Then, the People standing, the Minister shall say,

REVEREND Brother in Christ, I present unto you these persons, who now desire to confirm their Baptismal Covenant.

Then the Bishop or Minister shall read the following PREFACE:

BELOVED, it is written, that, when the Apostles at Jerusalem had heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John, who, when they were come, and had prayed for them, laid their hands on those who were baptized, in the Name of the LORD Jesus; Also, in the same Scripture, we read that St. Paul laid his hands upon certain disciples at Ephesus, after their baptism. In accordance, therefore, with apostolic custom, and the practice of the early Church, but not as of Divine ordinance, we have retained this rite of the laying on of hands upon those who are baptized, in order that they may thus, in open confession before men, confirm their faith in our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ, and avow their unchanged purpose to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in his holy ways.

Then shall the Bishop say,

DO ye here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation, solemnly profess repentance towards God?

And every one shall audibly answer,

I do.

Bishop. Do you confess and declare that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is your LORD and Saviour?

Answer. I do.

Bishop. Do you believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

Answer. I do.

Bishop. Do you steadfastly purpose, by God's help, to renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, and the sinful desires of the flesh, and to keep God's holy will and commandments aH the days of your life?

Answer. I do.

Bishop. Our help is in the Name of the LORD;

Answer. Who hath made heaven and earth.

Bishop. Blessed be the Name of the LORD;

Answer. Henceforth, world without end.

Bishop. LORD, hear our prayer;

Answer. And let our cry come unto thee.

Bishop. Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, in thine infinite mercies, hast called us to the knowledge of thy truth, and faith in thy Son Jesus Christ; Graciously look upon these thy servants, accept their confessions, and favorably receive this renewed offering of themselves, which they now make unto thee. Strengthen them, we beseech thee, O LORD, with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them, O LORD, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. Amen.

Then, all kneeling before the Bishop, he shall lay his hands upon the head of every one severally, saying,

DEFEND, O LORD, this thy Child with thy heavenly grace; that he may continue thine for ever.; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Bishop. The LORD be with you;

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Bishop. Let us pray.

The People also kneeling.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who makest us both to will and to do those things which are good and acceptable unto thy Divine Majesty; We make our humble supplications unto thee for these thy servants, who have now thus publicly ratified and confirmed the solemn obligations of their Baptismal Covenant, and have dedicated themselves anew to thee and

thy service. Let thy fatherly hand, we beseech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be in them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of thy Word, that they now and evermore rejoicing in thy salvation, may lay hold on eternal life; through our LORD Jesus Christ, who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

O ALMIGHTY LORD, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that, through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our LORD Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then the Bishop shall bless them, saying thus:

THE Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

After the Blessing, the Bishop, in his discretion, may deliver to those confirmed an Exhortation to godly living.

NOTE. -- The Minister should earnestly move the Persons confirmed not to neglect the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, but faithfully to seek the blessings thereof.

NOTE. -- Members of other Churches, uniting with this Church, need not be Confirmed, except at their own request.

NOTE. -- The administration of the Order of Confirmation is confined to the Bishops, not as of Divine right, but as a very ancient and desirable form of Church usage.