

THE FORM OF ORDAINING DEACONS

After the singing of a Hymn, the Litany shall be said. Then shall follow a suitable Sermon, or Exhortation.

NOTE. -- After the prayer in the Litany for Ministers, the following Suffrage shall be used: "That it may please thee to bless these thy servants, now to be ordained Deacon, and to endue them with the gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that they may duly execute their Office, to the edifying of thy Church, and the glory of thy holy Name."

Then shall a Presbyter present unto the Bishop all those who are to be ordained Deacon, saying,

REVEREND Brother in Christ, I present unto you *these persons*, to be ordained Deacon.

Bishop:

TAKE heed that the *persons* whom ye present, *are* apt and meet, for *their* learning in the Holy Scriptures, and godly conversation, to exercise their Ministry duly, to the honor of God, and the edifying of his Church.

The Presbyter shall answer,

I HAVE inquired concerning *them*, and also examined *them*, and think *them* so to be.

Then the Bishop shall say unto the People,

BRETHREN, if there be any of you who knoweth any sufficient reason why *any of these persons* presented to be ordained Deacon ought not to be admitted to that Office, let him come forth in the Name of God, and declare the same.

And if sufficient reason be presented, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that Person, until such time as the one accused shall be found clear.

Then the Bishop shall commend such as shall be found meet to be Ordained to the Prayers of the Congregation; for the which Prayers there shall be silence kept for a space.

Then shall be said the Service for the Communion, with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel as follows:

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, who, by thy Holy Spirit, hast appointed a Ministry in thy Church; Mercifully behold *these* thy *servants* now to be admitted into the Office of Deacon; and so replenish *them* with the truth of thy Doctrine, and adorn *them* with innocency of life, that, both by word and good example, *they* may faithfully serve thee in this Office, to the glory of thy Name, and the edification of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE. 1 Tim. iii. 8

LIKEWISE must the Deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the Office of a Deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the Deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the Office of a Deacon well, purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Or this:

Acts vi. 2

THEN the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them and said, It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch: whom they set before the Apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the Word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Then shall the Bishop examine every one of those who are to be Ordained, in the presence of the People, after this manner:

DO you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this Office and Ministration, to serve God for the promoting of his glory, and the edifying of his people?

Answer. I trust so.

Bishop. Do you think that you are truly called according to the will of our LORD Jesus Christ, and according to the order of this Church, to the Ministry of the same?

Answer. I think so.

Bishop. Do you unfeignedly believe all the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer. I do believe them.

Bishop. Will you diligently read and expound the same to the people among whom you minister?

Answer. I will.

Bishop. It appertaineth to the Office of a Deacon to assist the Presbyter as he shall require and direct; to read and instruct out of the Holy Scriptures; to preach the Gospel as opportunity is afforded; to search for the sick, the poor, and the spiritually destitute, and to minister to their necessities. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Answer. I will so do, by the help of God.

Bishop. Will you apply all your diligence 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 lieth, wholesome examples to the flock of Christ?

Answer. I will so do, the LORD being my helper.

Bishop. Will you give heed to your Bishop, and other Ministers who may have the charge and government over you; following with a glad mind and will their Christian counsels and admonitions?

Answer. I will endeavor so to do, the LORD being my helper.

Then the Bishop, laying his hands severally upon the head of every one of them kneeling, shall say,

TAKE thou Authority to execute the Office of a Deacon in the Church of God, now committed unto thee: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Bishop, delivering to every one the Bible, shall say,

TAKE heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine. I charge thee, therefore, before God, and the LORD Jesus Christ: Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Then one of them shall read:

THE GOSPEL. St. Luke xii. 35

LET your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their LORD, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the LORD when he cometh shall find watching: verily, I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Then shall follow the Communion, those who are ordained receiving.

Immediately before the Benediction shall be said this Collect:

ALMIGHTY God, Giver of all good things, who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed to call *these* thy *servants* to this Office and Ministry; Make *them*, we beseech thee, O LORD, to be modest, humble, and constant in *their* Ministration; That *they*, having always the testimony of a good conscience, and continuing ever stable and strong in thy Son Jesus Christ, may so well behave *themselves* in this Office, that *they* may purchase to *themselves* a good degree, and great boldness in the faith; through the same thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

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.