

THE FORM OF
THE CONSECRATION
OR DEDICATION OF
A CHURCH OR CHAPEL

After a suitable Hymn, the Bishop, or Presbyter Officiating, shall say,

DEARLY beloved in the LORD; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the influence of the Holy Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own sense of the natural fitness of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for his glorious Majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father: Let us not doubt but that he will also favorably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in a solemn manner, for the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly seek his blessing on this our undertaking.

Then shall be said the following Prayers, all kneeling:

O ETERNAL God, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; And who yet hast been graciously pleased, in thy Son Jesus Christ our LORD, to promise thy special presence, wherever two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy Name, to offer up their praises and supplications unto thee; Vouchsafe, O LORD, to be present with us, who are here gathered together, to consecrate this place to the honor of thy great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it to thy service, for reading thy holy Word, for the preaching of the everlasting Gospel, for the administration of holy Ordinances, and for the offering of prayer and praise. Accept, O LORD, this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may tend most to thy glory, and the furtherance of our happiness, both temporal and spiritual; through Jesus Christ our blessed LORD and Saviour. Amen.

GRANT, O LORD, that by thy holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by thy Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfil the same. Amen.

REGARD, O LORD, the supplications of thy servants, and grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee in Baptism may, through thy grace, become a living member of Christ's Church, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful children. Amen.

GRANT, O LORD, that all who in this place shall Confirm their Baptismal covenant, may be enabled, through thy grace, to avoid all those things that are contrary to their profession, and to do all such things as are agreeable to the same. Amen.

GRANT, O LORD, that whosoever shall here commemorate the death of our LORD Jesus Christ, in the Holy Supper may come to that Ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and have fellowship with thee and with thy Son Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

GRANT, O LORD, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the covenant betwixt them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end. Amen.

GRANT, we beseech thee, Blessed LORD, that whosoever shall draw near to thee in this place, to give thanks for the benefits which they have received at thy hands; to set forth thy most worthy praise; to confess their sins unto thee; and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind, that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give whatever in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them: All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed LORD and Saviour. Amen.

When this Form is not used as a separate Service, here may be read Morning Prayer, or Evening Prayer.

PROPER PSALMS

PSALM XXIV -- Domini est terra

THE earth is the LORD's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall rise up in his holy place?

4 Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him; even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.
7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
8 Who is this King of glory? It is the LORD strong and mighty, even the LORD mighty in battle.
9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? Even the LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

PSALM CXXXII -- Memento, Domine

LORD, remember David, and all his trouble:

2 How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob:
3 I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house, nor climb up into my bed;
4 I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eyelids to slumber; neither the temples of my head to take any rest,
5 Until I find out a place for the temple of the LORD; an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.
6 Lo, we heard of the same at Ephratah, and found it in the wood.
7 We will go into his tabernacle, and fall low on our knees before his footstool.
8 Arise, O LORD, into thy resting-place; thou, and the ark of thy strength.
9 Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.
10 For thy servant David's sake, turn not away the face of thine anointed.
11 The LORD hath made a faithful oath unto David, and he shall not shrink from it:
12 Of the fruit of thy body shall I set upon thy throne.
13 If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their children also shall sit upon thy throne for evermore.
14 For the LORD hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself; he hath longed for her.
15 This shall be my rest for ever: here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.
16 I will bless her victuals with increase, and will satisfy her poor with bread.
17 I will deck her priests with health, and her saints shall rejoice and sing.
18 There shall I make the horn of David to flourish: I have ordained a lantern for mine anointed.
19 As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame; but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PROPER LESSONS

First, I Kings viii. 22-63; Second, I Cor. iii, or Hebrews ix. 1-15

After the Sermon, shall be used the following Collects, or suitable Extemporaneous Prayer.

BLESSED be thy Name, O LORD, that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to appropriate and devote this house to thy honor and worship; And grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work, may show forth their thankfulness by making a right use of it, to the glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray thee, this Congregation with thy love and favor; Enlighten their minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in their hearts a love of the truth; increase in them true religion; nourish them with all goodness; and of thy great mercy keep them in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.

O ALMIGHTY God, who dost vouchsafe to dwell in the assemblies of thy people, and to accept their offerings of service and praise; Bless, we beseech thee, the religious services of this day; and grant that in this place now set apart to thy service, thy holy Name may be worshipped in truth and purity, and the Gospel of Christ be faithfully preached throughout all generations; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Here, at the discretion of the Bishop, or Presbyter officiating, an Offering may be received; and after it, the Holy Communion may be administered.

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.