

THE FORM OF ORDAINING PRESBYTERS

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

NOTE. -- In the Litany the same Suffrage shall be used as is appointed for Deacons; save only that the word "Deacon" shall be omitted, and the word Presbyter inserted instead of it.

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

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

Bishop. Take heed that *these persons*, whom ye present, *are* apt and meet, for their learning 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, *these are they* whom we purpose, God willing, to ordain this day to the Office of Presbyter; for after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that *they are* lawfully called to *their* Function and Ministry, and that *they are persons* meet for the same. But yet if there be any of you who knoweth any sufficient reason for which *any of them* ought not to be received into this Office of the Ministry, let him come forth in the Name of God, and declare the same.

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

Then the Bishop (commending such as are found meet to be Ordained, to the Prayers of the Congregation) shall say 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 called to the Office of Presbyter; 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, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE. Eph. iv. 7

UNTO every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, Apostles; and some, Prophets; and some, Evangelists; and some, Pastors and Teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the Ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL. St. Matt ix. 36

WHEN Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the LORD of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Or this

St. John x. 1

VERILY, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them; but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily verily, I say unto

you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one flock, and one Shepherd.

Then the Bishop shall say unto them as follows:

YE have heard, Brethren, as well in your private examination, as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel and the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity, and of how great importance this Office is, whereunto ye are called. And now again we exhort you, in the Name of our LORD Jesus Christ, that ye have in remembrance, into how high a dignity, and to how weighty an Office and Charge ye are called: that is to say, to be Messengers, Watchmen, and Stewards of the LORD; to teach, and to premonish, to feed and provide for the LORD'S family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this sinful world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always therefore printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The Church and Congregation whom you must serve is his Spouse, and his Body. And if it shall happen that the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligences ye know the greatness of the fault, and also the condemnation that will ensue. Wherefore consider with yourselves the end of the Ministry towards the Children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ; and see that ye never cease your labor, your care and diligence, until ye have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch then as your Office is both of so great excellency, and of so great difficulty, ye see with how great care and study ye ought to apply yourselves, as well to show yourselves dutiful and thankful unto that LORD who hath placed you in so high a dignity: as also to beware that neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit ye

cannot have a mind and will thereto of yourselves; for that will and ability is given of God alone: therefore ye ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit. And seeing that ye cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same; consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners both of yourselves, and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures; and for this self-same cause, how ye ought to forsake and set aside, as much as ye may, all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that ye have well weighed these things with yourselves, long before this time; and that ye have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this Office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you; so that, as much as lieth in you, ye will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way; and that ye will continually pray to God the Father, by the Mediation of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that, by daily reading and weighing the Scriptures, ye may wax riper and stronger in your Ministry; and that ye may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the Rule and Doctrine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now, that this present Congregation of Christ may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties; ye shall answer plainly to these things, which we, in the Name of God, and of his Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

DO you think in your heart, that you are truly called, according to the will of our LORD Jesus Christ, and according to the order of this Church, to the Office and Ministry of a Presbyter?

Answer. I think it.

Bishop:

ARE you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all Doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined, out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing, as necessary to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scripture?

Answer. I am so persuaded, and have so determined, by God's grace.

Bishop:

WILL you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the Doctrine and Sacraments, and the Discipline of Christ, as the LORD hath commanded, and as this Church hath set forth the same, according to the teachings of Holy Scripture: so that you may teach the people committed to your charge, with all diligence to keep and observe the same?

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

Bishop:

WILL you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away from the Church all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word: and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole, as need shall require, and occasion shall be given?

Answer. I will, the LORD being my helper.

Bishop:

WILL you be diligent in Prayer, and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

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

Bishop:

WILL you be diligent to frame and fashion your own selves, and your families, according to the Doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Answer. I will apply myself thereto, the LORD being my helper.

Bishop:

WILL you maintain and set forwards, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

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

Then shall the Bishop, standing up, say,

ALMIGHTY God, who hath given you this will to do all these things; Grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that he may accomplish his work which he hath begun in you; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

After this, the Congregation shall be desired secretly in their Prayers, to make their humble supplications to God for all these things; for the which Prayers there shall be silence kept for a space.

After which shall be said (the persons to be ordained Presbyters all kneeling), Veni, Creator Spiritus, the Bishop beginning:

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
The dulness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but One;
That, through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Amen.

That done, the Bishop shall pray in this wise, and say,

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God and heavenly Father, who, of thine infinite love and goodness towards us, hast given to us thy only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the Author of everlasting life; Who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers; by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a

great flock in all the parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy Name: For these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness, and for that thou hast vouchsafed to call these thy servants here present to the same Office and Ministry, appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto thee most hearty thanks; we praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee by the same thy blessed Son, to grant unto all, which either here or elsewhere call upon thy holy Name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee for these and all thy other benefits; and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these thy Ministers, as by them over whom they shall be appointed thy Ministers, thy holy Name may be for ever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our LORD, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The Persons to be Ordained still kneeling, the Bishop and Presbyters shall lay their hands upon the head of every one of them severally, the Bishop saying,

TAKE thou Authority to execute the Office of a Presbyter in the Church of God, now committed unto thee; and be thou a faithful Dispenser of the Word of God, and of his Holy Ordinances: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Bishop shall deliver to every one of them kneeling, the Bible and Prayer Book into his hand, saying,

TAKE thou Authority to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments.

Then the Bishop shall proceed with the Service of the Communion, and the newly ordained Presbyters shall remain in the same place where hands were laid upon them, until they have received the Communion.

Immediately before the Benediction shall be said this Collect:

MOST merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessing; that they may be clothed with righteousness, and that thy Word spoken by their mouths may have such success, that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also, that we may have grace to hear and receive what they shall deliver out of thy most holy Word, or in agreement with the same, as the means of our salvation; that in all our words and deeds we

may seek thy glory, and the increase of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our LORD.
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.

And if, on the same day, some be ordained Deacons and some Presbyters, the Deacons shall be first presented, and then the Presbyters. The Epistle shall be Ephesians iv. 7-13, as before in this Office. Immediately after which, they that are to be ordained Deacon, shall be examined, and ordained, as is above prescribed. Then one of them having read the Gospel, which shall be either out of Saint Matthew ix. 36-38, as before in this Office: or else Saint Luke xii. 35-38, as before in the Form of the Ordination of Deacons, they that are to be ordained Presbyter, shall likewise be examined, and ordained, as is in this Office before appointed.