

THE FORM OF LAYING A CORNER-STONE

This Form may be used as a separate Service; or else, in conjunction with Morning or Evening Prayer, in which case the sentences, Psalter, and Lessons herein provided shall be used.

After a Hymn has been sung, the Bishop, or Presbyter officiating, shall read the following Sentences:

NOT by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Zech. iv. 6.
Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation. Isa. xxviii. 16.

Minister. Let us pray, -- saying:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall the Minister say,

O LORD, open thou our lips;
Answer. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Here, all standing up, the Minister shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Minister. Praise ye the LORD.
Answer. The LORD's Name be praised.

PROPER PSALTER

From PSALMS CXXM, XC, CXVIII

EXCEPT the LORD build the house, their labour is but lost that build it.

Show thy servants thy work, and their children thy glory.
And the glorious majesty of the LORD Our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; O prosper thou our handywork.
Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter into it.
I will thank thee; for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.
The same stone which the builders refused, is become the head-stone of the corner.
This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
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, Ezra iii. 8-11; Second, Eph. ii. 13-22

After each Lesson may be said or sung the proper Anthem, as provided in Morning or Evening Prayer, or, at the Minister's discretion, some other Anthem or Hymn.

Here shall be said by the Minister and the People, all standing, the Apostles' Creed.

After the singing of a Hymn, there shall follow a suitable Sermon. Then an Offering may be received.

Then shall the Minister and the People read alternately the verses following:

JESUS saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner:

This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? St. Matt. xxi. 42.

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner-stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. 1 St. Peter ii. 4-7.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. iii. 11.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts iv. 12.

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.

Then shall the Minister say,

The LORD be with you;

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

BLESSED LORD God, whose watchful care is over all thy works; Grant us the fulness of thy mercy, and establish thou this stone which we lay in thy Name. Continue thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon this pious undertaking; Accept the humble service of all who contribute of their substance unto this building; Guide all who labor in its erection, and shield them from every hurt; And when thou shalt have prospered the work of our hands upon us, and this house shall be brought to completion, grant that it may ever be reverently used in thy worship and thy service, to thy glory; and this we plead in the Name and merits of Jesus Christ thy Son our LORD, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Here the Bishop, or Presbyter officiating, taking a trowel, shall say,

I LAY the corner-stone of..... Church (or, Chapel), to be set apart for the worship and service of the Triune God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Minister. Let us pray.

O BLESSED LORD, who, at the laying of the foundation of thy temple in Jerusalem, didst fill the hearts of thy faithful people with holy joy; So shed upon us, in this day of our gladness, thy heavenly benediction; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy Name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own: Of thine own, O LORD, have we given thee. Amen.

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Corner-stone; Grant that by the operation of the Holy Ghost, all Christians may be so joined together in unity of spirit, and in the bond

of peace, that they may be an holy temple, acceptable unto thee. And especially to this Congregation present, give the abundance of thy grace; That with one heart they may desire the prosperity of thy holy Church universal, and with one mouth may profess the faith once delivered to the saints. And grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; That so they may walk in the ways of truth and peace, and at last be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting; through thy merits, O blessed Jesus, thou gracious Bishop and Shepherd of our souls, who art, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Then shall the Bishop, or Presbyter officiating, dismiss the People with these words:

GRACE, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and the LORD Jesus Christ our Saviour, through the Holy Spirit our Comforter, be and abide with you all for evermore. Amen.

Or these:

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.