

THE FORM OF
CONSECRATING A BISHOP



¶ A Bishop presiding shall begin the Communion Service, in which this shall be the Collect:

ALMIGHTY God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Give grace, we beseech thee, to all Bishops and other Pastors of thy Church, that they may diligently preach thy Word, and duly administer the godly Discipline thereof; and grant to the people, that they may obediently follow the same; that all may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

¶ Then shall be read:

FOR THE EPISTLE. *Acts xx. 17*

FROM Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus, and called the Elders of the Church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: and how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our LORD Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem,

not knowing the things that shall befall me there; save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the LORD Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed, therefore, unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you Overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years, I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel; yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak; and to remember the words

of the LORD Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

¶ Then shall be read:

THE GOSPEL. *St. John xxi. 15*

JESUS saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, LORD; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, LORD; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, LORD, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¶ Or this:

St. Matt. xxviii. 18

JESUS came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Goye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

¶ After the Gospel and Sermon are ended, the elected Bishop shall be presented to the Bishop presiding; those who present him saying,

REVEREND Brother in Christ, we present unto you this godly and well-learned man, to be consecrated to the Office and Work of a Bishop.

¶ Then shall the Bishop presiding demand Testimonials in behalf of the elected Bishop, and shall cause them to be read.

¶ Then shall be said the Litany; save only, that after this place, "That it may please thee to illuminate all Ministers," &c., the proper Suffrage shall be:

THAT it may please thee to bless this our Brother elected, and to send thy grace upon him, that he may duly execute the Office whereunto he is called, to the edifying of thy Church, and to the honor, praise, and glory of thy Name.

Answer. We beseech thee to hear us, good LORD.

¶ Then shall be said this Prayer following:

ALMIGHTY God, mercifully behold this thy servant now called to the Work and Ministry of a Bishop; And so replenish him with the truth of thy Doctrine, and adorn him with innocency of life, that both by word and deed, he may faithfully serve thee in this Office, to the glory of thy Name, and the edifying and well governing 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.*

¶ Then the Bishop presiding shall say to him that is to be Consecrated,

BROTHER, forasmuch as it is enjoined in Holy Scripture, that we should not be hasty in laying on hands and admitting any person to Office in the Church of Christ, which he hath purchased with no less price than the effusion of his own blood; before we admit you to the Office of a Bishop, we will examine you in certain Articles, to the end that the Congregation present may have a trial and bear witness, how you are minded to behave yourself in the Church of God.

ARE you persuaded that you are truly called to this Ministration, according to the will of our LORD Jesus Christ, and the order of this Church?

Answer. I am so persuaded.

The Bishop Presiding. 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 same Holy Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge; and to teach or maintain nothing, as necessary to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the same?

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

Bishop. Will you then faithfully exercise yourself in the Holy Scriptures, and call upon God by prayer for the true understanding of the same; so that you may be able by them to teach and exhort with wholesome Doctrine, and to withstand and convince the gainsayers?

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

Bishop. Are you ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away from the Church all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's Word; and both privately and openly to call upon and encourage others to the same?

Answer. I am ready, the LORD being my helper.

Bishop. Will you deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; that you may show

yourself in all things an example of good works unto others, that the adversary may be ashamed, having nothing to say against you?

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

Bishop. Will you maintain and set forward, as much as shall lie in you, quietness, love, and peace among all men; and diligently exercise such discipline as, by the authority of God's Word, and by the order of this Church, is committed to you?

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

Bishop. Will you be faithful in Ordaining, or laying hands upon others?

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

Bishop. Will you show yourself gentle, and be merciful, for Christ's sake, to poor and needy people, and to all strangers destitute of help?

Answer. I will so show myself, by God's help.

Bishop. Will you faithfully feed the flock of God, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lord over God's heritage, but being an ensample to the flock?

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

¶ Then the Bishop presiding, standing up, shall say,

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who hath given you a good will to do all these things; Grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same; that, he accomplishing in you the good work which he hath begun, you

may be found perfect and irreprehensible at the latter day; through Jesus Christ our LORD.
Amen.

¶ Then, the Bishop elect kneeling down, *Veni, Creator Spiritus* shall be said, the Bishop presiding beginning, and all others that are present answering by verses, as followeth:

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 ended, the Bishop presiding shall say,

LORD, hear our prayer;
Answer. And let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, and most merciful Father,
who, of thine infinite goodness, hast
given thine only and dearly beloved Son Jesus
Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the Author of

everlasting life; Who, after that he had made perfect our Redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, poured down his gifts abundantly upon men, making some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and Teachers, to the edifying and making perfect his Church; Grant, we beseech thee, to this thy servant, such grace, that he may evermore be ready to spread abroad thy Gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with thee; and use the authority given him, not to destruction, but to salvation; not to hurt, but to help: so that, as a wise and faithful servant, giving to thy family their portion in due season, he may at last be received into everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our LORD, who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ Then the Bishop presiding, and three or more Presbyters, with such other Bishops as may be present, shall lay their hands upon the head of the elected Bishop, kneeling before them, the Bishop presiding saying,

TAKE thou Authority to execute the Office and Work of a Bishop 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 presiding shall deliver him the Bible, saying,

GIVE heed unto reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men; for by so doing thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the

weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost. Be so merciful, that you be not too remiss; so minister discipline, that you forget not mercy: that, when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the never-fading crown of glory; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

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¶ Then shall follow the Communion Service.

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¶ Immediately before the Benediction shall be said this Collect:

MOST merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down upon this thy servant thy heavenly blessing; And so endue him with thy Holy Spirit, that he, preaching thy Word, may not only be earnest to reprove, beseech, and rebuke, with all patience and doctrine; but also may be to such as believe a wholesome example in word, in conversation, in love, in faith, in chastity, and in purity; That, faithfully fulfilling his course, at the latter day he may receive the crown of righteousness, laid up by the LORD, the righteous Judge, who liveth and reigneth, one God, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, 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.*

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