

CONFIRMATION

The Gathering of God's People

THE GREETING

The bishop greets the people in these or other suitable words:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

or

From Easter Day to Pentecost

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! *Luke 24: 34*

The bishop may introduce the service with these or other suitable words:

Brothers and sisters, we meet today to support and to pray for those who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith and who now intend, in the presence of God and of this congregation, to make the promises of their baptism their own.

At the heart of this Confirmation service are two distinct, yet related, acts of confirming.

First the candidates will profess their faith in Christ, confirming their desire to serve God throughout their lives, to turn to Christ and to renounce all evil. Then, as bishop, I will lay my hand on them, praying that God's Spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them as they strive, each day of their lives, to live up to the solemn commitment they will make today.

It is our privilege and joy as the people of God to hear the candidates' response to God's call and to renew our own baptismal commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. It will be our responsibility to encourage the newly confirmed in their discipleship, so that the Christian family may be built up, recognizing the diverse gifts of all its members.

On this their Confirmation day, let us pray in silence for so that, increasing in the Holy Spirit more and more, they may experience God's wisdom and love for ever.

PENITENCE

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.

A pause for reflection after which these or other suitable words or the seasonal Penitential Kyries on pages 224-236 are used:

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The bishop says this absolution:

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

This hymn of praise or some other may be said or sung.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One:
you alone are the Lord:
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The bishop says

Let us pray.

The community may pray silently.

THE COLLECT

The Collect of the day, a collect from the seasonal variations on pages 392-394 or the following is said:

Heavenly Father,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life:
Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit
that we who are born again
may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

READINGS

from the Old Testament and/or the New Testament should normally be as appointed in the Table of Readings. Special initiation readings can be found on page 396.

After each reading the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow each reading.

A canticle, psalm, hymn or anthem may be sung between the readings.

All stand.

THE GOSPEL

The reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to ..., chapter ...,
beginning at verse ...

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence may follow.

The Presentation

The candidates are presented to the congregation.

Where appropriate, they are presented by their godparents or sponsors and the bishop may say

Who presents these persons for confirmation?

We do.

The bishop asks the candidates

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The bishop asks the clergy who have been responsible for pastoral care of the candidates

Have these persons been carefully prepared in their understanding of the Christian faith?

I believe they have.

Testimony by the candidates may follow.

The Decision

The bishop says to the candidates

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?
I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?
I come to Christ.

The bishop says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.
Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

The Profession of Faith

The bishop asks the candidates

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptized?

I do.

The bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The bishop and the candidates gather at the place of confirmation. A hymn, psalm, canticle or a litany may be used.

The Confirmation

The bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now, and for ever. Amen.

Silence

The bishop prays the confirmation prayer

Almighty and everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ was crucified and rose again
to break the power of sin and death:
We give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Holy Spirit
by whom your servants have been born again
and made your children.
Grant that in the power of the same Holy Spirit
they may continue to grow
in the knowledge and likeness of Christ;
increase in them your gracious gifts,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and inward strength,
the spirit of knowledge and godly living;
and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of reverence for you.

Those who are to be confirmed kneel before the bishop, who lays a hand upon each of them saying

Confirm, O Lord, with your heavenly grace,
that *he/she* may continue to be yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until *he/she* comes to your eternal kingdom.

And each one of them answers Amen.

Those receiving the laying on of hands for reaffirmation kneel before the bishop, who lays a hand upon each of them saying

....., may the Holy Spirit
who has begun a good work in you
direct and uphold you
in the service of Christ and his kingdom.
God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you.

And each one of them answers Amen.

The bishop continues

Heavenly Father,
we pray for your servants
upon whom we have now laid our hands,
after the example of the apostles,
to assure them by this sign
of your favour towards them.
May your fatherly hand ever be over them.
Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them.
Lead them to know and obey your word,
and keep them in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The congregation responds Amen.

The Commission

The bishop may use this commission:

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

THE PEACE

All stand. The Peace is introduced with these or other suitable words:

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The bishop says

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

A hymn may be sung.

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessions will normally include prayer for:

the universal Church of God

the nations of the world

the local community

those in need

and remembrance of, and thanksgiving for, the faithful departed.

When appropriate, the prayers may be more focussed on one or two themes.

Prayers may be read by a deacon or lay person, or may be in silence with biddings, or may be in the form of open prayer, where members of the congregation contribute.

If a versicle and response are required after each section, one of the following may be said or sung:

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

or

Kyrie eleison.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the end of the Intercessions the presiding minister says

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

or

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, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

Going Out as God's People

POST COMMUNION

*The appropriate seasonal Post Communion prayer (pages 392-394) or the following
may be said:*

God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The bishop may say the seasonal blessing or another suitable blessing or

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

