

## THE FORM AND MANNER OF MAKING OF DEACONS

*When the day appointed by the bishop is come, there shall be a sermon or exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted deacons; how necessary that order is in the Church of Christ; and also, how the people ought to esteem them in their office.*

*When the sermon is ended, the archdeacon, or in his absence, one appointed in his stead, shall present unto the bishop (sitting in his chair, near to the holy table) such as desire to be ordained deacons (each of them being decently habited), saying these words:*  
Bishop, I present unto you these persons present, to be admitted Deacons.

*The bishop*

Take heed that the persons, whom ye present unto us, be apt and meet, for their learning and godly conversation, to exercise their ministry duly, to the honour of God, and the edifying of his Church.

*The archdeacon shall answer*

I have enquired of them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

*Then the bishop shall say unto the people*

Brethren, if there be any of you who knoweth any impediment, or notable crime in any of these persons presented to be ordered Deacons, for the which *he* ought not to be admitted to that office, let *him* come forth in the Name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

*And if any great crime or impediment be objected, the bishop shall surcease from ordering that person, until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of that crime.*

*Then the bishop (commending such as shall be found meet to be ordered to the prayers of the congregation) shall, with the clergy and people present, sing or say the Litany, as followeth:*

## THE LITANY

O God the Father, of heaven: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

**O God the Father, of heaven: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

**O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.**

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

**O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.**

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

**O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.**

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins: spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and Commandment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and Circumcision; by thy Baptism, Fasting and Temptation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By thine Agony and bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God: and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church universal in the right way;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to illuminate all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth and show it accordingly;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to bless these thy servants, now to be admitted to the order of deacons, and to pour thy grace upon them; that they may duly execute their office, to the edifying of thy Church, and the glory of thy holy Name;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to further the work of the Church in all the world, and to send forth labourers into thy harvest;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace, to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up them that fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, to amend our lives according to thy holy Word;

**We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.

**Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.**

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world;

**Grant us thy peace.**

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, hear us.

**O Christ, hear us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Christ, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Then shall be sung or said the Service for the Communion, with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, as followeth:*

#### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church, and didst inspire thine apostles to choose into the order of deacons the first martyr Saint Stephen, with others; Mercifully behold these thy servants now called to the like office and administration; replenish them so 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE EPISTLE**

*1 Timothy 3: 8-13*

Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*Or else this, out of the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles:*

*Acts 6: 2-7*

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch, whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

*And before the Gospel, the bishop, sitting in his chair, shall examine every one of them that are to be ordered, in the presence of the people, after this manner following:*

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this Office and Ministration, to serve God for the promoting of his glory, and the edifying of his people?

*Answer* **I trust so.**

*The bishop*

Do you think that you are truly called, to this Office and Ministration, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the due order of this Church?

*Answer* **I think so.**

*The bishop*

Do you unfeignedly believe all the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testament?

*Answer* **I do believe them.**

*The bishop*

Will you diligently read the same unto the people assembled in the church where you shall be appointed to serve?

*Answer* **I will.**

*The bishop*

It appertaineth to the office of a deacon, in the church where *he* shall be appointed to serve, to assist the priest in Divine Service, and specially when *he* ministereth the Holy Communion, and to help *him* in the distribution thereof, and to read holy scriptures and homilies in the church; and to instruct the youth in the Catechism; in the absence of the priest to baptize infants; and to preach, if *he* be admitted thereto by the bishop. And furthermore, it is *his* office, where provision is so made, to search for the sick, poor, and impotent people of the parish, to intimate their estates, names, and places where they dwell, unto the curate, that by *his* exhortation they may be relieved with the alms of the parishioners, or others. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

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

*The bishop*

Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives, and the lives of your families, according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

*Answer* I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

*The bishop*

Will you reverently obey your Ordinary, and other ministers of the Church, and them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

*Answer* I will endeavour myself, the Lord being my helper.

*Then the bishop, laying his hands severally upon the head of every one of them, humbly kneeling before him, shall say*

Take thou authority to execute the Office of a Deacon in the Church of God committed unto thee; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Then shall the bishop deliver to every one of them the New Testament, saying*

Take thou authority to read the Gospel in the Church of God, and to preach the same, if thou be thereto licensed by the Bishop *himself*.

*Then one of them, appointed by the bishop, shall read*

THE GOSPEL

Luke 12: 35-38

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching. Verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

*Then shall the bishop proceed in the Communion: and all that are ordered shall tarry, and receive the Holy Communion the same day with the bishop.*

*Immediately before the Benediction shall be said these collects following:*

Almighty God, giver of all good things,  
who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed to accept  
and take these thy servants unto the office of deacons in thy Church;  
Make them, we beseech thee, O Lord, to be modest, humble,  
and constant in their ministration;

to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline;  
that they, having always the testimony of a good conscience,  
may continue stable and strong in this ministry;  
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
to whom be glory and honour, world without end. **Amen.**

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings  
with thy most gracious favour,  
and further us with thy continual help;  
that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee,  
we may glorify thy holy Name,  
and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life;  
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.**

