

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE
Diocese of Central New York

I. The Form of Service

1. The rite in the Prayer Book may be used as it is found there.
2. We recommend the following variations, especially a and c below:
 - a. Replace the opening on page 537 with the following:
the baptismal opening on page 299
the first collect for mission on page 100
 - b. Continue with the liturgy of the word.
 - c. In place of the Nicene Creed, use the renewal of the baptismal vows on page 292 with the following introduction: “Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, all the ministries of the Church are grounded in Holy Baptism, through which we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ and his Church, to bear witness to Christ and to carry on his work of reconciliation in the world, and to take our place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. I call upon all of you, therefore, as we proceed with the rite of ordination, to renew the Baptismal Covenant which is the foundation of the Church’s ministry.” If desired, this may be followed by the blessing of baptismal water, using the form on page 570, and the aspersion of the congregation, with the words, “Remember your baptism and be faithful.”
 - d. Continue with the presentation on page 538 and the litany for ordinations (music in the appendix to the Accompaniment Edition of the Hymnal at S 390) or some other approved litany. Alternatively, the presentation and litany may follow the baptismal opening above. The litany is concluded with the collect for ordinations on page 528 or the collect for the day or both.
 - e. Continue with the Examination on page 543 and the Consecration of the Priest on page 533.

The text of these variations is attached, along with an introduction to the rite which may be printed in the bulletin.

3. The lessons set out in the Prayer Book are set out in the attached text.
4. Settings for the Veni Creator are found as Hymns 501-504; settings of the Veni Sancte Spiritus as Hymns 226-228. While the older custom of singing the hymn responsively by the bishop and people may be followed, it is perhaps preferable for the entire hymn to be sung by all.
5. Any eucharistic prayer may be used. Ordinarily the proper preface will be that of Apostles and Ordinations, but on a major feast the proper preface of the day may be used.
6. Responsorial settings of the psalms appointed may be found in *Gradual Psalms VI* or *The Portland Psalter* (from Church Publishing) and *The Psalmnary* (published by the Hymnary Press). Settings of the alleluia verse may be found in *Gradual Psalms VI* or at 847 and 848 in *Wonder, Love, and Praise*.

II. Form to be returned to the Bishop

1. Form of Service

Variations to rite in the BCP (check options chosen from I.2 above)

- a. Baptismal Opening
 b/d Liturgy of the Word before Presentation and Litany
 c. Renewal of Baptismal Vows in place of Nicene Creed
 Blessing of Font and Aspersions after Renewal of Vows

If a litany other than that for ordinations is to be used, please specify:

2. Propers (see I.3 above)

Choose from lessons in I.3 above, or from the proper of the day

-- Collect of the Day Collect for Ordinations Both

First Reading _____

Psalm _____

Epistle _____

Alleluia verse _____ (optional)

Gospel _____

Eucharistic Prayer _____

Proper Preface _____

3. Music

Processional Hymn _____

Psalm setting (if sung) _____

Sequence _____

Alleluia Verse (if used) _____

Litany said sung (S)

Veni Creator or Veni Sancte Spiritus _____

Offertory Anthem and/or Hymn _____

Dialogue and Preface said sung

Memorial Acclamation (if sung) _____

Sanctus _____

Doxology and Amen said sung (Amen S)

Fraction Anthem (if sung) _____

Communion Anthem and/or Hymns _____

Final Hymn _____

4. Participants

Master of ceremonies _____

Chaplain to bishop _____ (optional)

Priest Presenter(s) _____

Lay Presenter(s) _____

Litanist _____

First Lesson _____

Psalm _____ (cantor or leader)

Epistle _____

Gospel _____ (deacon if available)

Preacher _____

Concelebrant(s) _____

(in addition to bishop)

Presenters of
stole/dalmatic _____

Presenters of
bread and wine _____

(family and friends of ordinand)

Ministrants of
Communion _____

THE ORDINATION OF A DEACON AS ADAPTED FOR CENTRAL NEW YORK

About today's Service: Baptism, Ordination, and Ministry

Baptism and Ministry

The catechism of the Book of Common Prayer defines the ministry of all the baptized in the following way: “to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given to them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church.” The ministry of the Church is thus rooted in way in which we are empowered by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and thus “share in Christ’s eternal priesthood.”

Today’s service emphasizes the baptismal roots of the Church’s ministry through the baptismal versicles and collect with which the service opens and through the renewal of the baptismal covenant which concludes the Ministry of the Word and introduces the rite of ordination.

Ordained Ministry and Diaconal Ministry

The Church ordains men and women whom it calls to enable the whole Church to carry out its ministry of reconciliation. The threefold ministry which the Episcopal Church has inherited includes the ministry of the bishop who oversees the church in each diocese as apostle, chief priest, and pastor, the ministry of priests or presbyters who share with the bishop in the pastoral oversight of the church as the bishop’s associates, and deacons, who assist the bishop and the presbyters in a ministry of servanthood.

Diaconal ministry has as its special focus in the church’s service to the world. Deacons are called “to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom they live, and work, and worship” and “to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” At present, the Episcopal Church ordains some to a lifelong ministry as deacons and also first ordains its priests as deacons in preparation for the priestly ministry.

The Rite of Ordination

The Episcopal Church admits persons to the ordained ministry through “solemn prayer and the laying on of episcopal hands.” Ordination begins with the examination of the candidates, through which the Church affirms their selection and call to the ordained ministry. This is followed by the people’s prayer for those to be ordained, which includes the litany, the invocation of the Holy Spirit in the form of a hymn, and a period of silent prayer. The bishop concludes the people’s prayer with a solemn prayer of consecration, during hands are laid on those who are being ordained. In the ordination of deacons, the bishop alone lays on hands. In the ordination of priests, other priests join in the laying on of hands. In the ordination of bishops other bishops join in the laying on of hands. The laying on of hand is a gesture of blessing which asks God to equip those being ordained for the ministry to which they are called by the gift of the Holy Spirit. As the service continues, the newly ordained assume the tasks to which they have been called in the eucharistic liturgy.

TEXT OF THE SERVICE WITH VARIATIONS

Processional Hymn

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People ***There is one hope in God's call to us;***
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People ***One God and Father of all.***
Bishop The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Liturgy of the Word

The lessons below are those appointed for the ordination of deacons. On a major feast, one or more readings for the Proper of the Day may be selected. Settings for the psalms and alleluia verse are attached. The alleluia verse may also be set to 847 or 848 in Wonder, Love, and Praise, and other psalm settings may be used.

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-9, *or* Ecclesiasticus 39:1-8

The Gradual Psalm: Psalm 84:1-6 (*refrain*, O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you,) *or* Psalm 119:33-40 (*refrain*, Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes)

The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, *or* 1 Timothy 3:8-13, *or* Acts 6:2-7

The Sequence Hymn

and/or Alleluia Verse: Whoever would be great among you must be your servant;* even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve (Matthew 20:26, 28)

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:5-38, *or* Luke 22:24-27

The Sermon

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, all the ministries of the Church are grounded in Holy Baptism, through which we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ and his Church, to bear witness to Christ and to carry on his work of reconciliation in the world, and to take our place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. I call upon all of you, therefore, as we proceed with the rite of ordination, to renew the Baptismal Covenant which is the foundation of the Church's ministry.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People ***I do.***

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People ***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People ***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.***

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

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

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Bishop concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Bishop blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Bishop

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that it may be a symbol and reminder of our baptismal union with Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Members of the baptized community now move through the congregation, sprinkling (aspersing) the people with water as a reminder of our baptism.

Presentation of the Candidates

The bishop and people sit. Priests and Lay Persons, standing before the bishop, present the ordinands, saying

N, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of N., we present to you N. N. to be ordained a deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church.

Bishop

Has he been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And do you believe his manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Presenters

We certify to you that he has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe him qualified for this order.

The Bishop says to the ordinands

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

Answer

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church.

The Ordinands then sign the above Declaration in the sight of all present.

All stand. The Bishop says to the people

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting N.N. for ordination to the sacred order of deacons. Therefore if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now and make it known.

If no objection is made, the Bishop continues

Is it your will that N. N. be ordained deacon?

The People respond

It is.

Bishop

Will you uphold him in this ministry?

The People respond

We will.

The Bishop then calls the people to prayer.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

The Litany for Ordinations

God the Father,
Have mercy on us.

God the Son,
Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,
Have mercy on us.

We pray to you, Lord Christ.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop, for Skip Adams, our Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For *N. N.*, chosen deacon in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

That *he* may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your Name, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit *he* may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For *his family*, that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the

earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in positions of public trust [especially _____], that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Bishop stands and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in

tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Examination

All are seated except the ordinands, who stand before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the ordinands as follows

My brother, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

My brother, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

Answer I believe I am so called.

Bishop Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Answer I do.

Bishop Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your family in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all

people?
Answer I will.

Bishop Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?
Answer I will.

Bishop May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.
Answer **Amen.**

The Consecration of the Deacons

The hymn, Veni Creator Spiritus, or the hymn, Veni Sancte Spiritus, is sung.

A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing

The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling *this your servant* to the order of deacons.

Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of each ordinand, and prays

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to *N.*; fill *him* with grace and power, and make *him* a deacon in your Church.

The Bishop then continues

Make *him*, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let her life and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through *him* many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may this deacon share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

The People in a loud voice respond Amen.

The new deacons are now vested according to the order of deacons.

The Bishop gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

The Peace

Note: the service continues with the Celebration of the Holy Communion. Any authorized Eucharistic Prayer may be used. The service has a proper postcommunion prayer and the new deacon gives the dismissal. If desired, the variation on the postcommunion prayer below may

be used.

Postcommunion Prayer (the standard prayer from the BCP may be used)

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for calling us to be part of his community in the world, and for raising up among us faithful servants for your ministry. We pray that we may be to one another effective examples in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Dismissal Hymn