

**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD**  
**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 512 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 526 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 531 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 the following:
  - Isaiah 6:1-8 *or* Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25 (omitting the final clause)
  - Psalms 43 *or* 132:8-19 (settings are attached; others may be used or the psalm may be said)
  - 1 Peter 5:1-4 (reading “presbyter” for “elder”), *or* Ephesians 4:7, 11-16, *or* Philippians 4:4-9
  - Matthew 9:35-38, *or* John 10:11-18, *or* John 6:35-38

On Sunday or a major feast one or more of the lessons of the day may replace those for ordination.
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.

## 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 Aspersion after Renewal of Vows
- If a litany other than that for ordinations is to be used, please specify:
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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 and new priest)

Presenters of  
stole/chasuble \_\_\_\_\_

Presenters of  
bread and wine \_\_\_\_\_

(family and friends of ordinand)

Ministrants of  
Communion \_\_\_\_\_

## VARIATIONS FOR THE ORDINATION OF A PRIEST

### **Introduction: 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 Priestly 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.

Priestly ministry has as its special focus the church's pastoral leadership in the local congregation. Priests are called "to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the gospel; to administer the Sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God."

#### **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 which he lays hands 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. The laying on of hands 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.

### **Variation a. Alternate Opening**

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. **Amen.**

### **Variation b. Liturgy of the Word before the Presentation**

*One or more lessons for a Sunday or Major Feast may be substituted.*

**The First Lesson:** Isaiah 6:1-8 *or* Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25

**The Gradual Psalm:** 43 *or* 132:8-19

**The Second Lesson:** 1 Peter 5:1-4 (reading "presbyter" for "elder" *or* Ephesians 4:7, 11-16 *or* Philippians 4:4-9)

**The Sequence Hymn**

**The Alleluia Verse (optional):** John 10:14

**The Holy Gospel:** Matthew 9:35-38 *or* John 10:11-18 *or* John 6:35-38

**Sermon**

### **Variation c. Renewal of Baptismal Vows in place of the Nicene Creed**

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.***

*If desired, water in the font may be blessed and the people aspersed.*

## 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, and saying, Remember your baptism, and be faithful.*

### **Variation d. The Presentation after the Liturgy of the Word**

*The bishop and people sit. A Priest and a Lay Person, and additional presenters if desired, standing before the bishop, present the ordinand, 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 priest in Christ's holy catholic Church.

*Bishop*

Have *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 her to be 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 priesthood. 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. be ordained priest?

*The People respond in these or other words*

***It is.***

*Bishop*

Will you uphold *him* in this ministry?

*The People respond in these or other words*

***We will.***

*The Bishop then calls the people to prayer with these or similar words*

In peace let us pray to the Lord. *All kneel.*

### **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 Katherine Jefferts-Schori, 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 priest 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.*

*On a feast or a Sunday, the Collect of the Day may be used in place of or in addition to this collect.*

### **Variation e. The Examination and Consecration of the Priest immediately after the Presentation and Litany**

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

*The Bishop addresses the ordinands as follows*

My *brother/sister*, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world. Now you are called to work as pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

As a *priest*, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come. My *brother/sister*, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this priesthood?

*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 respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

*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 your people?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.

*Answer* ***Amen.***

### **The Consecration of the Priests**

*All now stand except the ordinands, who kneel facing the Bishop and the presbyters who stand to the right and left of the Bishop.*

*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*

God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn among many brethren, and the head of the Church. We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and, having ascended into heaven, has poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of his body.

*Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of each ordinand in turn, the Priests who are present also laying on their hands. At the same time the Bishop prays*

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

*The Bishop then continues*

May *he/she* exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people; offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. Make *him/her* a *faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise councilor*. Grant that in all things *he/she* may serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your Name glorified in all the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Priest is now vested according to the order of priests*

*The Bishop then gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying*

Receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God and to administer his holy Sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed to you as a priest of the Church of God.

*The Bishop greets the newly ordained and presents him/her to the congregation*

**The Peace**

*The new Priest then says to the congregation*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Presbyters present greet the newly ordained; who then greets family members and others, as may be convenient. The Clergy and People greet one another.*

**Note:** the service continues with the Celebration of the Holy Communion. Any authorized Eucharistic Prayer may be used. The new priest should concelebrate with the bishop. The service has a proper postcommunion prayer and the bishop invites the new priest to give the blessing. 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;