The 1549 Book of Common Prayer,

The source text for these PDF files was a true facsimile (probably the only one ever made) of the 1549 BCP privately printed in 1896. This book appears in David Griffiths' Bibliography of the Book of Common Prayer as 1896/5, and is a facsimile of the very first printing of the Book of Common Prayer, Griffiths 1549/1. The links on the image of the Table of Contents below lead to these PDF files. We have a page of technical notes for these PDF files at http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/1549/PDF_Notes.htm, if you are interested.

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CONFIRMACION

wherein is conteined a Cathe-

choline for children.

Wherefore that confirmation may be ministred to the more edifying of suche as shall receive it (according to Saint Paules doctrine, who teache that all thynges should be done in the church to the edification of the same) it is thought good that none hereafter shall be confirmed, but suche as can say in theire mother tong, tractiles of the faith, the lodes prayer, and the tenne commandements; And can also aunswer to suche questions of this shorte Catechisme, as the Bishhop (or suche as he shall appoynte) shall by his discretion apposte them in. And this orte is most convenient to be obserued for divers consideracions.

First because that when children come to the yeres of discretion and have learned what theye Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptisme, they may then themselves with their owne mouth, and with their owne content, openly before the churche, ratifie and confesse the same, and also promise that by the grace of God, they will euermore endeavour themselves faithfully to obserue and kepe such things, as they by their owne mouth and confesion have attented unto.

Secondly, for asmuch as confirmation is ministred to them that be Baptised, that by imposition of handes, and prayer they may receive strength and defence against all temptacions to sin, and the assautes of the world, and the devill: it is most mete to be ministred, when children come to that age, that partly by the frailtie of their owne flese, partly by the assautes of the world and the devill, they begin to be in daunger to fall into sinne.

Thirdly, for that it is agreeable with the vsage of the church in tymes past, whereby it was ordained, that Confirmation should be ministred to them that were of perfecte age, that they being instructed in Christes religion, should openly profess their owne fayth, and promise to be obedient unto the will of God.

And that no manne shall thynke that anye detrimente shall come to children by differryng of their confirmation: he shal knewe for trueth, that it is certayn by Goddes woode, that children beeing Baptised (if they departe out of this lyfe in theye infancie) are undoubtedly saued.
A CATECHISME
that is to say, an instruction to bee
learned of every childe, before he
be brought to be confirmed
of the Bishope.

Question.

What is your name?
Answer.

P or P.

Question.

Who gaine you this name?
Answer.

By Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptisme,
wherein I was made a member of Christe, the childe of
God, and inheritour of the kingdome of heauen.

Question.

What did your Godfathers & Godmothers then fo° you?
Answer.

They did promise and vowe three thinges in my name.
First, that I shoulde forfakke the devill and all his workes and
pompes, the vanities of the wicked worlde, and all the sinne
full lustes of the fleshe. Secondly, that I shoulde beleue all
the articles of the Christian fayth. And thridly, that I
shoulde kepe Gods holy will and commaundementes and
walke in the same al the daies of my life.

Question.

Dooest thou not thinke that thou arte bound to beleue, and to
doe as they have promised fo° thee?
Answer.
Confirmation.

Yes verely. And by Gods helpe so I wil. And I hartily thanke our heavennelye father, that he hath called me to thys state of saluacion, through Jesus Christe our sauenour And I pray God to gene me hys grace, that I may continue in the same unto my liues ende.

Question.

Rehearse the articles of thy believe.

Answer.

I beleue in God the father almightie, maker of heauen and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only sonne our lord. Whiche was conceiued by the holy goste, borne of the virgin Marie. Suffered under Ponce Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hel. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heauen, and sitteth on the right hande of God the father almightie. From thence shall he come to judge the quicke & the dead. I beleue in the holy goste. The holye catholike church. The communion of saints. The forgenenes of sinnes. The resurreccion of the bodie. And the lyfe euerlaung. Amen.

Question.

What doest thou chieflye learne in these articles of thy believe?

Answer.

Firstly, I learnto beleue in God the father, who hath made me and all the worlde. Secondly, in God the sonne who hath redeemed me and all mankinde. Thirdly, in god the holy goste, who sanctifieth me and all the electe people of god.

Question.

You sayde that your Godfathers and Godmothers dyd promye for you that ye should kepe Goddes commaundements. Tell me how many there bee.
Confirmation.

Aunswer.

Tenne.

Question.

Whiche be they?

Aunswer.

Thou shalt have none other Gods but me.

ii. Thou shalt not make to thyselfe anye graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, nor in the earth beneath, nor in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bowe downe to them, nor worship them.

iii. Thou shalt not take the name of the lord thy God in vayne.

iii. Remember that thou kepe holy the Sabboth day.

v. Honor thy father and thy mother.

vi. Thou shalt doe no murde.

vii. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

viii. Thou shalt not steale.

ix. Thou shalt not beare false witnes against thy neighbour.

x. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours wife, nor his seruaunt, nor his mayde, nor his Dre, nor his Alle, nor any thing that is his.

Question.

What doest thou chiefly leame by these commaundemente?

Aunswer.

I leerne two thinges: My duetie towards god, and my duetie towards my neighbour.

Question.

What is thy duetie towards god?

Aunswer.

By duetie towards God is, to beleue in him. To feare him. And to loue him with al my hart, with al my mind, with al my soule, and with all my strength. To worship him. To geue him thankes. To put my whole trufe in hym. To call vpon him. To honoure his holy name and his word, and to serve him truely all the daies of my life.
Confirmation.

Question.
What is thy duty towards thy neighbour?

Answer.
My duty towards my neighbour is, to love him as myself. And to do to all men as I would they should do to me. To love, honour, and succour my father and mother. To honour and obey the king and his ministers. To submit myself to all my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors, and masters. To order myself lowly and reverently to all my betters. To hurt no body by wrong nor deed. To be true and just in all my dealing. To bear no malice nor hatred in my heart. To keep my hands from picking and stealing, and my tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering. To keep my body in temperance, sobriety, and chastity. Not to covet nor desire other men's goods. But learn and labour truly to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me.

Question.
My good sonne, knowe this, that thou art not able to do these things of thy self, nor to walk in the commandments of God and to serve him, without his special grace, which thou must learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Let me therefore if thou cannot say the Lord's prayer.

Answer.

Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Question.
What desirest thou of God in this prayer?

Answer.
I desire my lord god our heavenly father, who is the giver of all goodnes, to send his grace unto me, and to all people,
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that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him, as we ought to do. And I pray unto God, that he will send us all thynges that be needful both for our soules and bodies: And that he will bee mercifull unto vs, & forgue vs our sinnes: And that it will please him to saue & defende vs in al daungers god and bodily: And that he will kepe vs from al sinne and wickednes, & from our gostly enemye, and from euerlasting death. And this I truste he wil doe of his mercie and goodnes, through our lord Jesu Christe. And therefore I say, Amen. So be it.

¶ So loone as the children can say in their mother tongue tharticles of the faith, the lordes prayer, the ten commandementes, and also can aunswere to such questions of this short Cathecisme as the Bishop (as suche as he shall appointe) shall by hys discretion appoiste them in: then shall they bee brought to the Bishop by one that shalbe his godfather or godmother, that everie child maye have a wittennesse of hys confirmation.

¶ And the Bishop shall confirme them on this wyse.

Confirmation.

Our helpe is in the name of the Lord.

Answere.

Whiche hath made both heauen and yeart.

Minister.

Blessed is the name of the Lord.

Answere.

Henceforth worlde without ende.

Minister.

The Lord be with you.

Answere.

And with thy spirite.

Let us praye.

Almighty and everluying God, who haft vouchesfaked to regenerate these thy seruauntes of water & the holy goste: And haft geuen unto them forgueuenesse of all their sinnes: Sende downe from heauen we beseeche thee, (D
Confirmation.

lo\de) upon them thy holy g\st the counfo\ter, with the manifold giftes of grace, the spirite of wisdom and understand\ng; the spirite of coun\el and godly strength; The spirite of knowledge and true godliness; and fulfil them (o \lzd) with the spirite of thy holy feare.

Amen.

Amen.

Signe them (o \lzd) and marke them to be thyne fo\ er, by the vertue of thy holye crosse and passion. Confr"me and strength them with the inward vn\tion of thy holy g\st, mercifully unto everla\ng life. Amen.

Then the Bishop hal crosse them in the fo\ehead, and lay his handes upon they\ heades saying

P. I signe thee with the signe of the crosse, and laye my hande upon thee. In the name of the father, and of the sonne, and of the holy g\st. Amen.

And thus shall he doe to ev\ry childe one after another. And whan he hath layed his hande upon ev\ry chylde, then shall he say,

The peace of the \lzd abide with you.

Amen.

And with thy spirite.

Let vs pray.

Almightie everlia\ng god, which make\ vs both to will and to doe those things that bee good and acceptable unto thy ma\tie: we make our humble supplicacions unto thee for these children, upon whome (after the example of thy holy \postles) we haue laied our handes, to certify them (by this signe) of thy fa\our and gracious goodnes toward them; let thy fatherly hand (we beseech thee) ever be over them, let thy holy spirite ever bee with them, and so leade them in the knowledge and obedience of thy wo\d, that in the end they may obtain the life everla\ng, through our lord Jesus Christ, who with thee and the holy g\st liueth and re\neth one god wo\d without ende. Amen.
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Then shall the Bishop bless the children, thus saying.

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Sonne, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and reayne with you for ever. Amen.

The curate of every parish once in five wekees at the least upon warning by him geuen, shall upon some Soonday or holy day, half an houre before euening openly in the church instructe and examine so many children of his parish sent unto him, as the time will serve, as he shall thinke convenient, in some parte of this Cathchisme. And all fathers, mothers, masters, and dames, shall cause their children, seruantes, & pouerles (which be not yet confirmed), to come to the church at the daie appoynted, and obediently heare & be ordered by the curate, until suche time as they haue learned all that is here appointed for them to learne. And whansoever the Bishop shall geve knowledge for children to be brought before him to any convenient place, for their confirmacion: Then shall the curate of every parish either being or send in writing, ye names of al those children of his parish which can say tharticles of their faith, the ladies praier, and the ten commandementes. And also how many of them can answer to another questions conteined in this Cathchisme. And there shall none be admitted to the holye communion until suche time as he be confirmed.