

The 1892 Book of Common Prayer: The Standard Book,
Formatted as the original

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THE FORM OF
CONSECRATION OF A CHURCH
OR CHAPEL.



¶ The Bishop is to be received at the entrance of the Church, or Chapel, by the Church-wardens and Vestrymen or some other persons appointed for that purpose. The Bishop and the Clergy who are present shall go up the aisle of the Church, or Chapel, to the Communion Table, repeating the twenty-fourth Psalm alternately, the Bishop one verse and the Clergy another.

Psalm xxiv.

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas : and prepared it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD : or who shall rise up in his holy place ?

4 Even he that hath clean hands and a pure heart : and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD : and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him : even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates ; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is the King of glory : It is the LORD strong and mighty, even the LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates ; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is the King of glory : Even the LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost ;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

¶ The Bishop shall go within the rails, with such of the Clergy as can be there accommodated. The Bishop, sitting in his chair, shall have the instruments of donation and endowment, if there be any presented to him ; and then standing up, and turning to the Congregation, shall say,

DEARLY beloved in the Lord ; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by

the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for his glorious Majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father: Let us not doubt but that he will also favourably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg his blessing on this our undertaking.

¶ Then the Bishop, kneeling, shall say the following Prayer.

OETERNAL God, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; and who yet hast been graciously pleased to promise thy especial presence, wherever two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy Name, to offer up their praises and supplications unto thee; Vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us, who are here gathered together with all humility and readiness of heart, to consecrate this place to the honour of thy great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it to thy service, for reading thy holy Word, for celebrating thy holy Sacraments, for offering to thy glorious Majesty the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing thy people in thy Name, and for all other holy offices: accept, O Lord, this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may tend most to thy glory, and the furtherance of our happiness both temporal and spiritual; through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ After this the Bishop shall stand up, and turning his face towards the Congregation, shall say,

REGARD, O Lord, the supplications of thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to thee in this house by Baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from thy wrath and eternal death, and received as a living member of Christ's Church, and may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that they who at this place shall in their own persons renew the promises and vows of their Baptism, and be Confirmed by the Bishop, may receive such a measure of thy Holy Spirit, that they may be enabled faithfully to fulfil the same, and grow in grace unto their lives end. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of his passion. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that by thy holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by thy Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfil the same. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever should be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end. *Amen.*

Grant, we beseech thee, blessed Lord, that whosoever shall draw near to thee in this place, to give thee thanks for the benefits which they have received at thy hands, to set forth thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto thee, and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind, that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give whatever in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them. All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Bishop sitting in his chair, the Sentence of Consecration is to be read by some persons appointed by him, and then laid by him upon the Communion Table; after which the Bishop shall say,*

BLESSED be thy Name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to appropriate and devote this house to thy honour and worship; and grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work, may show forth their thankfulness, by making a right use of it, to the glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *After this, the Minister appointed is to read the service for the day.*

PROPER PSALMS

Psalm lxxxiv. Psalm cxxii. Psalm cxxxii.

PROPER LESSONS.

FIRST. 1 *Kings* 8, v. 22 to v. 63; *or* *Genesis* 28, at v. 10.

SECOND. *Hebrews* 10, v. 19 to v. 26; *or* *Revelation* 21, at v. 10.

¶ *The Bishop shall then proceed to the Communion Service. The following shall be the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the occasion.*

The Collect.

OMOST gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee any thing belonging unto us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the Dedication of this place to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all those thy servants who shall call upon thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with an awful apprehension of thy Divine Majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. 2 Cor. vi. 14.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The Gospel. St. John ii. 13.

AND the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen: and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise, And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

¶ *For the last Collect, immediately before the final Blessing, the Bishop shall say this prayer:*

BLESSED be thy Name, O Lord God, for that it hath pleased thee to have thy habitation among the sons of men, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon the earth; Grant, we beseech thee, that in this place now set apart to thy service, thy holy Name may be worshipped in truth and purity through all generations; 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.*

AN OFFICE OF
INSTITUTION OF MINISTERS
INTO PARISHES OR CHURCHES.



¶ *The Bishop having received the Notice of the Election of a Minister into a Parish or Church, as prescribed by the Canon, concerning “the Election and Institution of Ministers,” and being satisfied that the “person chosen is a qualified Minister of this Church,” may proceed to institute him into the Parish.*

¶ *In any Diocese, the concluding Paragraph in the Letter of Institution may be omitted, where it interferes with the Usages, Laws, or Charters of the Church in the same.*

To our well-beloved in Christ, A. B., Presbyter, Greeting.

WE do by these Presents give and grant unto you, *Sigillum.*
in whose Learning, Diligence, sound Doctrine,
and Prudence, we do fully confide, our License and authority to
perform the Office of a Priest, in the Parish [*or Church*] of *E.* And
also hereby do institute you into said Parish, [*or* *Signat.*
Church,] possessed of full power to perform every Act
of sacerdotal Function among the People in the same; you continuing
in communion with us, and complying with the rubrics and canons of
the Church, and with such lawful directions as you shall at any time
receive from us.

And as a canonically instituted Priest into the Office of Rector of
——— Parish [*or Church*,] you are faithfully to feed that portion
of the flock of Christ which is now intrusted to you; not as a man-
pleaser, but as continually bearing in mind that you are accountable
to us here, and to the Chief Bishop and Sovereign Judge of all, here-
after.

And as the Lord hath ordained that they who serve at the altar
should live of the things belonging to the altar; so we authorize you
to claim and enjoy all the accustomed temporalities appertaining to
your cure, until some urgent reason or reasons occasion a wish in you,

or in the congregation committed to your charge, to bring about a separation, and dissolution of all sacerdotal relation, between you and them; of all which you will give us due notice; and in case of any difference between you and your congregation, as to a separation and dissolution of all sacerdotal connection between you and them, we, your Bishop, with the advice of our Presbyters, are to be the ultimate arbiter and judge.

In witness thereof, we have hereunto affixed our episcopal seal and signature, at —, this — day of —, A. D. —, and in the — year of our consecration.



¶ On the day designated for the new Incumbent's Institution, at the usual hour of Morning Prayer, the Bishop or the Institutor appointed by him, attended by the new Incumbent, and by the other clergy present, shall enter the Chancel. Then, all the Clergy present standing in the Chancel or Choir, except the Bishop or the Priest who acts as Institutor, who shall go within the rails of the Altar; the Wardens (or, in the case of their necessary absence, two members of the Vestry) standing on the right and left of the Altar, without the rails; the Senior Warden (or the Member of the Vestry supplying his place) holding the keys of the Church in his hand, in open view, the officiating Priest shall read Morning Prayer.

PROPER PSALMS.

Psalm cxxii. Psalm cxxxii. Psalm cxxxiii.

PROPER LESSONS.

FIRST. Ezekiel 33, to v. 10.

SECOND. St. John 10, to v. 19.

¶ Morning Prayer ended, the Bishop, or the Priest, who acts as the Institutor, standing within the rails of the Altar, shall say,

DEARLY beloved in the Lord, we have assembled for the purpose of instituting the Rev. *A. B.* into this Parish, [*or Church,*] as Priest and Rector of the same; and we are possessed of your Vote that he has been so elected; as also of the prescribed Letter of Institution. But if any of you can show just cause why he may not be instituted, we proceed no further, because we would not that an unworthy person should minister among you.

¶ If any objection be offered, the Bishop, or the Priest who acts as the Institutor, shall judge whether it afford just cause to suspend the Service.

¶ No objection being offered, or Institutor choosing to go on with the Service, he shall next read the Letter of Institution.

¶ And then shall the Senior Warden (or the member of the Vestry supplying his place) present the keys of the Church to the new Incumbent, saying,

IN the name and behalf of — Parish [*or Church*] I do receive and acknowledge you, the Rev. *A. B.*, as Priest and Rector, of the same; and in token thereof, give into your hands the keys of this Church.

¶ Then the new Incumbent shall say,

I, *A. B.*, receive these keys of the house of God at your hands, as the pledges of my Institution, and of your parochial recognition, and promise to be a faithful Shepherd over you; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

¶ Here the Institutor shall begin the Office.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

DIRECT 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, who hath taught us to pray unto thee, O Almighty Father, in his prevailing Name and words,

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

¶ Then shall the Institutor receive the Incumbent within the rails of the Altar, and present him the Bible, Book of Common Prayer, and Books of Canons of the General and Diocesan Convention, saying as follows.

RECEIVE these Books; and let them be the rule of thy conduct in dispensing the divine Word, in leading the Devotions of the People, and in exercising the Discipline of the Church; and be thou in all things a pattern to the flock committed to thy care.

¶ Then shall be said or sung Psalm lxxviii. Exsurgat Deus, or Psalm xxvi. Judica me, Domine.

Minister. The Law was given by Moses;

People. But Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ:

Minister and People. Who is God over all, blessed for evermore. Amen.

Let us pray.

MOST gracious God, the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, who of thy wise providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church; Give thy grace, we beseech thee, to thy servant, to whom the charge of this Congregation is now committed; and so replenish him with the truth of thy doctrine and endue him with innocency of

life, that he may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name and the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

OHOLY Jesus, who hast purchased to thyself an universal Church, and hast promised to be with the Ministers of Apostolic Succession to the end of the world; Be graciously pleased to bless the ministry and service of him who is now appointed to offer the sacrifices of prayer and praise to thee in this house, which is called by thy Name. May the words of his mouth, and the meditation of his heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the Faithful, visit, we pray thee, this Congregation with thy love and favour; enlighten their minds more and more with the light of thy everlasting Gospel; graft in their hearts a love of the truth; increase in them true religion; nourish them with all goodness; and of thy great mercy keep them in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.

Benediction.

THE God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant; Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Instituted Minister kneel at the Altar, to present his supplication for himself, in this form.

OLORD my God, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; yet thou hast honoured thy servant with appointing him to stand in thy House, and to serve at thy holy Altar. To thee and to thy service I devote myself, mind, body, and spirit, with all their powers and faculties. Fill my memory with the words of thy Law; enlighten my understanding with the illumination of the Holy Ghost; and may all the wishes and desires of my will centre in what thou hast commanded. And, to make me instrumental in promoting the salvation of the people now committed to my charge, grant that I may faithfully administer thy holy Sacraments, and by my life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word. Be ever with me in the performance of all the duties of my ministry: in prayer, to quicken my devotion; in praises, to heighten my love and gratitude; and in preaching, to give a readiness of thought and expression suitable to the Clearness and excellency of thy holy Word. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Saviour.

¶ The Instituted Minister, standing up, shall say,

The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

OALMIGHTY God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone; Grant that, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, all Christians may be so joined together in unity of spirit, and in the bond of peace, that they may be an holy temple acceptable unto thee. And especially to this congregation present, give the abundance of thy grace; that with one heart they may desire the prosperity of thy Holy Apostolic Church, and with one mouth may profess the faith once delivered to the Saints. Defend them from the sins of heresy and schism; let not the foot of pride come nigh to hurt them, nor the hand of the ungodly to cast them down. And grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; that so they may walk in the ways of truth and peace, and at last be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting; through thy merits, O blessed Jesus, thou gracious Bishop and Shepherd of our souls, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ Then shall follow the Sermon; and after that the Instituted Minister shall proceed to the Communion Service, and to administer the holy Eucharist to his Congregation; and after the Benediction, (which he shall always pronounce,) the Wardens, Vestry, and others shall salute and welcome him, bidding him God-speed.

¶ When the Bishop of the Diocese is present at the Institution of a Minister, he shall make to him the address prescribed in this Office in the form of a letter.

