

The Order for Confirmation

or Laying on of Hands upon Those
who are Baptized and come to Years of Discretion

¶ Upon the day and time appointed, all who are to be confirmed shall stand in order before the Bishop, sitting in his chair near to the holy Table, the people all standing until the Lord's Prayer; and the Presbyter presenting them shall say,

REVEREND Father in God, I present unto you these persons who now desire to confirm their Baptismal Covenant through the Laying on of Hands.

¶ Then the Bishop, or some Minister appointed by him, shall say,

BELOVED, it is written in the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles that, when the Apostles in Jerusalem had heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John, who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. Then they laid their hands upon those who were baptized, and they received the Holy Ghost. Also, in the nineteenth chapter of that same Book, we read that St. Paul laid his hands upon certain disciples at Ephesus, after their baptism, and the Holy Ghost came upon them.

In accordance, therefore, with Holy Scripture, apostolic custom, and the practice of the early Church, we have retained this rite of the laying on of hands upon those who are baptized, in order that they may thus, in open confession before men, confirm their faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and avow their unchanged purpose to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in his holy ways.

¶ Then shall the Bishop say,

DO ye here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that ye made, or that was made in your name, at your Baptism; ratifying and confirming the same in your own persons; and acknowledging yourselves bound to believe and to do all those things which ye then undertook, or your sponsors then undertook for you?

¶ And every one shall audibly answer,

I do.

¶ Then shall the Bishop say,

DO ye promise to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

¶ And every one shall answer,

I do.

¶ Then shall the Bishop say,

DO ye believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he went down into hell, and also did rise again the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And do ye believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of sins; the Resurrection of the body; and everlasting Life after death?

¶ And every one shall answer,

All this I steadfastly believe.

¶ Then shall the Bishop say,

DO ye steadfastly purpose, by God's help, to renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

¶ And every one shall audibly answer,

I renounce them all.

¶ The Bishop, standing, shall say,

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
People. *Who hath made heaven and earth.*
Bishop. Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
People. *Henceforth, world without end.*
Bishop. Lord, hear our prayer;
People. *And let our cry come unto thee.*
Bishop. Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate these thy servants by Water and the Holy Ghost, and hast given unto them forgiveness of all their sins; Strengthen them, we beseech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever.
Amen.

¶ Then all of them in order kneeling before the Bishop, he shall lay his hand upon the head of

every one severally, saying,

DEFEND, O Lord, this thy Child (or this thy Servant) with thy heavenly grace; that he may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Bishop say,

The Lord be with you.

People. *And with thy spirit.*

Bishop. Let us pray.

¶ Then shall the Bishop say the Lord's Prayer, the people kneeling and repeating it with him.

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 Bishop say,

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who makest us both to will and to do those things which are good and acceptable unto thy Divine Majesty; We make our humble supplications unto thee for these thy servants, upon whom, after the example of thy holy Apostles, we have now laid our hands, to certify them, by this sign, of thy favour and gracious goodness towards them. Let thy fatherly hand, we beseech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of thy Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with thee and the same Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to those who are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ Then the Bishop shall bless them, saying thus,

THE blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

¶ The Confirmation ordinarily shall take place within the Holy Communion, or at such time and place as the Bishop shall direct.