

The Order of Confirmation

Or laying on of hands upon those that are baptized
and come to years of discretion

Upon the day appointed, all that are to be then confirmed, being placed, and standing in order before the Bishop; he (or some other Minister appointed by him) shall read this Preface following.

The Church requires that all who come to Confirmation should know the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and have a basic understanding of the Christian Faith as received in the Church.

We intend to administer the laying on of hands to these persons who by baptism are members of Christ's Church are prepared for Confirmation through instruction and prayer.

First, because it is evident from the Holy Scripture that the Apostles laid their hands upon those who were baptized; and this practice has been continued in the Church since the Apostles' time and has been judged agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.

Secondly, so that persons, having come to the years of discretion, may acknowledge publicly the vows made at their Baptism, and dedicate their lives to serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, in order that by prayer and the laying on of hands, they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, courageously to fight under the banner of Christ crucified, against sin, the world and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldiers and servants to the end of the lives.

Then shall the Bishop say,

Do you here, in the presence of God, and of this Congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that was made in your name or by you at your Baptism?

And every one shall audibly answer,

I do.

Then shall the Bishop say,

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
Who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
From this time forward, world without end.

Lord, hear our prayers.
And let our cry come unto you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, by whose grace *these* your servant(s) have been born again by water and the Holy Spirit, and have received forgiveness of all their sins: confirm and strengthen *them* with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and daily increase in *them* your various gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of guidance and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of your 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,

Confirm and defend, O Lord, this your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours forever; and daily increase in your Holy Spirit, more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Then shall the Bishop say,

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

And the Bishop shall add,

Let us pray.

**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.**

And this Collect.

Almighty and ever-living God, who makes us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable to your divine Majesty; We humbly pray for these your servants, upon whom (after the example of thy holy Apostles) we have now laid our hands, to assure them (by this sign) of your favor and gracious goodness towards them. Let your fatherly hand, we pray, be over them; let your Holy Spirit always be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit live and reign, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, be pleased, we pray, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of your laws, and in the obeying of your commandments; and grant that, through your most mighty protection, we may be preserved in body and soul, now and always; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop shall bless them, saying thus,

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no person evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you, always. **Amen.**

The minister may here end with general intercessions as he shall think fit, or with the Grace.