

The Order of Confirmation

The bishop says

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The bishop continues

We have come together to pray for those who seek the blessing of God in Confirmation. 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 through catechism.

We intend to administer the laying on of hands to NN who by baptism is a member of Christ's Church and has been prepared for Confirmation through instruction and prayer.

First, because it is evident from the Holy Scripture that the early church 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 he, having come to the years of discretion, may acknowledge publicly the vows made at his Baptism, and dedicate his life to serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, in order that by prayer and the laying on of hands, he may be strengthened by the indwelling Holy Spirit, courageously to fight under the banner of Christ crucified, against sin, the world and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant to the end of his life.

It is for us as the people of God to hear the response to God's call of him who has come to be confirmed, to support him now and always with our prayer, and to renew our own commitment to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 at your

Baptism?

The candidate for Confirmation answers,

I do.

Bishop: Do you renounce the Devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you renounce the sinful desires of life that draw you from the love of God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

Candidate: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Do you commit to membership of this Church — praying for it and supporting its work as you are called?

Candidate: I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop then addresses the congregation, first inviting them to stand.

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

The Congregation responds

We will

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.

The congregation is invited to be seated

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, by whose grace this your servant has been born again by the Holy Spirit, and has received forgiveness of all his sins: confirm and strengthen him with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and daily increase in him 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 him, O Lord, with the spirit of your holy fear, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then the candidate for confirmation kneeling before the Bishop, he shall lay his hand upon his head, saying,

Confirm and defend, O Lord, this your servant NN 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 to all,

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

And the Bishop shall add,

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving 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 this your servant, upon whom (after the example of thy holy Apostles) we have now laid our hands, to assure him (by this sign) of your favor and gracious goodness towards him. Let your fatherly hand, we pray, be over him; let your Holy Spirit always be with him; and so lead him in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that in the end he 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.**

The bishop says to the congregation

Those who have been baptized and confirmed, and desire to acknowledge the obligation of membership in the church, are called to study and seek to understand the Bible and the Christian faith more fully, to take their part in the life of the church, to hear the word of God and share in the holy communion, and to pray faithfully and regularly both publicly and privately.

They are called to share with others, by word and example, the love of Christ and his gospel of reconciliation and hope.

And they are called to love their neighbors as themselves, to honor all men and women, and to pray and work for peace and justice.

I exhort all of you to commit yourselves to this calling.

All say together

We gladly do so. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us for the work he calls us to do.

Praying together, all join in and say,

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.