

Service for the Ordination of Pastors or Presbyter Ministers

Instructions (rubrics) are shown in this font.

Words that are spoken (or titles) are shown in this font.

In preparation for this service, the ordinand will retire, with the president, into a room alone where the the ordinand may make his/her confession, and receive absolution, that the ordinand be right with God for the promises he/she is about to make.

The elements for Holy Communion should be on the altar and covered (if Communion will be celebrated).

The people stand. The president and the ordinand(s) enter and take their places in the chancel.

A hymn may be sung.

The people are seated, the president says:

Let us pray. *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank you that in every generation you give Ministers to your church, so that through them you may nourish and sustain its life and equip your people for your service. And we pray that through the faithful work of those whom you have called into this ministry, your church may be continually strengthened to glorify your Name and do your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The candidate then reads from the Old Testament:

The reading is from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah 6 v 1 - 9:

In the year King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!'

Then flew one seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.' And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'

A reading from the Gospels, may be given here.

The president says:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you this person (these persons) to be ordained Minister in Christ's' church. They/He/She have (has) been examined and found to be of sound learning and devout life.

The names of the ordinand(s) are read out, each ordinand standing when their name is read and remaining standing.

Another minister says: Mr/Mrs/Ms *Name Surname*, candidate for ministry.

The president says:

Beloved in Christ, these are the persons (this is the person) that we intend, in God's name, to ordain to the Ministry of his church as presbyter(s). I ask you therefore to declare your assent to their ordination.

Do you believe that they are by God's grace worthy to be ordained?

Another minister says: Enquiry has been made of their character and Christian witness. As far as human frailty allows, they (he/she) have (has) been found worthy.

The president says to those who are to be ordained:

My brother/sister (s) in Christ, the church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All who are baptized are called to make Christ known as Saviour and Lord, and to share with him in the renewal of the world. You are called to the ordained Ministry within the whole church. It will be your job as ambassadors on behalf of Christ to preach the gospel by word and deed, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to baptize, to confirm, to preside at the celebration of the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, to lead God's people in worship and prayer, to care for them in sickness and health, to teach them and to equip them for their service. You must set the Good Shepherd before you as a pattern. Seek and serve his sheep that are scattered abroad, for whom he laid down his life; that they may be saved through Christ for ever. See that no member of Christ's flock suffers hurt through your neglect. Never cease from your work of love until you have done all in your power to bring them to full obedience to Christ.

The Ministry will make great demands on you and your life. The power to fulfil it is the gift of God alone. Pray earnestly therefore for the Holy Spirit. We trust that you are determined by God's grace to give yourself wholly to His service, devoting to Him all your powers of mind and spirit, and sharing with his people in their common witness to the world.

My brother (sister), in the presence of God and this congregation it is necessary that you answer in all sincerity of heart the questions I now ask of you.

Do you believe that the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit has called you, through Jesus, into serving Him as a Minister in his church?

Ordinand: I do.

Do you promise to carry all your needs as a Minister in prayer before the Throne of Grace, and then allow the Spirit to minister through you?

Ordinand: I do.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as containing the wisdom necessary for eternal salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ordinand: I do.

Do you accept the discipline of the church and will you work together with your Christian brothers and sisters in its ministry?

Ordinand: I do.

May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you grace and power to perform them. We on behalf of the church promise to support, encourage and uphold you and your ministry in prayer, God being our helper.

The ordinand stands before the altar and facing the president. The ordinand holds his/her hands together as if in prayer while the president anoints the ordinand's hands with oil.

Name, in your baptism you died to sin and arose to everlasting life in Christ. Now I anoint your hands with Holy oil in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. For these are the hands which will reach out and touch the sick, sorrowful and the lonely. These are the hands which will hold the Bible, the Word of God. These are the hands which, when held together in prayer will become the Hand of God in your ministry, leading and guiding you as you minister to Christ's people.

The ordinand kneels before the altar and the president and the president lays his hands on the ordinand's head and says:

Receive the power of the Holy Spirit that God sends upon you **Name**, from this day forward you are to pastor His flock, minister his people and serve our Lord.

While the president remains with his hands in place on the ordinand's head, other Christians present may lay their hands upon the ordinand, and say:

God Bless you *Name*, now servant of God.

The ordinand rises.

The president gives the new minister his certificate saying:
Take this deed which shows the assent of your calling and the faculty of
your ministry.

The president says: My brother (sister), the peace of the Lord be with you.
Ordinand: And with your spirit.

They shake hands. The peace is exchanged with all present particularly by the
people towards the new minister.

All present say the Lords Prayer. Other prayer may be offered.
A closing hymn may be sung.

The president and the new minister preside jointly at Holy Communion.
(If communion is not being celebrated, the service concludes with the Nunc
Dimittis and a benediction).