

**From the *Book of Alternative Services* Anglican Church of Canada
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Concerning the Ordination of a Priest

It is desirable, if possible, that priests be ordained on Sundays or other feasts. Whenever a bishop is to confer holy orders, at least two presbyters should be present.

From the beginning of the service until the offertory, the bishop presides from a chair placed close to the people, so that all may see and hear what is done. When each ordinand is presented, his/her full name (designated by the sign NN) is used. Thereafter, it is appropriate to refer to him/her only by the Christian name by which he/she wishes to be known.

The Ordination of a Priest

A hymn may be sung at the entry of the bishop and others. All stand. The bishop greets the community.

Bishop The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Or from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost,

Bishop Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Bishop May his grace and peace be with us.

People **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

The following prayer may be said.

Bishop Almighty God,

All to you all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from you no secrets are hidden.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God (or other customary hymn) is not sung.

The prayers, readings, and preface are normally those of the day. If the propers are inappropriate, the following prayer may be used, a selection may be made from the list of readings on pp. 659–660, the Prayer over the Gifts for Ember Days on p. 396 or for the Common of a Pastor on p. 435, and the Preface of Ordination may be used.

*The bishop says, **Let us pray.** The community may pray silently.*

The bishop sings or says either the Collect of the Day or the following:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation.
Let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,

your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

Three lessons are read. Lay persons should normally be assigned the readings which precede the Gospel. A psalm, canticle, hymn, anthem, or period of silence may follow the lessons.

The Sermon

A silence for reflection may follow.

The Presentation

After the sermon and the Nicene Creed (p. 188), the bishop and people sit. A priest and a lay person, and additional presenters if desired, standing before the bishop, present the ordinand, saying,

N, bishop in the Church of God,
on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of *N*,
we present you *NN* to be ordained a priest
in Christ's holy catholic Church.

Bishop Has *he/she* been selected in accordance with the
canons and customs of this Church? And do you
believe *his/her* manner of life to be suitable to the
exercise of this ministry?

Presenters We certify to you that *he/she* has been duly selected,
and we believe *him/her* to be qualified for this order.

The bishop says to the ordinand,

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of
Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in
accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and
other ministers who may have authority over you and your
work?

The ordinand answers,

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do
believe the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be
the word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation;
and I do solemnly promise to conform to the doctrine, discipline,
and worship of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The ordinand then signs the above declaration in the sight of all present.

All stand. The bishop says to the people,

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry,
and the weight of your responsibility in presenting *NN* for
ordination to the sacred priesthood. Therefore, if any of you know
any impediment or crime for which we should not proceed, come
forward now, and make it known.

If no objection is made, the bishop continues,

Is it your will that *N* be ordained a priest?

People **It is.**

Bishop Will you uphold *him/her* in this ministry?

People **We will.**

The Examination

All now sit except the ordinand, who stands before the bishop. The bishop addresses the ordinand as follows:

N, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the

temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Saviour and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world. Now you are called to work as a *pastor*, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

As a *priest*, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your *life* in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to preside at the administration of holy baptism and at the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's body and blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

Do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this priesthood?

Answer I believe I am so called.

Bishop Do you now in the presence of the Church commit *yourself* to this trust and responsibility?

Answer I do.

Bishop Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

Answer I will.

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Bishop Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the holy scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able *minister* of Christ?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you endeavour so to minister the word of God and the sacraments of the new covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you undertake to be a faithful *pastor* to all whom you are called to serve, labouring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you do your best to pattern your *life* (and *that* of your *family*) in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome *example* to your people?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for *yourself* and for others, and offering all your labours to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

Answer I will.

Bishop May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.

Answer Amen.

The Consecration of the Priest

Now all stand except the ordinand, who kneels facing the bishop and the presbyters, who stand to the right and left of the bishop. The bishop calls the people to prayer with these or similar words.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

The people remain standing or kneel, as directed by the bishop.

The Litany for Ordinations is sung or said, according to one of the two forms provided on pp. 661–664.

The hymn Veni Creator Spiritus or the hymn Veni Sancte Spiritus is sung. (Some suitable translations are listed on p. 665.)

A period of silent prayer follows.

The bishop stands with the priests who assist him, the ordinand kneeling before him; he stretches out his hands toward him/her, and begins this Prayer of Consecration.

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father, because you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ to be the Apostle and High Priest of our faith, and the Shepherd of our souls.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death; and that, having ascended into heaven, he has given his gifts abundantly to your people, making some, apostles; some, prophets; some, evangelists; some, pastors and teachers; to equip them for the work of ministry and to build up his Body.

And now we give you thanks that you have called *this* your *servant* to share this ministry entrusted to your Church.

Here the bishop and priests lay their hands on the head of each ordinand, and the bishop says,

Send down your Holy Spirit upon your *servant N*, whom we consecrate in your name to the office and work of a priest in the Church.

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The bishop then continues, with hands extended,

Almighty Father, give to this your servant grace and power to fulfil *his/her* ministry among the people committed to *his/her* charge; to watch over them and care for them; to absolve and bless them in your name; and to proclaim the gospel of your salvation. Set *him/her* among your people to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable in your sight, and as you have called *him/her* to your service, make *him/her* by the gift of your Holy Spirit worthy of *his/her* calling. Give *him/her* wisdom and discipline to work faithfully with all *his/her* fellow servants in Christ, that the world may come to know your glory and your love.

Accept our prayers, most merciful Father, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit, belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The new priest is now vested according to the order of priests. The bishop hands a Bible and a chalice and paten to each new priest, saying,

Receive this Bible and this chalice and paten as signs of the authority given you to preach the word of God and to administer his holy sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed to you as a priest of the Church of God.

The Peace

The bishop presents the new priest to the congregation. A new priest then says to the congregation,
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Offertory, Thanksgiving, and Communion

The liturgy continues with the offertory. The newly ordained priest joins with the bishop and other presbyters in the celebration of the eucharist and in the breaking of the bread.

After Communion

The bishop says the following prayer.

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the body and blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your word and sacraments. We pray that *N* may be to us a godly *example* in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with *him/her*, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The bishop blesses the people, first saying,

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord,

People **From this time forth for evermore.**

Bishop The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

Or the bishop may bless the people with one of the forms of blessing on p.683.

A deacon dismisses the people with these words.

Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, Alleluia is added to the dismissal and the people's response. A hymn may be sung as the bishop and others leave the church.

Further directions for this and the other rites of ordination may be found on p. 666.