

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
LITURGICAL COMMISSION

Baptism and Confirmation

A Report
submitted by
the Church of England
Liturgical Commission to
the Archbishops of
Canterbury and York
December 1966

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CONFIRMATION**

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BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

A REPORT
SUBMITTED BY
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
LITURGICAL COMMISSION TO
THE ARCHBISHOPS OF
CANTERBURY AND YORK
DECEMBER 1966

The Commission here presents four services of Christian initiation.

I

The baptism and confirmation of those who are old enough to answer for themselves.

II

The baptism of those who are old enough to answer for themselves.

III

The baptism of those who are not old enough to answer for themselves.

IV

The confirmation of those who have already been baptized.

Each of these may be combined with the Holy Communion, and each of the baptism services may be inserted into Morning or Evening Prayer. These provisions are made to meet as many different pastoral needs as possible. We were instructed to confine ourselves within these limits.

REPORT ON

The most significant differences from the 1662 services are the more abundant readings from scripture, and the position of the profession of faith. Lessons may now be read from the Old Testament, the epistles, and the gospels. In the early liturgies, the profession of faith was made during the act of baptism; but in 1662, the blessing of the water intervenes. In order to bring profession and baptism as close together as possible, the blessing of the water has been placed before the profession of faith. We have retained the renunciations in their primitive position (also that of 1662) before the blessing of the water as the indispensable prelude to the whole action. They now appear under the heading 'The Decision' and include a positive promise of discipleship. The signing with the cross, though still placed immediately after baptism, is now clearly separated from it; and a lighted candle may be given to the parents or candidates, if desired.

In the baptism of children (Service III) instead of the three lections and sermon of Service I, we have provided a form consisting of four short passages from the New Testament, accompanied by biddings and prayers. In this service, where the profession is made by the parents and sponsors, the question arises, 'Whose renunciation and faith is professed?' Is it the present renunciation and faith of the parents and sponsors, or the future renunciation and faith of the child? We have tried to make the words of the service cover both views. The present renunciation and faith of the parents and sponsors is professed in their rejection of all that is evil (43), and their belief and trust in God (47). The future renunciation and faith of the child is affirmed by his baptism in this profession, in which it is the duty of the parents and sponsors to bring him up (43, 47). In this way we have tried to retain the view expressed in 1662, that the child promises 'by his sureties' that he will renounce and be-

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lieve, while placing the responsibility for the implementation of this promise upon the shoulders of those who made it on the child's behalf.

There has been much discussion of recent years, above all in the Church of England, but also in other communions, about the relation between baptism and confirmation. It may be said that three views have been current in the Church. Stated briefly and simply, they are as follows. The first view is: Baptism in water is the sacramental means by which the Spirit is given to Christians. Confirmation is the occasion on which Christians renew the acts of repentance and faith which were made in their name, or which they themselves made, at their baptism. They do this in the presence of the bishop, who solemnly blesses them; and this blessing may be regarded as an occasion of grace.

The second view is: Baptism in water is the sacramental means by which the Spirit is given to Christians. Confirmation is a second sacramental act, consisting of prayer for the coming of the Spirit, with laying on of hands upon those upon whom the Spirit is asked to come. It effects a further work of the Spirit, to assist them to grow in the Christian life, and to strengthen them against temptation.

The third view is: Baptism in water and prayer with the laying on of hands together constitute the sacramental means by which the Spirit is given to Christians. If the two sacramental acts are distinguished in thought, or separated in practice, the Spirit is thought to come in baptism to effect cleansing from sin and the new birth, and in confirmation to complete the divine indwelling.

We have tried to draft these services in such a way as neither to exclude nor to assert exclusively any one of these views. Thus, no use has been made of the *scripture passages* in Acts 8. 14-17 (Peter and John at Samaria)

and 19. 1-7 (Paul at Ephesus), since this might be thought to identify confirmation with these events. But the phrase 'after the example of thy holy apostles', which has appeared in every English Prayer Book since 1549, has been retained.

In the *confirmation prayer*, the phrase 'Strengthen them with the Holy Ghost' has been replaced with the vaguer 'Send forth upon them thy Holy Spirit', which makes no mention of the effect of the sending.

The *confirmation formula* has been replaced by something shorter, which does suggest that the laying on of hands may be a strengthening or completion of the Christian by a gift of the Spirit, as well as an occasion of grace. But the old formula is retained, to be said over all the candidates after the laying on of hands is over.

Throughout the services the Spirit has been associated alike with baptism and with confirmation. But nothing has been said which defines exclusively his function on either occasion. (The Reverend C. O. Buchanan would have desired the services more clearly to express that the work of the Spirit in sacramental initiation is complete in baptism.)

The Commission is aware of the desire for the use of language that is alive in contemporary society, and is engaged in the preparation of texts.

(Signed) R. C. D. JASPER
Chairman

2 December 1966

THE BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION OF THOSE WHO ARE OLD ENOUGH TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES

INTRODUCTION

¶ At the entry of the ministers Psalm 34. 1-8 or a hymn may be sung. 1

¶ Then shall the bishop say, 2
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who at the baptism of thy Christ in the river Jordan didst declare him to be thine only begotten Son; Grant that in baptism *these* thy *servants* may be made his *members* by thy Holy Spirit, and become thy *children* in the family of thy Church; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit is alive and reigns, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ The following lesson may then be read. 3

Ezekiel 36. 25a, 26-8

Thus says the Lord: I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of

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stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

- 4 ¶ Psalm 107. 1-9 or a hymn may then be sung.
5 ¶ The following lesson shall then be read. But it may be omitted if the Old Testament lesson has been read.

1 Corinthians 12. 12, 13

Christ is like a single body with its many limbs and organs, which, many as they are, together make up one body. For indeed we were all brought into one body by baptism, in the one Spirit, whether we are Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free men, and that one Holy Spirit was poured out for us to drink.

- 6 ¶ Psalm 97. 9-12 or a hymn may then be sung.
7 ¶ The following lesson shall then be read; and when the gospel is announced, the people shall answer,

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

St Mark 1. 1-11

Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. In the prophet Isaiah it stands written: 'Here is my herald whom I send on ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. A voice crying aloud in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him".' And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism in token of repentance, for the forgiveness of sins; and they flocked to him from the whole Judaeian countryside and the city of Jerusalem, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. John was dressed in a rough coat of camel's hair, with a leather belt around

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his waist, and he fed on locusts and wild honey. His proclamation ran: 'After me comes one who is mightier than I; I am not fit to unfasten his shoes. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' It happened at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. At the moment when he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice spoke from heaven: 'Thou art my Son, my Beloved: on thee my favour rests.'

- ¶ At the end of the gospel the people shall answer, 8
Praise be to thee, O Christ.
¶ The sermon shall be preached after the gospel. 9

THE DECISION

- ¶ After the sermon the bishop shall say to those who are to be baptized (and if there are any who have already been baptized and are now to be confirmed, they too shall answer), 10

Those who are to be baptized (and confirmed) must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask:

- Do you turn to Christ? 11
I turn to Christ.
Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.
Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

- ¶ The bishop and other ministers shall go to the font with those who are to be baptized: and meanwhile Psalm 42. 1-7 or a hymn may be sung. 12

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

- 13 ¶ The bishop shall then say,
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

We give thanks to thee, almighty Father, everlasting God, through thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Because by his death and resurrection thou hast broken the power of evil, and by thy sending of the Spirit thou hast made us new men in the family of thy Church;

Bless, we pray thee, this water, that all who are baptized in it may be born again in Christ; that being baptized into his death, and receiving forgiveness of all their sins, they may know the power of his resurrection, and may walk in newness of life;

Through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the same Spirit be all might, majesty, dominion, and power, throughout all ages, world without end. *Amen.*

THE BAPTISM

- 14 ¶ The minister who baptizes shall say to those who are to be baptized (and if there are any who have already been baptized and are now to be confirmed, they too shall answer),

You have come here to be baptized. You stand in the presence of God and his Church. You must now make the Christian profession in which you are to be baptized.

ADULT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world? 15

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who sanctifies the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

- ¶ Each person to be baptized shall then come to the font, and the minister, having asked *his* name, shall pour water upon him, saying,

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

- ¶ One of the ministers shall make a cross upon the forehead of each one of them, saying, 17

I sign you with the sign ✠ of the cross,

- ¶ And here the people shall join with him, saying, 18

To show that you must not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto your life's end.

- ¶ One of the ministers may then give to each one of them a lighted candle, saying, 19

I give you this sign,

- ¶ And here the people shall join with him, saying, 20

To show that you have passed from darkness to light; that henceforth you may shine as light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

- 21 ¶ The ministers and people may then say to all the newly-baptized,

God has received you by Baptism into his Church.
We therefore welcome you into the Lord's family,
As *fellow-members* of the body of Christ,
As *children* of the same heavenly Father,
As *inheritors* with us of the kingdom of God.

THE CONFIRMATION

- 22 ¶ Then the bishop shall at once minister Confirmation. All who are to be confirmed shall kneel before him; and he shall stand facing them, and shall say,

Our help is in the name of the Lord;
Who has made heaven and earth.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Henceforth, world without end.

- 23 ¶ Stretching out his hands towards those who are to be confirmed, he shall say,

Almighty and everliving God, who in baptism hast caused thy *servants* to be born again by water and the Spirit, and hast given unto *them* forgiveness of all *their* sins:

Send forth upon *them* thy Holy Spirit;
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
The Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
The Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
And fill *them*, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear.

- 24 ¶ And all the people shall say,
Amen.

ADULT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

- ¶ The bishop shall then lay his hand upon the head of each one of them, saying, 25

Confirm, O Lord, thy servant (*N*) with thy Holy Spirit.

- ¶ And each one shall answer, 26
Amen.

- ¶ When all have been confirmed, the bishop and people shall say, 27

Defend, O Lord, *these* thy *servants* with thy heavenly grace,

That *they* may continue thine for ever,
And daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more,
Until *they* come unto thy everlasting kingdom.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

- ¶ The bishop shall at once begin the Communion at the Preparation of the Bread and Wine; and the newly-confirmed shall communicate with him. In place of the prayers at the conclusion of the Communion, he may use the final prayer (30) in this Order ("Almighty God, we thank thee . . ."). 28

THE PRAYERS

- ¶ But if there is no Communion, the bishop and people shall say, 29

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:

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And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

30 ¶ The bishop shall then say,

Almighty God, we thank thee that by thy Holy Spirit thou hast given unto *these* thy *servants* the gift of eternal life; and we pray that they may be strengthened by the body and blood of thy Son to serve thee faithfully with all thy people; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

31 The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II

THE BAPTISM OF THOSE WHO ARE OLD ENOUGH TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES

¶ When Baptism without Confirmation is ministered at the Holy Communion, the priest shall say and do everything set out in the foregoing order up to and including the Signing with the Cross. He shall then at once begin the Preparation of the Bread and Wine. In place of the prayers at the conclusion of the Communion, he may use the final prayer (35) in this Order ("We thank thee, O Father . . ."). 32

¶ When Baptism without Confirmation is ministered at Morning or Evening Prayer, the office shall be sung or said to the end of the second lesson. The priest shall then omit all else in the foregoing Order, and shall at once begin with the sermon. And after the Signing with the Cross he shall continue the office at the last canticle. And note that Ezekiel 36. 25a, 26-8 may be read for the first lesson, and for the second lesson either Mark 1. 1-11 or 1 Corinthians 12. 12, 13. 33

¶ When Baptism is ministered as a separate service, the priest shall say and do everything set out in the foregoing Order up to and including the Signing with the Cross. Then shall be said, 34

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. Amen.

35 ¶ The priest, or priest and people together, shall then say,

We thank thee, O Father,
That by thy Holy Spirit
Thou hast caused *these persons* to be born again,
To become thine own by adoption,
And *members* of thy Church.
And we pray thee, O Father,
That, fulfilled by thy Spirit,
They may live and grow in thy service
And attain thy promises;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

36 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore. Amen.

37 ¶ If Baptism and Confirmation, or Baptism only, are ministered at the Communion on Christmas Day, Easter Day, the Ascension Day, or Whitsunday, the collect, epistle, and gospel of the day shall be read in place of those in the foregoing Order. And if Baptism is ministered at Morning or Evening Prayer on these days, the lessons appointed for the day shall always be read.

THE BAPTISM OF THOSE
WHO ARE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO
ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES

The Preface

38

It is the practice of the Church of England to admit to Baptism those who are not old enough to profess the Christian faith. But this is done on the understanding that they will receive a Christian upbringing. This means that they will be taught the Christian religion and encouraged to practise it, until such time as they present themselves to the bishop for Confirmation, and publicly profess the faith in which they have been baptized.

Before proceeding to baptize a child, the priest shall ask the parents and sponsors whether he has been baptized before. He shall also ask them:

whether they are prepared to the best of their ability to give him a Christian upbringing within the family of Christ's Church;

whether they will help him to be regular in public worship and in private prayer, not only by their teaching, but also by their example and their prayers;

whether they will encourage him in due time to come to Confirmation and Communion.

¶ The priest shall say to the whole congregation:

39

The Gospel tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ was himself baptized for our sake in the river Jordan and

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the Spirit came upon him. Listen to his command to his disciples after his resurrection. 'Full authority in heaven and earth has been committed to me. Go forth therefore and make all nations my disciples; baptize men everywhere in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And be assured, I am with you always, to the end of time.'

On the day of Pentecost St Peter obeyed this command, saying 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

Let us therefore thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ for our own baptism and say together:

40 Heavenly Father, we give thee thanks
That thou hast called us to the knowledge of thy grace
And to faith in thee.
Increase this knowledge,
And confirm this faith in us all our days,
Through the power of thy Holy Spirit,
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

41 ¶ And the priest shall continue, saying,
Our Lord Jesus Christ took children in his arms and blessed them, saying. 'Let the children come to me: do not try to stop them: for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.'

Again he said, 'In truth, I tell you, unless a man has been born over again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and spirit.'

Let us pray for *these children* whom we bring to baptism in the name of our Lord, and say together:

INFANT BAPTISM

Heavenly Father, grant that by thy Holy Spirit 42
These children may be born again
And brought to know thee
In the family of thy Church;
That in newness of life
They may overcome evil
And grow in grace unto *their lives'* end;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE DECISION

¶ The priest shall say to the parents and sponsors, 43
Those who bring children to be baptized must affirm
their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that
is evil.

It is your duty to bring up *these children* to fight
against evil and to follow Christ.
Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ? 44
I turn to Christ.
Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.
Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

¶ The priest shall go to the font with the parents and sponsors 45
and the children to be baptized, and shall say,
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Let us pray.

We give thanks to thee, almighty Father, everlasting God, through thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Because by his death and resurrection thou hast overcome the power of evil, and by thy sending of the Spirit thou hast made us new men in the family of thy Church;

Bless, we pray thee, this water, that all who are baptized in it may be born again in Christ; that, being baptized into his death, and receiving forgiveness of all their sins, they may know the power of his resurrection, and may walk in newness of life;

Through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the same Spirit be all might, majesty, dominion, and power, throughout all ages, world without end. *Amen.*

THE BAPTISM

46 ¶ The priest shall then say to the parents and sponsors,

You have brought *these children* to Baptism. You stand in the presence of God and his Church. You must now make the Christian profession in which *they* are to be baptized, and in which you will bring *them* up.

47 Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who sanctifies the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

INFANT BAPTISM

¶ The priest shall then take each child, and having asked *his* name, shall pour water upon *him*, saying, 48

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

¶ The priest shall make a cross upon the forehead of each child, saying, 49

I sign you with the sign ☩ of the cross,

¶ And here the people shall join with him, saying, 50

To show that you must not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto your life's end.

¶ The priest may give to the parent or sponsor of each child a lighted candle, saying to the child, 51

I give you this sign,

¶ And here the people shall join with him, saying, 52

To show that you have passed from darkness to light; that henceforth you may shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.

¶ Priest and people together may then say to all the newly-baptized, 53

God has received you by Baptism into his Church. We therefore welcome you into the Lord's family,
As *fellow-members* of the body of Christ,
As *children* of the same heavenly Father,
As *inheritors* with us of the kingdom of God.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

THE PRAYERS

54 ¶ Then shall be said,

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. Amen.

55 ¶ Then the priest shall say,

We thank thee, O Father, that by thy Holy Spirit thou hast caused *these children* to be born again, to become thine own by adoption, and *members* of thy Church.

Grant that they may grow in the faith in which they have been baptized;

Grant that *they themselves* may profess it when *they* come to be confirmed; and

Grant that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

56 Bless, we pray thee, the *parents* of *these children*; Give *them* the Spirit of wisdom and love, that *their* home may be an image of thy eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

57 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

INFANT BAPTISM

¶ When Baptism is ministered at the Holy Communion; the priest shall proceed in the communion service to the end of the gospel. He shall then preach the sermon; and after that he may begin the foregoing Order at the Decision, and continue up to and including the Signing with the Cross. He shall then at once continue the Communion at the Preparation of the Bread and Wine. In place of the prayers at the conclusion of the Communion, he may use the foregoing prayer (55) in this Order ("We thank thee, O Father . . .").

¶ When Baptism is ministered at Morning or Evening Prayer, the office shall be sung or said to the end of the second lesson. The priest may then begin the foregoing Order at the Decision. And after the Signing with the Cross, the office shall be resumed at the last canticle.

IV

THE CONFIRMATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED AND ARE NOW OLD ENOUGH TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES

INTRODUCTION

60 ¶ The bishop shall say,

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who by thy Holy Spirit hast called *these* thy *servants*, and made *them* thy *children* in the waters of baptism:

Mercifully grant that, being fulfilled by the same Spirit, and strengthened by the body and blood of thy Son, *they* may continue thy *servants* and attain thy promises;

Through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit is alive and reigns, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

61 ¶ One or more of the following lessons, or some other passage of scripture,¹ shall then be read.

¹ The following readings are suggested as possible alternatives to the Old and New Testament lessons provided in the text: Joshua 24. 14a, 15a, c, 16a, 17a, 18b, 19a, 21-4; Jeremiah 31. 31-4; Romans 8. 11-17; Galatians 5. 16-25; John 3. 1-8; Luke 24. 45-end.

CONFIRMATION

Ezekiel 36. 25a, 26-8

Thus says the Lord: I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

1 Corinthians 12. 12, 13

62

Christ is like a single body with its many limbs and organs, which, many as they are, together make up one body. For indeed we were all brought into one body by baptism, in the one Spirit, whether we are Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free men, and that one Holy Spirit was poured out for us to drink.

St John 14. 15-17

63

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will obey my commands; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another to be your Advocate, who will be with you for ever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive him, because the world neither sees him nor knows him; but you know him, because he dwells with you and is in you.'

THE DECISION

64

¶ The bishop shall say to those who are to be confirmed,

Those who are to be confirmed must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask:

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

- 65 Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.
Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.
Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

- 66 ¶ The bishop shall then say to them,
You have come here to be confirmed. You stand in the presence of God and his Church. You must now yourselves make the Christian profession in which you were baptized.
- 67 Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?
I believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?
I believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who sanctifies the people of God?
I believe and trust in him.

THE CONFIRMATION

- 68 ¶ Then the bishop shall at once minister Confirmation. All who are to be confirmed shall kneel before him; and he shall stand facing them, and shall say,
Our help is in the name of the Lord:
Who has made heaven and earth.
Blessed be the name of the Lord:
Henceforth, world without end.

CONFIRMATION

- ¶ Stretching out his hands towards those who are to be confirmed, he shall say, 69

Almighty and everliving God, who in baptism hast caused thy *servants* to be born again by water and the Spirit, and hast given unto *them* forgiveness of all *their* sins:

Send forth upon *them* thy Holy Spirit;
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
The Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
The Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
And fill *them*, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear.

- ¶ And all the people shall say, 70

Amen.

- ¶ The bishop shall then lay his hand upon the head of each one of them, saying, 71

Confirm, O Lord, thy servant (*N*) with thy Holy Spirit.

- ¶ And each one shall answer, 72

Amen.

- ¶ When all have been confirmed, the bishop and people shall say, 73

Defend, O Lord, *these* thy *servants* with thy heavenly grace,
That *they* may continue thine for ever,
And daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more,
Until *they* come unto thy everlasting kingdom.

THE PRAYERS

- ¶ Then shall be said, 74

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

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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. Amen.

75 ¶ The bishop shall then say,

Almighty and everliving God, 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 assure *them* by this sign of thy favour and goodness towards *them*. Let thy fatherly hand, we beseech thee, ever be over *them*; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; strengthen *them* evermore with the body and blood of thy Son; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of thy word, that in the end *they* may obtain everlasting life; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

76 ¶ The bishop shall then give the blessing.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

77 ¶ When Confirmation is ministered at the Holy Communion, the opening prayer may be used in place of the collect of the day, and the lessons in place of the epistle and gospel.¹ After the gospel and sermon, the bishop shall proceed with the Decision, the Profession of Faith, and the Confirmation. He may then at once begin the Preparation of the Bread and Wine; and in place of the prayers at the conclusion of the Communion, he may use the final prayer of the Order of Confirmation (75).

¹ But if Confirmation is ministered at the Holy Communion on Christmas Day, Easter Day, the Ascension Day, or Whitsunday, the collect, epistle, and gospel of the day shall always be read.