

Alternative Services
Second Series

**BAPTISM AND
CONFIRMATION**

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Notes

Sections not preceded by the symbol ► may be omitted.

Except in sections 23 and 69, the printing of prayers in short lines shows that the People, the candidates, or the parents and sponsors should or may join with the minister.

Responses are printed in *italics*.

The pointing of the psalms is explained on p. 26.

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1. The Baptism and Confirmation of those who are old enough to answer for themselves

Introduction

1. At the entry of the Ministers Psalm 34. 1–8 or a hymn may be sung.¹

- ▶ 2. Then shall the Bishop say,

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.*

3. The following lesson may then be read.

Ezekiel 36. 25a, 26–8

Thus says the Lord God: 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 The text of all the psalms included in this Order will be found in the Appendix of Psalms on pp. 21–3.

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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 all of 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.

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 Judaeen country-side 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 round 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

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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.'

- ▶ 8. At the end of the Gospel the People shall answer,
Praise be to thee, O Christ.
- ▶ 9. The sermon shall be preached after the Gospel.

The Decision

- ▶ 10. 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),

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:

- ▶ 11. 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.
- ▶ 12. 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.

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.

- ▶ 15. 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.

- ▶ 16. Each person to be baptized shall then come to the font, and the Minister, having asked *his* name, shall dip *him* in the water, or 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

- ▶ 17. One of the Ministers shall make a cross upon the forehead of each one of them, saying,

I sign you with the sign ✠ of the cross,

- ▶ 18. And here the People shall join with him, saying, 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.

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

I give you this sign,

- 20. And here the People shall join with him, saying,

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.

- 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.
- ▶ 25. The Bishop shall then lay his hand upon the head of each one of them, saying,
Confirm, O Lord, thy servant [N.] with thy Holy Spirit.
- ▶ 26. And each one shall answer,
Amen.
- ▶ 27. When all have been confirmed, the Bishop and People shall say,
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

- ▶ 28. The Bishop shall at once begin the Communion at the Preparation of the People or 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* etc.).

The Prayers

- ▶ 29. But if there is no Communion, the Bishop and People shall say,
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.
- ▶ 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.*

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

- ▶ 32. 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 People or 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* etc.).
- ▶ 33. 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. 25*a*, 26–8 may be read for the first lesson, and for the second lesson either Mark 1. 1–11 or 1 Corinthians 12. 12, 13.¹
- ▶ 34. 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,

**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.**

¹ The text of these passages is given on pp. 1–3 above.

- ▶ 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.

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

▶ 38. *The Preface*

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.

▶ 39. *The Priest shall say to the whole Congregation:*

The Gospel tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ was himself baptized for our sake in the River Jordan and the Spirit came upon him. Listen to his command to his disciples after his resurrection. 'Full authority in heaven and on 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:

- ▶ 42. Heavenly Father, grant that by thy Holy Spirit

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

- ▶ 43. The Priest shall say to the parents and sponsors,
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:

- ▶ 44. 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 Blessing of the Water

- ▶ 45. The Priest shall go to the font with the parents and sponsors and the children to be baptized, and shall 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

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 48. The Priest shall then take each child, and having asked *his* name, shall dip *him* in the water, or 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

- ▶ 49. The Priest shall make a cross upon the forehead of each child, saying,
I sign you with the sign ✠ of the cross,
- ▶ 50. And here the People shall join with him, saying,
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.

51. The Priest may give to the parent or sponsor of each child a
lighted candle, saying to the child,
I give you this sign,

52. And here the People shall join with him, saying,
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.

53. Priest and People together 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 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.

58. 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
People or 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* etc.).

59. 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.

4. 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.

Ezekiel 36. 25a, 26-8

Thus says the Lord God: 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

¹ Readings suggested as possible alternatives to the Old and New Testament lessons provided in the text are given in the Appendix of Scripture Passages on pp. 23-5.

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.

62. 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 all of us to drink.

63. John 14. 15-17

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 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:
- ▶ 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.**
- ▶ 69. 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**

- ▶ 70. And all the People shall say,
Amen.
- ▶ 71. The Bishop shall then lay his hand upon the head of each one of them, saying,
Confirm, O Lord, thy servant [N.] with thy Holy Spirit.
- ▶ 72. And each one shall answer,
Amen.
- ▶ 73. When all have been confirmed, the Bishop and People shall say,
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

- ▶ 74. 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.**
- ▶ 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

Confirmation

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 shall then at once begin the Preparation of the People or 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.

Appendix of Psalms

Psalm 34. 1-8

- 1 I will alway give thanks / unto · the / Lord:
his praise shall / ever · be / in my / mouth.
- 2 My soul shall make her / boast · in the / Lord:
the humble shall / hear there-/of · and be / glad.
- 3 O praise the / Lord with / me:
and let us / magnify · his / Name to-/gether.
- 4 I sought the Lord / and he / heard me:
yea he delivered me / out of / all my / fears.
- 5 They looked unto him and were / made / glad:
and their / faces · were / not a-/shamed.
- 6 Here is a poor man who cried and the / Lord / heard him:
yea and saved him / out of / all his / troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord dwelleth round about / them that /
fear him:
and delivereth / them in / time of / need.
- 8 O taste and see how / gracious · the / Lord is:
blessèd is the / man that / trusteth · in / him.
Glory be to the Father, * and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, * is now and / ever / shall be:
world without / end. / A-/men.

Psalm 107. 1-9

- 1 O give thanks unto the Lord, for / he is / gracious:
and his / mercy · en-/dureth · for / ever;
- 2 This let them say whom the / Lord · hath re-/deemed:
whom he hath redeemed / from the / hand · of the / enemy,
- †3 And gathered them out of the lands, * from the east and /
from the / west:
from the / north and / from the / south.
- 4 Some went astray in the wilderness, * even / in the / desert:
and found no way to a / city / where men / dwelt;
- 5 They were / hungry · and / thirsty:
and their / soul / fainted · with-/in them.
- 6 Then they cried unto the / Lord · in their / trouble:
and he delivered them / out of / their dis-/tress.
- 7 He led them by a / straight / path:
until they came to a / city: / where men / dwelt.

- 8 O that men would therefore praise the / Lord · for his /
goodness:
and for the wonders that he / doeth · for the / children · of /
men;
- 9 For he satisfieth the / thirsty / soul:
and filleth the / hungry / soul with / good.
- Glory be to the Father, * and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, * is now and / ever / shall be:
world without / end. / A-/men.

Psalm 97. 9-12

- 9 Thou Lord art most high over / all the / earth:
thou art exalted / far a-/bove all / gods.
- 10 The Lord loveth / them that · hate / evil:
he preserveth the lives of his servants, * and shall deliver
them from the / hand of / the un-/godly.
- 11 There is sprung up a / light · for the / righteous:
and joyful gladness for / such · as are / true of / heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the / Lord ye / righteous:
and give thanks at the re-/membrance / of his / holiness.
- Glory be to the Father, * and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, * is now and / ever / shall be:
world without / end. / A-/men.

Psalm 42. 1-7

- 1 Like as the hart de-/sireth · the / water-brooks:
so longeth my / soul · after / thee O / God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, * yea even for the / living / God:
when shall I come to appear be-/fore the / presence · of /
God?
- 3 My tears have been my meat / day and / night:
while they daily say unto me / 'Where is / now thy / God?'
- 4 Now when I think thereupon I / pour out · my / heart:
when I remember how I went with the multitude, * and
brought them / into · the / house of / God,
- †5 With the voice of / praise and / thanksgiving:
among / them that / kept / holy-day.
- 6 Why art thou so full of heaviness / O my / soul:
and why art thou / so dis-/quieted · with-/in me?

- 7 O put thy / trust in / God:
for I will yet give him thanks, * who is the help of my /
countenance, / and my / God.
- Glory be to the Father, * and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, * is now and / ever / shall be:
world without / end. / A-/men.

Appendix of Scripture Passages

Joshua 24. 14-24 (abbreviated)

Joshua said to all the people, 'Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'

Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord; for he is a holy God.' And the people said to Joshua, 'Nay; but we will serve the Lord.' Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.' And the people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.'

Jeremiah 31. 31-4

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbour and each his brother,

saying, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Romans 8. 11-17

Moreover, if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells within you, then the God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give new life to your mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.

It follows, my friends, that our lower nature has no claim upon us; we are not obliged to live on that level. If you do so, you must die. But if by the Spirit you put to death all the base pursuits of the body, then you will live.

For all who are moved by the Spirit of God are sons of God. The Spirit you have received is not a spirit of slavery leading you back into a life of fear, but a Spirit that makes us sons, enabling us to cry 'Abba! Father!' In that cry the Spirit of God joins with our spirit in testifying that we are God's children; and if children, then heirs. We are God's heirs and Christ's fellow-heirs, if we share his sufferings now in order to share his splendour hereafter.

Galatians 5. 16-25

If you are guided by the Spirit you will not fulfil the desires of your lower nature. That nature sets its desires against the Spirit, while the Spirit fights against it. They are in conflict with one another so that what you will to do you cannot do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

Anyone can see the kind of behaviour that belongs to the lower nature: fornication, impurity, and indecency; idolatry and sorcery; quarrels, a contentious temper, envy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions, party intrigues, and jealousies; drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who behave in such ways will never inherit the kingdom of God.

But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law dealing with such things as these. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the lower nature with its passions and desires. If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct our course.

John 3. 1-8

There was one of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish Council, who came to Jesus by night. 'Rabbi,' he said, 'we know that you are a teacher sent by God; no one could perform these signs of yours unless God were with him.' Jesus answered, 'In truth, in very truth I tell you, unless a man has been born over again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' 'But how is it possible', said Nicodemus, 'for a man to be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?' Jesus answered, 'In truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and spirit. Flesh can give birth only to flesh; it is spirit that gives birth to spirit. You ought not to be astonished, then, when I tell you that you must be born over again. The wind blows where it wills; you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from, or where it is going. So with everyone who is born from spirit.'

Luke 24. 45-end

Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures. 'This', he said, 'is what is written: that the Messiah is to suffer death and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that in his name repentance bringing the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to all nations. Begin from Jerusalem: it is you who are the witnesses to all this. And mark this: I am sending upon you my Father's promised gift; so stay here in this city until you are armed with the power from above.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and blessed them with uplifted hands; and in the act of blessing he parted from them. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and spent all their time in the temple praising God.

Publishers' Note

The use of paragraphs not marked with the symbol ► is optional. Responses printed in *italics* are to be said by the People, the candidates, or the parents and sponsors, alone; where they are expected to join in with the Minister or where they are free to do so if it is wished, the text is set out in short lines. But sections 23 and 69, though set out thus, are to be said by the Bishop alone.

The pointing of the Psalms conforms to the following principles: The bar-mark [/] corresponds with the bar-lines in the chant; the inverted dot [·] shows how, when there are more than two syllables between bar-marks, they are to be distributed between the notes in the bar; the obelus [†] indicates that the second half of a double chant is to be sung to the verse; the asterisk [*] shows where breath is to be taken.

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