

# Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion

¶ *Preparation*  
**Welcome**

*Prayer of Preparation*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open all desires know and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will  
follow me

all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

## **SONG: The Lord's my shepherd 1030**

### **The Greeting**

*The bishop greets the people*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

**All There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**All one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**All and also with you.**

*The bishop offers informal words of welcome.*

### **The Collect**

*The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'*

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit

you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,

that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,

and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**SONG:** My hope is built (Cornerstone 2976)

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

**Readings**  
**Colossians 1:1–14**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**SONG:** O God of burning, cleansing flame 955

**Gospel Reading**  
**Luke 10:25–37**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Bishop Lynne Cullens**

**SONG:** In Christ Alone 1346

¶ *The Liturgy of Initiation*  
**Presentation of the Candidates**

*The candidates are presented to the congregation, usually by those who have prepared them.  
The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized together with those  
who wish to affirm their baptismal faith*

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit?

*I have.*

*The bishop asks all the candidates*

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart  
to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

*I am.*

*Testimony by the candidates may follow.*

*The bishop addresses the whole congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life  
in Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

## The Decision

### *The bishop addresses all the candidates*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.  
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?  
*I reject them.*

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?  
*I renounce them.*

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?  
*I repent of them.*

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?  
*I turn to Christ.*

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?  
*I submit to Christ.*

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?  
*I come to Christ.*

### *The bishop says*

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,  
give you the strength to follow in the Way.

**All Amen.**

## Prayer over the Water

### *The ministers and candidates for confirmation and affirmation of baptismal faith gather at the baptismal font.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death  
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.  
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,  
may daily be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith,  
and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

## Profession of Faith

*The bishop addresses the congregation*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess  
together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized together with those affirming their baptismal faith may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them.*

*Then the president says*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptized into your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

**SONG:** Holy Spirit we welcome you (188)

## Confirmation

*The bishop and candidates gather at the place of confirmation. A hymn, chant or litany may be used.*

*The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed and says*

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**All who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

**All now and for ever. Amen.**

*The bishop extends their hands towards those to be confirmed and says*

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you have given these your servants new birth  
in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them all their sins.  
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The bishop addresses each candidate by name and anoints them with oil*  
N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

*The bishop then lays their hand on the head of each candidate, saying*  
Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid*

**All Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,  
that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy  
Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom.  
Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*The bishop introduces the Peace in these or other suitable words or seasonal provisions*

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us  
and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

**SONG:** All the way my Saviour leads me | 162

## **OFFERTORY**

*A collection will be taken for the LMDC (Charity for Licensed Ministers in the Diocese of Chelmsford) which supports clergy and licensed lay ministers in times of financial hardship.*

## **PRAYER**

Gracious God, for all you have given us, all you will give us and all you give us here and now, we offer you our thanks and praise. Bless this offering of our money and of ourselves to be used in your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## INTERCESSION

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen*

¶ *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

## PERSONAL PRAYER DURING COMMUNION

*During communion there will be an opportunity to receive prayer and anointing with oil from a member of our prayer team. If you would like someone to pray with you, please head to the prayer corner **after** receiving communion.*

**SONG:** *(During the preparation of the table)*  
*Jesus remember me... (875)*

## Preparation of the Table

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All** **All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*The bishop says*

The Lord be with you  
**All** **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All** **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.  
And now we give you thanks  
because by water and the Holy Spirit  
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
you raise us to new life in him  
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The bishop breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.



*Prayer of humble access*

**All** We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son  
Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made  
clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
**Amen.**

*The bishop and people receive communion.*

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*

**SONGS:**

Purify my heart 475

Jesus all for Jesus 1376

All to Jesus I surrender 1163

**Prayer after Communion**

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your  
service: stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit, and make us worthy of our  
calling; that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKS**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your  
Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living  
sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your  
praise and glory. Amen.**

**¶ The Sending Out**

**Commission**

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.  
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking  
peace and justice?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and  
grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**All Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

## **NOTICES AND BIRTHDAYS**

### **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

*During the singing of the hymn, the bishop gives each of the newly confirmed a lighted candle,  
usually lit from the Paschal candle.*

### **SONG: Go forth and tell 738**

*When all have received a candle, the bishop says*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

### **The Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The bishop leads the candidates out of the church to symbolise taking the light of Christ into the  
world. Other ministers/servers/choir follow afterwards.*