

*Bishop:* O God great in might and inscrutable in wisdom, marvelous in counsel above the sons of men: Do Thou, the same Lord, fill with the gift of Thy Holy Spirit these men whom it hath pleased Thee to advance to the degree of Priest; that they may be worthy to stand in innocency before thine Altar; to proclaim the Gospel of Thy kingdom; to minister the word of Thy truth; to offer unto Thee spiritual gifts and sacrifices; to renew Thy people through the laver of regeneration. That when they shall go to meet Thee, at the Second Coming of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, Thine Only-begotten Son, they may receive the reward of a good steward in the degree committed unto them, through the plenitude of Thy goodness, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

*The congregation shall join in unison:*

*Response:* **For blessed and glorified is Thine All-Holy and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.**

*Then shall the Bishop grasp the hands of the kneeling Priests and lift them to their feet and shall say loudly:*

*Bishop:* AXIOS!

*And the congregation shall reply in unison:*

*Response:* **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!  
AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!  
AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Then, the Ordination being complete, shall the Eucharist continue.*



**The Sacrament of Holy Orders  
according to the use of  
The Orthodox Apostolic Church**

**Ceremony of Salisbury  
for celebration in parishes of the Western Rite**

**HOLY COMFORTER ORTHODOX CHURCH  
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

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in the hope that all people may enjoy the  
Presence of God  
in their lives.

Please, do not sin.

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*Bishop:* Take thou authority to preach the Word of God, and to minister the Holy Mysteries in and to the Congregation of the Orthodox Faithful.

*Then shall the Bishop say:*

*Bishop:* Let us pray, let us bow the knee.

KNEEL

*All shall kneel as the Bishop prays:*

*Bishop:* O God, Who hast no beginning and no ending; Who art older than every created thing; Who crownest with the name of Presbyter those whom Thou deemest worthy to serve the word of Thy truth in the divine ministry of this degree: Do Thou, the same Lord of all men, deign to preserve in pureness of life and in unswerving faith these men also, upon whom, through me, Thou has graciously been pleased to lay hands. Be favorably pleased to grant unto them the great grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and make them wholly Thy servants, in all things acceptable unto Thee, and worthily exercising the great honors of the priesthood which Thou hast conferred upon them by Thy prescient power.

*The congregation shall join in unison:*

*Response:* **For Thine is the majesty, and Thine are the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

*Then shall the Bishop approach the kneeling recently ordained priests and, laying his hand upon their heads, shall pray as follows:*

*And the congregation shall respond in unison:*

*Response:*     **AMEN.**

*When this prayer is done, the Bishop shall lay his hands severally upon the heads of the Ordinands and shall pronounce aloud, in the hearing of all those who stand in the Church:*

*Bishop:*       The Grace Divine, which always healeth that which is infirm, and completeth that which is wanting, elevateth through the laying on of hands, N., the most devout Deacon, to be a Priest. Wherefore let us pray for him, that the grace of the all-holy Spirit may come upon him.

*His hands still upon the head of the Ordinand, the Bishop shall add:*

*Bishop:*       Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the same Holy Ghost through the imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained. And be thou a faithful Dispenser of the Word of God, and of His Holy Mysteries; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Then shall the Priests rise, and in the presence of the congregation shall vest with the chasuble, and the Bishop himself shall place the stole upon them saying:*

*Bishop:*       Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

*Then shall the Priests kneel, and the Bishop shall deliver to each of them the Bible into his hand, saying:*

## **The Form and Manner of Ordaining a Subdeacon**

*Ordinations take place during the Divine Liturgy, and will be performed by the Bishop. After the recitation of the Creed, the candidate(s) to be ordained Subdeacon shall stand reverently before the Bishop, who is seated on his Throne, and the Bishop shall say:*

*Bishop:*       Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the Canons of this Church, to the ministry of a Subdeacon?

*Candidates:*   I think it.

*Bishop:*       Do you truly believe the tenets of the Orthodox faith as contained in the Creed called the Nicene Creed, and do you publicly confess the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

*Candidates:*   I do certainly believe the tenets of the Orthodox Faith as contained and set out in the Nicene Creed, and I here now confess before men that the Lord Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.

*Bishop:*       Will you be a faithful son and servant of God in the degree committed to you in Christ's Church?

*Candidates:*   I will do so, God being my helper.

*Bishop:*       Will you be diligent to carry out your duties as you are requested to do by those set over you in the Church, to obey reverently your Bishop and other Chief Ministers, who according to the Canons of the Church, may have the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

*Candidates:* I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* It pertaineth to the office of a Subdeacon to help and assist the priest and deacon, if necessary, during the Divine Liturgy, to assist the priest in the service of the Holy Communion if a deacon be not present, or if required to do so; to read the Epistle as may be required during the service of the Holy Eucharist; to visit the sick and needy; to pray for those who need succor from Almighty God, and, if specially licensed by the Bishop to do so, to preach and conduct services of prayer and worship other than the Divine Liturgy in the Church or elsewhere as may be permitted by the Bishop. Are you able and willing to undertake these tasks with cheerful heart and in the fear of God?

*Candidates:* I am able and willing so to do, as God leads and makes possible.

STAND

*The congregation shall rise and the Bishop shall pray this prayer:*

*Bishop:* Almighty God, who of His great mercy hath brought you to this place and to this occasion, and hath inspired your heart to undertake a work in the vineyard of the Lord, make you able to be obedient to His Holy Will that His perfect work may be done in you, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

*To which the congregation shall respond in unison:*

*Response:* **AMEN!**

*Bishop:* Almighty God and Heavenly Father, who, of thine infinite love and goodness towards us, hast given to us thy only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the Author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Doctors, and Pastors, by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all the parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy Name: For these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness, and for that thou hast vouchsafed to call these thy servants here present to the same Office and Ministry, appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto thee most hearty thanks, we praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee, by the same thy blessed Son, to grant unto all, which either here or elsewhere call upon thy Holy Name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee for these and all thy other benefits; and that we may daily increase and go forwards in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these thy Ministers, as by them over whom they shall be appointed thy Ministers, thy holy Name may be for ever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end.

*The congregation shall loudly proclaim in unison:*

*Response:*    **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Bishop:*       Remember the great treasure committed to their charge, the very sheep of Christ, the Good Shepherd, which He bought with His death, and for whom He shed His blood. The Church and Congregation which they must serve is His Spouse, and His Body. Again we ask, are these men worthy?

*The congregation shall loudly proclaim in unison:*

*Response:*    **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Bishop:*       Remember also that they may never cease their labor, their care and diligence, until they have done all that lieth in them, according to their bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to their charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfection of age in Christ, that there be no place left among them, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life. Considering this great undertaking, we ask yet again, are these men worthy?

*The congregation shall loudly proclaim in unison:*

*Response:*    **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Bishop:*       Let us pray.

*The Candidates for Ordination shall approach the altar, and, not more than two at a time, shall bow the knee in front of the Altar and shall place their brow between their palms crossed upon the Holy Altar, and the Bishop shall pray the following prayer:*

BE SEATED

*The Bishop shall indicate to the people to be seated and shall say:*

*Bishop:*       Good people, God willing we purpose to admit this day unto the holy office of Subdeacon this candidate now before you, whose professions you have heard. However, if anyone here know of any crime or impediment for which he ought not to be received into this ministry, let him come forth in the Name of God and show what that crime or impediment is.

*(If any crime or impediment be objected, the Bishop shall not proceed with the service, otherwise he shall proceed as follows:)*

*Bishop:*       Good Christian people, you have heard the duties to which this Orthodox Servant of God is now called upon to undertake. I must ask you, is he worthy?

*The congregation calls out in loud unison:*

*Response:*    **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Bishop:*       Shall he be counted worthy to be admitted to this Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ?

*The congregation calls out in loud unison:*

*Response:*    **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Then shall the Bishop say:*

*Bishop:*       Let us pray.

*At these words, the Candidate(s) shall kneel, facing the altar, but near the Bishop and not touching the altar. The Bishop shall pray:*

*Bishop:* Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, bless this thy servant as he enters into thy service, and keep him to eternal life, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

*Then shall the Bishop lay hands upon the candidate and shall say:*

*Bishop:* The Grace Divine, which always healeth that which is infirm, and completeth that which is wanting, elevateth through the laying on of hands, N. the Orthodox servant of God, to be a Subdeacon. Wherefore let us pray for him that the grace of the All-Holy Spirit may come upon him.

*Then shall the Bishop assist the candidate to his feet, saying:*

*Bishop:* AXIOS!

*and the congregation shall respond:*

*Response:* AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

*Then shall the liturgy continue and the Subdeacon shall take his post among the clergy.*

*Bishop:* Good People, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, to receive this day unto the holy Office of Priesthood; for, after due examination, as you yourselves have heard, we find not to the contrary but that they are lawfully called to their Function, Order, and Ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But yet, if there be any of you who knoweth any Impediment, or notable Crime, in any of them, for the which he ought not to be received into this Holy Ministry, let him come forth in the Name of God, and show what the Crime or Impediment is.

*(If any great crime or impediment be objected, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that person, until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of that crime. If no impediment be objected, the Bishop shall proceed.)*

*Bishop:* Good Christian People, you have heard both in the Holy Gospels and in the writings of the Apostles of what great dignity and of what great importance this awesome Office is, whereunto these candidates are called. Seeing how high a Dignity it is, and how weighty a charge these men are undertaking by the power of the Holy Ghost, that is to say, to be Messengers, Watchmen, and Stewards of the Lord; to teach, to premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this naughty world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever, we are constrained to ask, are these men worthy?

*Candidate:* I will apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

*Candidate:* I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* Will you reverently obey your Bishop, and other chief Ministers, who, according to the Canons of the Church, may have the charge and government over you; following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, and submitting yourselves to their godly judgments?

*Candidate:* I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

STAND

*The congregation shall rise and the Bishop shall pray this prayer:*

*Bishop:* Almighty God, who hath given you this will to do all these things; Grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that He may accomplish His work which He hath begun in you; through Jesus Christ Our Lord,

*To which the congregation shall respond in unison:*

*Response:* **AMEN!**

*Then, still standing, shall be a period of silent prayer for a space.*

*The Bishop shall indicate to the people to be seated and shall say:*

BE SEATED

## The Form and Manner of Ordaining a Deacon

*Ordinations take place during the Divine Liturgy, and will be performed by the Bishop. The Candidate shall be vested only in the alb, additional vestments to be bestowed during the ceremony. If available, the Candidate's next of kin will participate in the ceremony by vesting the Candidate with the Dalmatic as indicated. After the recitation of the Creed, the candidate(s) to be ordained Deacon shall stand reverently before the Bishop, who is seated on his Throne, and the Bishop shall say:*

*Bishop:* Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this Office and Ministration, to serve God for the promoting of his glory and the edifying of his people?

*Candidate:* I trust so.

*Bishop:* Do you think that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the Canons of this His Church, to the Ministry of the same?

*Candidate:* I think so.

*Bishop:* Will you follow and teach the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Tradition of the Church of God, the teachings of the early fathers insofar as their doctrine is agreeable to Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition, and also the teachings of the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church?

*Candidate:* I will.

*Bishop:* Will you diligently read the Holy Scriptures unto the people assembled in the Church where you shall be appointed to serve?

*Candidate:* I will.

*Bishop:* It appertaineth to the Office of a Deacon, in the Church where he shall be appointed to serve, to assist the Priest in Divine Service, and specially when he ministereth the Holy Communion, and to help him in the distribution thereof; and to read Holy Scriptures in the Church; and to instruct the youth in connection therewith; in the absence of the Priest to baptize; and to preach if he be admitted thereto by the Bishop. And furthermore, it is his office, where provision is so made, to search for the sick, poor, and impotent people of the Parish, that they may be relieved with the alms of the Parishioners, or others. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

*Candidate:* I will do so by the help of God.

*Bishop:* Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own life, and the lives of your family, according to the Doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

*Candidate:* I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* Will you reverently obey your Bishop, and other chief Ministers, who, according to the Canons of the Church, may have the charge and government over you; following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

*Candidate:* I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* Will you be a faithful steward of the Gifts of God to His Church, The Holy Mysteries, and will you give your faithful diligence always so to minister the Holy Doctrine, the Holy Mysteries, and the Discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded, and as the Holy Orthodox Catholic Apostolic Church hath received the same, according to the commandments of God; so that you may teach the people committed to your Care and Charge with all diligence to keep and observe the same?

*Candidate:* I will do so by the help of the Lord.

*Bishop:* Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away from the Church all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole, within the flock committed to you, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

*Candidate:* I will, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* Will you be diligent in Prayers, and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

*Candidate:* I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop:* Will you be diligent to frame and fashion your own selves and your families, according to the Doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?



## The Form and Manner of Ordaining a Priest

*Ordinations take place during the Divine Liturgy, and will be performed by the Bishop. After the recitation of the Creed, the candidate(s) to be ordained Priest shall stand reverently before the Bishop, who is seated on his throne, and the Bishop shall say:*

*Bishop:* Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the Canons of this Church, to the Order and Ministry of Priesthood?

*Candidate:* I think it.

*Bishop:* Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all Doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge; and to teach nothing, as necessary to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scripture?

*Candidate:* I am so persuaded and have so determined by God's grace.

*Bishop:* Are you further persuaded that the same Holy Scripture is not of private interpretation as touching salvation, but is to be interpreted according to the teaching of the Holy Orthodox Church as handed down to us today by the Holy Tradition unchanged from the times of the Apostles of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Himself?

*Candidate:* I am so persuaded.

*Then shall the candidate to be ordained bow to the Bishop, and then turning to the Altar shall bow three times profoundly, and then shall kneel before the Altar, placing his hands on the Altar in the form of a cross, and shall place his brow between his hands on the Holy Altar, and shall say, three times:*

*Candidate:* O God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

*Then shall the Bishop rise, the candidate still kneeling, and shall face the congregation and say:*

*Bishop:* Brethren, if there be any of you who knoweth of any impediment or notable crime in this person presented to be ordered Deacon, for the which he ought not to be ordained or admitted to that Office, let him come forth in the Name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

*And if any great crime or impediment be objected, the Bishop shall cease from ordering that person, until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of that crime.*

*No objection being made, the Bishop shall continue as follows:*

*Bishop:* Brethren, I take it by your silence that there is no impediment or reason why our brother in Christ may not be ordained Deacon at this time; yet the service of our Lord Jesus Christ is so awesome, that I must ask: is he worthy?

*To which question the congregation shall reply in unison:*

*Response:* **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Bishop:* Again I ask: is he worthy?

*Response:* **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**

*Then shall the Bishop turn toward the kneeling candidate for ordination, and shall bless him three times with the Blessing Cross, saying:*

*Bishop:* The Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you, now, ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

*Then after the blessing, the Bishop shall lay both hands upon the head of the candidate for ordination, and shall say aloud so that it may be heard by everyone present:*

*Bishop:* The grace divine, which always healeth that which is infirm, and completeth that which is wanting, elevateth, through the laying on of hands, N., the most devout Subdeacon, to be a Deacon: wherefore, let us pray for him, that the grace of the all-holy Spirit may come upon him.

O Lord our God, who by thy foreknowledge dost send down the fullness of the Holy Spirit upon those who are ordained by thine inscrutable power to be thy servants, and to administer thy spotless Sacraments: do thou, the same Sovereign Master, preserve also this man, whom thou has been pleased to ordain, through me, by the laying on of hands, to the service of the Diaconate, in all soberness of life, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. Vouchsafe unto him the grace which thou didst grant to Stephen, thy first Martyr, whom, also, thou didst call to be the first in the work of thy ministry; and make him worthy to administer after thy pleasure the degree which it hath seemed good to thee to confer upon him. For they who minister well, prepare for themselves a good degree. And manifest him as wholly thy servant. For thine are the kingdom

and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*And here shall the Deacon's next of kin vest him with the Dalmatic. And after that, the Bishop, placing the stole upon his neck shall say:*

*Bishop:* AXIOS!

Let us pray.

O God our Father, Master of all men, fill this thy servant N. whom thou hast graciously permitted to enter upon the ministry of a Deacon, with all faith, and love, and power, and holiness through the inspiration of thy Holy and life-giving Spirit, for not through the laying on of my hands, but by thy same Spirit is grace bestowed upon thy worthy ones; that he, being devoid of all sin, may stand blameless before thee in the terrible Day of thy Judgment, and receive the unfailing reward of thy promise.

*And the congregation shall reply in unison:*

*Response:* AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!  
AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!  
AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

*Then shall the Eucharist continue.*