

of *his* faith and patience; comfort *him* in times of sorrow; cheer *him* when faint and weary in the way. May thy love, abounding towards *him* more and more, stir up *his* heart to greater deeds of love to thee, and to all who need *his* service. And upon all those called to the office of Subdeacon in thy Church bestow thy grace and heavenly benediction; enable them to bear each other's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Make them to know and feel their oneness in the mystical Body of thy dear Son, so that their fellowship here in words of love may prove to them a blessed discipline, and thus prepare them at last for the society of thy redeemed in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, who in thy holy Word dost commend above all goodly apparel the ornament of a quiet spirit: Adorn, we beseech thee, *this* thy *servant* with the meekness and the gentleness of Christ, that in all humility and singleness of heart, *he* may run the way of thy Commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May the Lord give *thee* wisdom, courage, strength, and love to do his will. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon *thee* and upon the work which *thou shalt* do in his name, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

¶ *Here followeth the Epistle, to be read by one of those persons newly set apart as Subdeacon. Psalm 100, "Jubilate Deo", is recommended for the Gradual Psalm.*

An Order for the Setting–Apart of Subdeacons

¶ *It is convenient that this Order should take place immediately before the Epistle at Holy Communion.*

Sponsor Reverend Father in God, I present unto you *this person*, to be set apart to the office and work of Subdeacon.

Priest Declare, we pray thee, unto those who are gathered, what the office and work of a Subdeacon are.

¶ *Then shall the Sponsor answer,*

The duties of a Subdeacon are to read the Epistles, to assist at the Holy Table, and to administer the chalice during the Eucharist; to read the Daily Offices and to study Holy Scripture; and to present an example of Christian humility and service in their daily lives.

¶ *Then shall the Priest ask,*

Hath inquiry been made into *his* life and conduct, and into *his* knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and of the doctrine and practice of the Church as set forth in the Thirty–nine Articles of Religion and the Book of Common Prayer?

Sponsor Inquiry hath been made, and *he hath* been found meet for the duties that will be required of *him*.

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Beloved, we have good confidence that *he* who *is* now presented to be set apart to the office of Subdeacon *is* competent thereto, for it hath been so certified unto us, as the Canons require, by them whose word we trust. Nevertheless, if there be any who can allege aught on account of which it is inexpedient that *this person* be so set apart, let protest now be made openly and before all men.

¶ *If no good reason be alleged by any why any should not be set apart, the following Lesson shall be read.*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye

may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. *Romans xii:1-9a*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

R. *Who hath made heaven and earth.*

V. O Lord, save thy people;

R. *And bless thine heritage.*

V. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us;

R. *As our trust is in thee.*

Almighty and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service: Look down, we beseech, on *this thy servant* who *is* now to receive authority from us for *his* work in thy Church. Pour upon *him* the abundance of thy grace, make *him* modest and humble in *his* ministrations, ready to obey those set over *him* in the Lord, diligent to prove and fashion *his* own life, and the lives of *his family*, according to thy blessed Word. Grant unto *him* to grow in the knowledge and love of thy Word, that *he* may minister to the salvation of souls, to the edification of thy Church, and to the glory of thy holy Name; so that finally *he* may have *his* portion with those who have faithfully ministered thy Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest say unto the Candidate(s):*

Dearly beloved, who *art* to be admitted as Subdeacon in the House of our God, we call upon *thee* to know the importance of that office, and to fulfil it with all reverence and godly fear. For our God is a

mighty and merciful God, who will pour upon *thee* his grace that *thou mayest* go on to perfection.

And as *thou art* set in an high place in the Church, that *thy* voice may be heard of all men, so *oughtest thou* to study to hold an high place likewise in all godly living; to the attaining of which may God bestow upon *thee* his heavenly grace.

¶ *Then shall the Priest ask of them the following questions, to which each Candidate shall answer for himself.*

Priest Wilt thou in thy ministrations observe the due order and discipline of the Church, and obey those who are set in authority over *thee*?

Answer I will.

Priest Wilt thou endeavour to frame and fashion your lives so as to be wholesome examples to the people amongst whom *thou livest*?

Answer I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

¶ *Then shall the Candidate(s) kneel, and shall the Priest say,*

Almighty God, who hath called *thee* to serve him in this holy life, give *thee* the power to fulfil this *thy* service acceptably; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Priest lay his hands severally upon the head of each person to be made Subdeacon, saying,*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and sanctify thee; and so endow thee with all faith, wisdom, and humility, that thou mayest serve before him to the glory of his great Name, and to the benefit of his Church and people; and make thee faithful unto death, and give thee the crown of everlasting life. *Amen.*

N., I admit thee to the office of Subdeacon, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O God, who didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: Grant unto *this thy servant* by the same Spirit to perceive and know what things *he* ought to do, and to have grace and strength evermore to do the same; direct *him* in all times of doubt and perplexity; strengthen *him* to bear the trial