



**A Service of Prayer
For the Discernment of a New Bishop
in the
Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes**

The following hymn may be sung or said.

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
And its confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation,
Pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts today;
With thy wonted loving kindness
Hear thy servants as they pray,
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls away.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
What they ask of thee today;
What they gain from thee forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in thy glory
Evermore with thee to reign.

(Westminster Abbey: 1982 Hymnal #518)

The Officiant may offer the following invitation.

Sisters and brothers, we are gathered to pray for the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes in its search for a new Bishop. We are confident in God's promise that "if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given." Let us therefore humbly beseech him, turning our hearts to him in prayer for our diocese, that we may confidently discern that man whom the Lord has chosen to lead us.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not
to have done.
And apart from your grace, there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare all those who confess their faults.
Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

or this: a deacon or layperson prays

Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a

quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, open our lips;

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

The Jubilate

O be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

Be assured that the Lord, he is God;
it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his court, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting,
and his truth endures from generation to generation.

The Psalm

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd,*

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;*

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;*
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;*
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.*
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



The First Lesson

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king... Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived in Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?” Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height; for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. (I Samuel 16:1, 4-13 NIV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson

Now an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap. (I Timothy 2:2-7 NIV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Third Lesson

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16: 13-19 NIV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept for a time. A homily or meditation may follow.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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 Prayers

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed by your Name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord: That it may please you to grant peace to the whole world, and to your Church.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to sanctify and bless your holy Church throughout the world.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to inspire all Bishops, Priests and Deacons with the love of you and your truth.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to endue all ministers of your Church with devotion to your glory and to the salvation of souls.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to guide by your indwelling Spirit those whom you call to the ministry of your Church; that they may go forward with courage and persevere to the end.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give wisdom by your Spirit to the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes, that your people there gathered may truly discern the man whom you have called to be their next Bishop.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in the fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit on all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people may offer petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The following hymn may be sung or said.

God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast;
Each age for thine own solemn task prepare,
Make each one stronger, nobler than the last.

Anoint them prophets! Teach them thine intent:
To human need their quickened hearts awake;
Fill them with power, their lips make eloquent
For righteousness that shall all evil break.

Make them apostles, heralds of thy cross;
Forth may they go to tell all realms thy grace:
Inspired of thee, may they count all but loss,
And stand at last with joy before thy face.

(Toulon: 1982 Hymnal #359)

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.