

Concluding Rite

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.



SERVICE



of COMMITMENT

Sacrament of Confirmation

2. For mothers and fathers – that they may give their children the care they need. **Lord hear us.**
3. For our teachers and friends – that we may all work together to make the classroom a happy place. **Lord hear us.**
4. For the sick and the suffering – that they may soon be well again. **Lord hear us.**
5. For the old and the lonely – that someone may care. **Lord hear us.**
6. For those who have died – that they may live with you forever. **Lord hear us.**

Leader: As a sign that we are going to work together to help one another to live according to God's law of love, let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Leader: God our Father sent us the Holy Spirit in Baptism; may he continue to watch over us and guide us as his children.

All: Amen.

Leader: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to enable us to live as his followers. May the risen Jesus be with us as we prepare to live as workers for the kingdom.

First Reading: A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives and your father’s home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you.
But I will curse those who curse you.
And through you I will bless all the nations.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Response: Glory and praise to you, God our king.

1. Glory and praise to you, God our king. (R)
2. Open the gates. Open the doors. The King of Glory wants to come in. (R)
3. Who is the King of Glory? He is the Lord, strong and mighty. (R)
4. Open the gates, open the doors of your hearts, so that the king may come in. (R)

answer God's call to build a kingdom of peace, love justice and truth. May they, by their efforts, give praise and glory to God.

Leader: Together let us profess our faith in God. This is the faith that has been handed on to us, the faith of the church, the faith of the followers of the risen Jesus:

CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

Apostle 6: Jesus has gone to the Father. He's working for us.

Apostle 7: He said he wouldn't leave us orphans. He said he wouldn't abandon us. He's preparing something big for us.

Apostle 8: Something big you think?

Apostle 9: Something really big. He's going to give us his Spirit. That's what he said. Don't you remember? "I will ask the Father. He will give you the Spirit."

Apostle 10: Are we going to be needed?

Apostle 11: Of course we're going to be needed. The Spirit will give us the courage to get in with the work of Jesus. We were never needed so badly. The Spirit will show us what we have to do for Jesus. The Spirit will bring us close to Jesus. The Spirit will fill us with fire and life. It will be the dawning of a new day for us. A great new day.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
When we do something for each other,
We do it for God.
Alleluia.

brothers and sisters, to respect and obey your parents?

All: We will.

Leader: Will you try at school to be more attentive in class, to lend a hand whenever it is needed, to make sure that nobody is left out, to play fairly?

All: We will.

Leader: In your neighbourhood, will you remember to take care of public property? Will you look out for times when you can lend a hand to those who are old or very young?

All: We will.

Leader: Will you take more responsibility at home, at school or in the neighbourhood?

All: We will.

Leader: Do you want to grow to be a true follower of Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

Leader: May the Spirit of God be with you and may you grow in love and knowledge of God.

Service of Commitment

Speaker: When people take on a commitment they dedicate themselves to something special. They put their hearts and their energy into something that is important to them. They know that the commitment they are undertaking will require discipline, generosity and perseverance. Commitment means responding to the needs of others.

One: Lord, you are our strength and our help. We come together to praise and thank you. We ask you to guide and bless us.

Two: Lord, we think of how different people answered the call to know and love and serve you.

Three: Abraham was willing to leave his homeland at your command.

Four: Some of the prophets faced torture and death for preaching your word.

Five: Mary said, “I am your servant. Be it done to me according to your will.”

Six: The apostles gave up everything to follow you.

Seven: Jesus himself, in his agony in the garden, said, "Not my will but thine be done."

Eight: Lord, sometimes it is very hard to follow your way. Some people in the gospels found it so hard that they walked away and would not follow Jesus.

Nine: Lord, may we never leave you. May we always be faithful to you and your church.

Ten: Dear Lord and Saviour: We follow your call when we hear you and heed you.

Eleven: We grow in your love when we pray to you daily.

Twelve: We work for your Kingdom when we love and help others.

Thirteen: We live in your grace when we keep your commandments.

Fourteen: We come especially close to you in the mass and in the sacraments.

Fifteen: Lord, may we follow you always. Help us especially when the cross is heavy.

Sixteen: We offer you the prayers works and sufferings of this day and every day. Keep us free from sin and forgive us for the times when we walked away from you.

Leader: As we gather here today, we think ahead to our celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. We think of the challenge that Jesus has given to all of us to be workers for his kingdom, to work together to help bring peace, love truth and justice into our world. We ask the Holy Spirit, who has been give to us in baptism, to help us and to guide us, to give us the courage and strength which we need if we are to live as workers for the kingdom.

Leader: I now invite those who are preparing for Confirmation to make certain promises regarding their readiness to prepare to make a commitment to live as workers for the kingdom.

All: Will you remember to pray to God our Father, to help you to live as he has asked?

Leader: We will.

All: Will you try hard at home to give good example to the younger members of your family, to work for peace rather than disagreement with your

Gospel

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

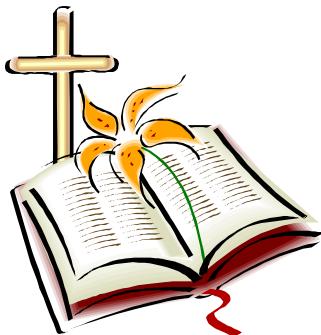
If you love me you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God.

When I go, you will not be left all alone. I will come back to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and because I live, you will also live.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Leader:

Your parents have made promises regarding their commitment to help their children grow in faith as they prepare for Confirmation.

They have promised to help their children to carry out their promises to love God and those around them.

They have promised to help their children keep these promises by the example of their lives.

They have promised to continue to help them to work through the programme of preparation for Confirmation.

Leader:

We know that God will send the Holy Spirit to be with us as we try to answer his call, and so we say together the prayer to the Holy Spirit:

All:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your spirit and they shall be created,
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Leader:

I now call upon those who are preparing for Confirmation to sign the promises that they have made.

Leader:

On these certificates are written the promises these young people have made as they try to

Preparation for the Gospel

Narrator: The apostles felt lost without Jesus. There was an emptiness in their lives, a vacancy, a loneliness.

Apostle 1: I can't get used to Jesus not being with us. It's so different now. I just can't get used to it. It's the feeling that he's gone from us.

Apostle 2: But he's risen from the dead. We have spoken to him. He is with us. He is with us in a new way.

Apostle 3: The news that he was risen from the dead was wonderful. Absolutely wonderful. But I still miss him and miss the way he was with us.

Apostle 4: You mean when we walked the roads with him?

Apostle 5: Yes that's what I'm getting at. Do you remember? Around the open fire at night. Talking with him and asking him questions about the new world we were going to build. Being with him when the sick came to him. Leading the women and children to him for a blessing. Walking beside him when the people spread palm branches before him to honour him. Those old days are gone forever. Now we are just waiting and wondering.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

God our Father, you sent your son, Jesus, to show us how much you care for us and for our happiness. In our concern for the happiness of others, we pray:

1. For those who haven't got enough – that we may be generous toward them this Lent.
Lord hear us.

Preparation for the First Reading:

Narrator: The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your family and your father’s house, for the land that I will show you.”

The Lord: Yes, Abram, I want you to go.

Abram: Lord, my God, you mean leave my people? Leave my father’s house?

The Lord: Leave your people and your father’s house and everything that is part of your life in this place.

Abram: Leave it all?

The Lord: Yes, leave it all because I am calling you into a new land. I am going to bless you with blessings beyond your wildest dreams. Your name will live forever. I have marked you out for greatness. Your destiny is with God and with God’s holy people.

Abram: I am ready Lord. I am ready.



All: Amen.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit who came to us in Baptism strengthen us and show us how to be good workers for the kingdom.

All: Amen.

Leader: Together, let us all now say a prayer to the Holy Spirit:

O God Our Father,
Give me your Holy Spirit
In my heart and in my mind
That I may ever choose what is right
That I may know what choice to make
and what choice to reject.
Give me your Holy Spirit
to fill my heart with good desires
to make my life
wise with knowledge
beautiful with love
useful with service.
Give me your Holy Spirit
To enlighten the scriptures for me
And to fill my life with the fruits
which only He can give. Amen