

# Consecration of a Bishop



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(The candidate is seated in the congregation until the presentation.)

We greet you as we join with our Savior in the consecration of \_\_\_\_\_ as a bishop in the Moravian Church.

(The congregation stands for a hymn of praise.)

We praise you, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; your saving work shines through all the ages.

**You have never turned away from us, even when we have turned away from you; but in your covenant of salvation, you call us through the law and the prophets to be your holy people.**

We thank you for fulfilling your covenant through the eternal ministry of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior.

**Christ freely accepted our human nature to live, teach, suffer, die, and rise again for the forgiveness of sins, that we might share in eternal life.**

We thank you for the ministry committed by Christ to the whole church to proclaim the gospel.

**Through the gifts of your Holy Spirit, you call each of us into the church and empower us to make the saving work of Christ visible on earth.**

We thank you that you call individuals from among us to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament.

**They serve among us to lead, strengthen, challenge, and nourish our ministry together in Christ.**

Especially on this day we thank you for your call to \_\_\_\_\_ and for *his/her* dedication to serve in your name.

**To you be glory, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving, both now and forever. Amen.**

(Sitting)

(The Scripture lessons are read. The bishop then preaches a sermon on the Christian ministry.)

(A representative of the Provincial Elders' Conference and two other representatives, one from the clergy and one from the laity, escort the candidate to the chancel as the following hymn is sung. According to tradition this text was written for the ordination of the first Moravian ministers in 1467.)

FREUEN WIR UNS

Come, let us all with glad - ness raise  
 God gave us faith - ful ones to lead  
 Fa - ther in heav'n, ful - fill your word,

a joy - ous song of thanks and praise  
 and help us in our time of need;  
 grant us the Spir - it of our Lord;

to God, who rules the heav'n - ly host,  
 but, Lord, all pow'r is yours a - lone,  
 that through your truth, which can - not fail,

God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.  
 and you the work must car - ry on.  
 we may o'er ev - 'ry ill pre - vail.

(The representative of the Provincial Elders' Conference addresses the bishop.)

On behalf of this province of the Moravian Church, we request that be consecrated as bishop.

Our Synod has elected this presbyter to be a bishop, and *his/her* acceptance of this office reaffirms a sincere intention to serve Christ and the church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(The bishop responds:)

In response to your request, it is my joy to carry out this ministry of consecration on behalf of the whole church.

(The representatives return to their seats.)

(Opportunity may be given for the candidate to offer brief testimony concerning God's call and faithfulness in the candidate's life.)

(The bishops says:)

In the presence of God and this congregation I acknowledge these testimonies with gratitude and praise to our Savior.

(The candidate kneels as the "Veni, Creator Spiritus" is sung. This hymn has been used at ordinations in the Christian church since the 9th century.)

VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS (220)

Come, Ho - ly Ghost, our soul in - spire, and  
 Thy bless - ed unc - tion from a - bove is  
 A - noint each heart and cheer each face with  
 Teach us to know the Fa - ther, Son, and

light - en with ce - les - tial fire; thou the a - noint - ing  
 com - fort, life, and fire of love. En - a - ble with per -  
 the a - bun - dance of thy grace; keep far our foes; keep  
 thee, with both to be but one, that through the a - ges

Spir - it art, who dost thy seven - fold gifts im - part.  
 pe - tual light the dull - ness of our blind - ed sight.  
 peace at home: where thou art guide, no ill can come.  
 all a - long thy praise may be our end - less song.

(The bishop offers the prayer of consecration.)

Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry, calling some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all your people for the work of ministry and for the building up of

the Body of Christ. Now bless and sanctify, by your Holy Spirit, your servant \_\_\_\_\_, whom we, in your name and in obedience to your will, by prayer and with the laying on of hands, consecrate for the ministry of the church.

(The congregation stands and the bishop lays hands on the candidate and continues to pray.)

**Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_; fill *him/her* with grace and power, and make *him/her* a bishop in your church.**

O Lord, give to this your servant the grace and power needed to serve you in this ministry. Bless *his/her* proclamation of the word and administration of your sacraments so that your church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service. Make *him/her* a wise pastor, a patient teacher, and a faithful witness. Grant that in all things, *he/she* may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed, and that your name may be glorified in the church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

(539 B)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the voice and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In the name of Je - sus. A - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word "Amen".

(Sitting. The choir may sing the following consecration doxology.)

Christian I. Latrobe (c. 1795)  
Ed. Nola Reed Knouse (1995)

*Choir*

Glo ry be to the Shep - herd and Bish-op of our

souls, the great Shep-herd of the sheep, through the blood of the

ev - er - last - ing cov - e - nant; glo - ry, glo - ry and o -

be - dience be un - to God the Ho - ly Spir - it, our

Guide and Com - fort - er. Glo - ry and



ad - o - ra - tion be to the Fa - ther of our Lord Je - sus

Christ, who is the Fa - ther of all who are call - ed

chil - dren on earth and in heav'n. O might each pulse thanks -

giv - ing beat, and ev - ry branch his praise re - peat. A - men, hal -

*All*  
le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah. A - men, hal - le - lu - jah.

(The newly consecrated bishop stands, and the officiating bishop gives *him/her* a personal charge.)

(A hymn may be sung as the officiating bishop greets the newly consecrated bishop with the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the church. Family and friends greet the newly consecrated bishop after the service.)

(The newly consecrated bishop leads the congregation in the Festal Doxology, page 252, and pronounces the benediction, or the officiating bishop may do so.)





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