

## Ordination of Readers

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

*Instructions are in italics.*

*This service is intended to be used as part of another service – principally the Eucharist. It may however be used alone if desired – in which case Bible readings and prayers are introduced as necessary. A priest may conduct this service with faculty or express permission from the bishop. The people are seated. A priest or suitable person calls the ordinands forward.*

**Priest:** Let those who are to be ordained to the Office of Reader come forward.

*The ordinands rise from their seats and advance a few paces towards the bishop, holding lighted candles. They bow to him, the candles are taken from them and they are seated. The bishop charges them as follows:*

**Bishop:** We learn from ancient tradition that it belonged to the reader in olden times to read for him who was about to preach, to intone the lessons, to bless bread and all first fruits. The passage of time has stripped the office of reader of these duties and its functions, but it is still of the essence of this office that he dedicate the gifts of the mind to the glory of God.

**Bishop:** As you had to learn to purify emotions, so must your mind be pure. As you learned to perceive the necessity of physical cleanliness, or to throw off with repugnance the lower emotion, so also must you thrust away unworthy thought, remembering that all thought is unworthy if it is selfish, greedy, mean or base; such for example, as would seek for flaws instead of the merits of thought in the character or work of another. All such thought is impure beside the white light of the thought of Christ, who is our pattern and perfect example. Therefore as Reader it is your duty to train and develop the powers of your mind, to study and fit yourself that you may help train and develop the minds others.

*The charge being ended, the ordinands kneel before the bishop who rises and says:*

**Bishop:** Let us pray

**Bishop:** O Lord Christ, who is ever ready to receive and to strengthen the earnest aspirations of your children, look down in love on these your servants who desire to become worthy to serve you as readers in your Holy Church. Sanctify + them, O Lord, with your heavenly grace that, growing continually in virtue, they may rightly practice the duties of their office and so be found acceptable in your sight, O great King of Love, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

*The ordinand kneels before the bishop who places his right hand on their head and says:*

**Bishop:** In the name of Christ our Lord, I admit you to the Order of Reader.

*The bishop hands a book to the ordinand, saying:*

**Bishop:** Study diligently the sacred science, that you may become better able to devote your mind and all its powers to the service of God.

*The service continues unless this is the only purpose today, in which case;*

*The bishop then blesses the new readers with the following words:*

**Bishop:** The blessing of God Almighty, the + Father, the + Son, and the Holy + Spirit come down upon you, that you may rightly fulfil that which today you have undertaken.

**All:** Amen.