Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows

Tuesday in Holy Week
April 7, 2020
11:00 am

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop
In today’s virtual liturgy, Deacons, Priests, and Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania gather to reaffirm their ordination vows and to renew their commitment to ministry.
Bishop Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Assembly His mercy endures forever.

The Bishop then says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Bishop and Assembly

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.
The Bishop then says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen

Bishop The Lord be with you.
Assembly And also with you.
Bishop Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY
O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE MINISTRY
Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine, and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Listen to me, O coastlands,
    pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
    while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
But I said, “I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.”
And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
    and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
    that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful,
    the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”
**PSALM said in unison**

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother’s womb.

My praise is continually of you.
I have been like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.

My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all day long.

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**SECOND LESSON  1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*The Rev. Brian Rallison, Grace Church Incarnation & Holy Innocents St. Paul’s, Rector*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”
Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

SHORT MEDITATION

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
THE NICENE CREED

Bishop  We believe in one God,

The Assembly joins in

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.
REAFFIRMATION OF ORDINATION VOWS

The Bishop then says

Dear friends, the ministry we share is none other than the sacrificial ministry of Christ, who gave himself up to death on the cross for the salvation of the world.

By his glorious resurrection he has opened for us the way of everlasting life. By the gift of the Holy Spirit he shares with us the riches of his grace. We are called to proclaim his death and resurrection to administer the Sacraments of the New Covenant which he sealed with His blood on the cross, and to care for his people in the power of the Spirit.

The Bishop then addresses the clergy.

Bishop  Sisters and Brothers of the clergy, do you here in the presence of Christ and His Church, renew your commitment to your ministry, under the pastoral direction of your Bishop?

Clergy  I do.

Bishop  Do you reaffirm your promise so to minister the Word of God and the Sacraments of the New Covenant that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Clergy  I do.

Bishop  Do you reaffirm your promise to be a faithful servant of all those Committed to your care, patterning your life in accordance with the teaching of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

Clergy  I do.
The Bishop continues

And now, as your Bishop, I, too, before God and you, re-dedicate myself and reaffirm the promises that I made when I was ordained. I ask your prayers.

Silence

Clergy

Do you here in the presence of Christ and His Church, renew your commitment to your ministry, in full obedience to Jesus Christ?

Bishop

I do.

Clergy

Do you reaffirm your promise to pray faithfully and to study Holy Scripture, seeking the mind of Christ?

Bishop

I do.

Clergy

Do you reaffirm your promise to proclaim boldly and to interpret the Gospel of Christ; support the ministries of all baptized people; celebrate with us the Sacraments of our redemption; and guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church?

Bishop

I do.

Clergy

May the Lord who has given us the will to do these things, give us also the grace and power to perform them. Amen.

THE PEACE

Bishop

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Assembly

And also with you
CLOSING HYMN

Be thou my vision

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
3. High King of heaven, when victory is won,

all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach heaven’s joys, bright heaven’s Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.


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SILENT INTERCESSIONS
THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    for ever and ever. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING BY BISHOP