

Adult Education – St. Luke’s Church – Sedona, AZ – Class 16
Understanding & Using the Prayer Book – Apostolic Succession and the Ordinal
September 29, 2019

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I. Opening Prayer

ALMIGHTY God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church; Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (*For those who are to be admitted into Holy Orders, BCP, p. 39*)

II. Jesus Conveys Apostolic Authority and Responsibility

- **Church Discipline:** “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (St. Matthew 18:18)
- **Forgiveness of Sins:** “Again Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (St. John 20:21-23)
- **Faithful Administration of Holy Communion:** “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”
- **The Great Commission:** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” (St. Matthew 28:19-20)

III. Apostles and Bishops

- **The Apostles felt a need to immediately fill the vacancy left by Judas:** “Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aeldama, that is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out

among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” (Acts 1:16-26)

- **Paul had to be presented to the Apostles after his conversion:** “But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the LORD and that the LORD had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” (Acts 9:27)
- **The dispute over circumcision between Paul and the Judaizers is brought to the Apostles and the elders in Jerusalem and is decided by James.** (Acts 15:1-32)
- **Paul rebukes the Corinthians as one with special authority:** “But I will come to you shortly....What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?” (I Corinthians 5:19, 21)
- **The list expands:** For example – Barnabas (Acts 14:14); Silas and Timothy (I Thessalonians 1:1, 2:6)
- **As death depleted the ranks of the original twelve Apostles, their successors became known as Bishops (overseers).**
- **Qualifications:** “This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (I Timothy 3:1-7)

IV. Deacons – Assistants to the Apostles (and Bishops)

- **As the Church grew, the Apostles needed help to keep up with daily responsibilities:** “And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:1-7)
- **In addition to “serv[ing] tables,” Deacons:** testified boldly (Stephen before the Council – Acts 7:1-53); evangelized (Philip – Acts 8:4-8; 26-34); baptized new converts (Philip –

Acts 4:35-39); performed wonders, signs and healings (Stephen and Philip – Acts 6:8; 8:4-8); were martyred (Stephen – Acts 7:54-60).

- **Deacons have always been closely linked with their Bishops:** “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.” (Philippians 1:1)
- **Qualifications:** Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (I Timothy 3:8-13)

V. Priests (Presbyters/Elders) – The Apostles’ (and Bishops’) Local Leaders

- **Paul and Barnabas ordained priests throughout Asia Minor:** “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the LORD, on whom they believed.” (Acts 14:23)
- **They were subject to the Bishops:** “And from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.” (Acts 20:17)
- **They exercised local authority:** “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. (I Timothy 5:17)
- **They are to be Shepherds:** “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (I Peter 5:1-4)
- **They are to be chosen carefully:** Paul to Timothy – “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.” (I Timothy 5:22)
- **They are to administer the Sacraments:** “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the LORD.” (James 5:14)

VI. Apostolic Succession and the Ordinal

- The threefold ministry of Bishops, Priests and Deacons has survived from the days of the early church to the present:
 - “Do nothing apart from the bishop.” (Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Second Century)
 - “If anyone is not with the bishop he is not with the Church.” (Cyprian of Carthage, Third Century)
 - This Apostolic Succession continued, unbroken, even through the Reformation. (See pages 5 and 6 below)
- The Bishop is always the **Minister** of Ordination (or Consecration).
- The **Matter** consists of the laying on of the Bishop’s hands. (Wilson, p. 204)

- The **Form** is prayer to the Holy Spirit for the particular office to which the candidate is being ordained. (*Id.*)
- The **Benefits** are the transmission of the Apostolic Commission and grace to fulfill the functions of the office. (*Id.*)
- **The various rites are set for in the Ordinal (BCP, pp. 529-74):** “Since the sixteenth century the word ‘Ordinal’ has been used in Anglicanism to refer to the texts of the rites for ordination. The 1549 BCP did not include the ordination rites. These were printed separately in 1550 with the title ‘The Form and Manner of Making and Consecrating of Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.’ These forms were printed in the BCP beginning with the 1552 revision. In medieval times an ordinal was a book that gave the ordo (ritual and rubrics) for liturgies.”
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/ordinal>
- **Deacons:** “It appertaineth to the Office of a Deacon, in the Church where he shall be appointed to serve, to assist the Priest in Divine Service, and specially when he ministereth the Holy Communion, and to help him in the distribution thereof; and to read Holy Scriptures and Homilies in the Church; and to instruct the youth in the Catechism; in the absence of the Priest to baptize infants; and to preach, if he be admitted thereto by the Bishop. And furthermore, it is his Office, where provision is so made, to search for the sick, poor, and impotent people of the Parish, that they may be relieved with the alms of the Parishioners, or others. Will you do this gladly and willingly?” (BCP, p. 533)
- **Priests:** “Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the Imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained. And be thou a faithful Dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.” (BCP, p. 546)
- **Bishops:** Give heed unto reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men; for by so doing thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost. Be so merciful, that you be not too remiss; so minister discipline, that you forget not mercy; that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the never-fading crown of glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (BCP, p. 558)

VII. Closing Prayer

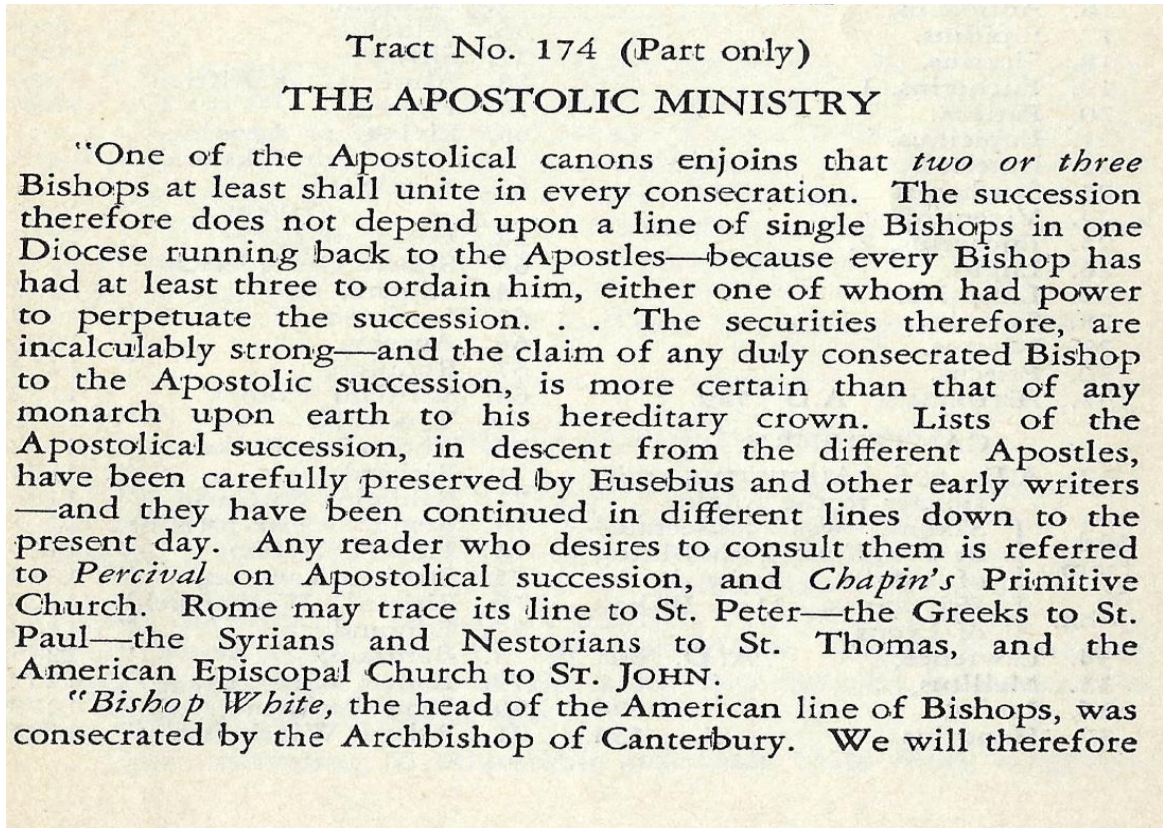
O GOD, who dost ever hallow and protect thy Church; Raise up therein, through thy Spirit, good and faithful stewards of the mysteries of Christ, that by their ministry and example thy people may abide in thy favour and be guided in the way of truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.** (*Collect from The Litany for Ordinations, BCP, p. 562*)

VIII. Sources

- Boss, N. *The Prayer Book Reason Why* (5th ed.). NY: Morehouse-Barlow Co. 1942.
Cox, W. *The Heart of the Prayer Book*. Richmond, VA: Dietz Press 1945.
Crum, R. *A Dictionary of the Episcopal Church* (18th ed.). Runnemede, NJ: Trefoil Publishing Society 1967.
Shepherd, M. *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*. NY: Oxford Univ. 1950.
Wilson, F. *Faith and Practice* (revised ed.). Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing 1967.

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From Cox, pp. 155-59



present a list beginning with St. John, and coming through the Episcopate of Lyons, in France or Gaul, and that of Canterbury in England, till it connects with ours in the United States of America.

ST. JOHN.		38. Adeodatus,	A. D. 654
1. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.		39. Theodore,	" 668
BISHOPS OF LYONS.		40. Brithwald,	" 693
1. Pothinus.		41. Tatwine,	" 731
2. Ireneus.		42. Nothelm,	" 735
3. Zacharias.		43. Cuthbert,	" 742
4. Elias.		44. Bregwin,	" 759
5. Faustinus.		45. Lambert,	" 763
6. Verus.		46. Æthelred, 1,	" 793
7. Julius.		47. Wulfred,	" 803
8. Ptolemy.		48. Theogild or Feogild,	830
9. Vocius.		consecrated June 5th,	
10. Maximus.		and died September 3d.	
11. Tetradius.		49. Ceolnoth, Sept.	" 830
12. Verissimus.		50. Æthelred, 2d,	" 871
13. Justus.		51. Philegmond,	" 891
14. Albinus.		52. Athelm, or Adelm,	" 923
15. Martin.		53. Wulfelm,	" 928
16. Antiochus.		54. Odo Severus,	" 941
17. Elpidius.		55. Dunstan,	" 959
18. Sicarius.		56. Æthelgar,	" 988
19. Eucherius, 1.		57. Siricus,	" 989
20. Patiens.		58. Aluricus, or Alfricus,	" 996
21. Lupicinus.		59. Elphege,	" 1005
22. Rusticus.		60. Living, or Leoning,	
23. Stephanus.		or Elkskan,	" 1013
24. Viventiolus.		61. Algelnoth, or	
25. Eucherius, 2.		Æthelnot,	" 1020
26. Lupus.		62. Edsin, or Elsin,	" 1038
27. Licontius.		63. Robert Gemeticensis,	" 1050
28. Sacerdos.		64. Stigand,	" 1052
29. Nicetus.		65. Lanfranc,	" 1070
30. Priscus.		66. Anselm,	" 1093
31. ÆTHERIUS. A.D. 589.		67. Rodulph,	" 1114
CANTERBURY.		68. William Corbell,	" 1122
32. A.D. 596. AUGUSTINE, mis-		69. Theobold,	" 1138
sionary to the Anglo		70. Thomas á Becket,	" 1162
Saxons, was consecrated		71. Richard,	" 1174
by <i>Virgilius</i> , 24th Bishop		72. Baldwin Fordensis,	" 1184
of Arles, assisted by		73. Reginald Fitz-Joceline,	" 1191
ÆTHERIUS, 31st Bishop		74. Hubert Walten,	" 1193
of Lyons.		75. Stephen Langton,	" 1207
34. Lawrence,	A. D. 605	76. Richard Wethersfield,	" 1229
35. Mellitus,	" 619	77. Edmund,	" 1234
36. Justus,	" 624	78. Boniface,	" 1245
37. Honorius,	" 634	79. Robert Kilwarby,	" 1272
		80. John Peckham,	" 1278
		81. Robert Winchelsea	" 1294

33d
from
St.
John.

82. Walter Reynold,	A. D. 1313	105. George Abbott,	A. D. 1611
83. Simon Mepham,	" 1328	106. William Laud,	" 1633
84. John Stratford,	" 1333	107. William Juxon,	" 1660
85. Thomas Bradwardine,	" 1348	108. Gilbert Sheldon,	" 1663
86. Simon Islip,	" 1349	109. William Sancroft,	" 1677
87. Simon Langham,	" 1366	110. John Tillotson,	" 1690
88. Wm. Whittlesey,	" 1368	111. Thomas Tennison,	" 1694
89. Simon Sudbury,	" 1375	112. William Wake,	" 1715
90. William Courtney,	" 1381	113. John Potter,	" 1737
91. Thomas Arundel,	" 1396	114. Thomas Secker,	" 1738
92. Henry Chichely,	" 1414	115. Thomas Herring,	" 1747
93. John Stafford,	" 1443	116. Matthew Hurton,	" 1757
94. John Kemp,	" 1452	117. Frederick Cornwallis,	1768
95. Thomas Bourcher,	" 1454	118. John Moore,	A. D. 1783
96. John Morton,	" 1486	119. From St. John, is WILLIAM	
97. Henry Dean,	" 1501	WHITE, of Pennsylvania,	
98. William Wareham,	" 1503	consecrated February 4th,	
99. THOMAS CRANMER,	" 1533	1787, by John Moore, Arch-	
100. Reginald Pole,	" 1555	bishop of Canterbury, assisted	
101. Matthew Parker,	" 1559	by the Archbishop of York,	
102. Edmund Grindall,	" 1573	the Bishop of Bath and	
103. John Whitgift, . .	" 1583	Wells, and the Bishop of	
104. Richard Bancroft,	" 1604	Peterborough.	

"The compilers of the lists from which the above was taken, have consulted the best authorities, and no more doubt of its authenticity can be entertained, than of any chronological table of historical events, or list of the sovereigns of any country, drawn from its official registers and archives. The dates attached to the names of the Archbishops of Canterbury, indicate in several instances, not the time of their consecration but of their translation to that see."

—Tract No. 174, pages 26-28.

II. The Theory of Apostolic Succession

While this doctrine or theory may sometimes be misinterpreted, and applied in ways that the Church of England and our own Protestant Episcopal Church do not teach, there is a true interpretation which Churchmen of all schools of thought agree the Church does teach. In a book entitled *The Protestantism of the Prayer Book*, page 238, the late Rev. Dyson Hague, a Canadian clergyman of the Church of England, says the true interpretation of Apostolic Succession is this:

"That, according to reasonable inference from Holy Scripture,