

The 1789 Book of Common Prayer,  
Formatted as the original

We are presenting this electronic version of the U. S. 1789 Book of Common Prayer in hopes that it will prove useful and instructive to the Church. Parishes might find it useful in recreating historical services, for example, to celebrate the anniversary of the parish. Others might find it instructive to compare the changes, additions, and deletions, which have taken place in the various versions of the Book of Common Prayer.

The 1789 Book of Common Prayer was in use in the United States from 1790 until 1892. During that time there were minor changes in the Book. The text used here bears a certification date of 1856, and so will reflect any of these minor changes made between 1789 and then.

The original text is about 6 X 4" in size, or somewhat smaller than the current Book of Common Prayer. As this is not a common size today, it has been reformatted to fill an 8.5 X 11" sheet of paper, two columns, landscape. The pagination, however, is unchanged, so that the type is thus somewhat larger than the original. The font used is Century 731; this seems to be a good match to the original to my untrained eye. Note that a great many editions by a great many publishers of this 1789 Prayer Book were printed, all with somewhat differing formats. The font used, number of columns per page, etc. were not standardized, unlike subsequent prayer books. Thus the appearance of other 1789 Prayer

Books will likely be different from what you see here. The edition here (published by the New York Bible and Common Prayer Society in 1865) was chosen because is fairly common and seemed typical of Prayer Books of the post-Civil War era.

You may redistribute this document electronically provided no fee is charged and this header remains part of the document. While every attempt was made to ensure accuracy, certain errors may exist in the text.

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## THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION,

OR LAYING ON OF HANDS UPON THOSE WHO ARE BAPTIZED, AND  
COME TO YEARS OF DISCRETION.

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¶ *Upon the day appointed, all that are to be then Confirmed, being placed and standing in order before the Bishop; he, or some other Minister appointed by him, shall read this Preface following.*

TO the end that Confirmation may be ministered to the more edifying of such as shall receive it, the Church hath thought good to order, That none shall be confirmed but such as can say the Creed, the Lords Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and can also answer to such other Questions, as in the short Catechism are contained: which order is very convenient to be observed; to the end, that children, being now come to the years of discretion, and having learned what their Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptism, may themselves, with their own mouth and consent, openly before the Church, ratify and confirm the same; and also promise, that, by the grace of God, they will evermore endeavour themselves faithfully to observe such things, as they, by their own confession, have assented unto.

¶ *Then shall the Bishop say,*

DO ye here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation renew the solemn promise and vow that ye made or that was made in your name, at your Baptism; ratifying and confirming the same; and acknowledging yourselves bound to believe and to do all those things which ye then under took, or your Sponsors then undertook for you?

¶ *And every one shall audibly answer,*  
I do.

*Bishop.*

OUR help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*Answer.* Who hath made heaven and earth,  
*Bishop.* Blessed be the Name of the Lord;  
*Answer.* Henceforth, world without end.

*Bishop.* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Answer.* And let our cry come unto thee.

*Bishop.* Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate these thy servants by Water and the Holy Ghost, and hast given unto them forgiveness of all their sins; Strengthen them, we beseech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter; and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then all of them in order kneeling before the Bishop, he shall lay his hands upon the head of every one severally, saying,*

DEFEND, O Lord, this thy child [or, *this thy Servant*] with Thy heavenly grace; that *he* may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he come unto thy everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Bishop say,*

The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* And with thy spirit.

¶ *And all kneeling down, the Bishop shall add,*

Let us pray.

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. *Amen.*

¶ *And these Collects.*

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who makest us both to will and to do those things which are good, and acceptable unto thy Divine Majesty; We make our humble supplications unto thee for these thy servants, upon whom, after the example of thy holy Apostles, we have now laid our hands, to certify them, by this sign, of thy favour and gracious goodness towards them. Let thy fatherly hand, we beseech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them the knowledge and obedience of thy Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God world without end. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY Lord and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments, that

through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*¶ Then the Bishop shall bless them, saying thus,*

**T**HE Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

*¶ And then shall none be admitted to the Holy Communion, until such time as he be Confirmed, or be ready and desirous to be Confirmed.*