



United Episcopal Catholic Communion

Ancient Tradition For A New Age

Communion of Churches in the Old Catholic and Anglo-Catholic Traditions

THE LITURGY OF THE UNITED EPISCOPAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION
(UECC)

ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF A CHURCH AND ALTAR



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Order for the Blessing and Consecration of a Church and Altar

Clergy

(Gloria Patri, et filio, et spiritui sancto...) (Glow-ree-ah-pah-tree eht-fee-lee-oh eht-speer-it-too-e san-ktoe)
Glory be to the + Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen

Clergy

Praise we the Lord;

People

The Lord's name be praised.

Clergy *(hands folded stands facing the altar)*

I joyfully approach the altar of God

Clergy

Lord, have mercy (Kyrie, eleison)

People

Lord, have mercy (Kyrie, eleison)

Clergy

You came into the world to call all sinners:
Christ, have mercy (Christe, eleison)

People

Christ, have mercy (Christe, eleison)

Clergy

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, to be our voice: Lord, have mercy (Kyrie, eleison)

People

Lord, have mercy (Kyrie, eleison)

Clergy

Blessed is our God always, now and onto eternity.

People

Amen

Clergy

O God, without beginning and eternal, Who calls all things into being from nothingness; Who dwells in light unapproachable, and hast the heavens for Thy throne, and the earth for Thy footstool;

Who didst rear of old the Church; and upon Thy holy Apostles didst renew the service in the Spirit, and the grace of the true Tabernacle, and through the same, O Lord of Hosts, didst plant thy Churches and Thine Altars in all the earth, that there might be offered unto Thee consecrated and bloodless sacrifices;

Who, also, hast graciously been pleased to found this Church, in the Name of **(Church's Name)** to Thy glory, and to the glory of Thine Only begotten Son Jesus Christ +, and of The Holy Spirit.

Sanctify this Church and this Altar; Preserve it indestructible even unto the end of the ages, and bestow upon it the power of the Holy Spirit, Glorify and sanctify it according to the Law; that the holy offices which shall be celebrated thereon be pleasing to you.

People

Amen

Clergy

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord, have mercy.

Clergy

For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord, have mercy.

Clergy

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, O God, by Thy Grace. Commemorating our Lord Jesus Christ, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

People

To Thee, O Lord.

Clergy

For holy art Thou, O our God, Who rests among the Saints and the Martyrs who suffered for Thee. Glory be to the + Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen

@ Blessing and Consecration of the Church Building

Many denominations start the service outside the church with many blessings and prayers before entry. Some denominations feel that the altar itself is "the center of the church" and the physical building is the protector of the Holy of Holies. This Order is written with that in mind, and the blessing and consecration of the church itself takes place inside.

Clergy

Glory be to the Holy and Almighty + Trinity, now and forever.

People

Amen

Clergy

Let us pray to the Lord

People

Lord have mercy

Clergy

Help, save, comfort and protect us gracious Lord

People

Lord have mercy

Clergy

For to Thee belongs all glory, honor and worship, to the +
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and
forever.

People

Amen

The clergy then anoints the four walls of the Church making
the sign of the Cross on them with Holy Chrism. This act
symbolizes the sanctification of all creation with the
Grace of Christ.

The clergy may, at their discretion, say blessing prayers
at this time for the pulpit, lectern, and all sacramental
items for the altar. This allows "blessed" items to be
placed on the altar.

@ Beginning of the Altar Sanctification/Consecration

The priest may set the blessed water on the altar before
proceeding.

Clergy

Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord, have mercy.

Clergy

O Lord our God, Who sanctified the streams of Jordan by Thy
saving manifestation. Do Thou, the same Lord, Send down
also now the Grace of the Holy Spirit on this Thy present

Altar and bless us and this water unto sanctification and consecration of Thy Holy Altar. For blessed art Thou unto all eternity.

People

Amen

Clergy

In the name of the + Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People

Amen

@ Washing of the Altar

The clergy then pours water on the Altar three times saying: "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit", and washes the Altar Table while Psalm 84 is read.

This may be Holy Water or Gregorian Holy Water, depending of the personal preference of the clergy.

This act symbolizes Baptism: The Altar is cleaned by washing, and sanctified (made Holy) by the Grace of the Holy Spirit. After washing, the Altar is then dried.

Clergy or Reader

O how amiable are Thy dwellings, Thou Lord of Hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house, and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young; even Thy altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house they will be always praising Thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are Thy ways. Who going through the valley of misery use it for a well; and the pools are filled with water. O Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our defender, and look upon the face of Thine Anointed. For one day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to

dwell in the tents of ungodliness. For the Lord God is a light and defense; the Lord will give grace and worship; and no good thing shall He withhold from them that live a Godly life. O Lord God of Hosts blessed is the man that puts his trust in Thee.

Clergy

Glory to our God unto all eternity

People

Amen

@ Anointing of the Altar

The Clergy sprinkles Rosewater on the Altar Table. This may be Holy Water with Rose Water essence which symbolizes the washing of Christ with rosewater. This may also be Gregorian Holy Water, depending of the personal preference of the clergy. It is to be remembered, the altar represents the tomb of Christ. In ancient times of persecution, Christians met in secret within tombs to celebrate their beliefs.

As the Clergy sprinkles, he recites:

Clergy

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not Thy holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of Thy help again and establish me with Thy free Spirit. Then shall I teach Thy ways unto the wicked, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from guiltiness, O God, Thou that art the God of my health; and my tongue shall sing of Thy righteousness.

Clergy

Blessed is our God always, now and forever.

People

Amen

The clergy now anoints the altar with Chrism. This is done once in the center, and then the four corners.

Clergy

Let this altar be sanctified and consecrated to the honor of God almighty and of all the Saints. In the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be unto thee.

People

AMEN

The clergy may now dry and vest the altar. This may be a proper sized pure white linen, fancy or plain. If this is a full sized altar, the clergy may place upon it the holy cross, Gospel Book, chalice and platen and candles. This may vary by preference, but is recommended.

If this is an altar stone only, vest the stone in an appropriately sized pure white linen. If possible place upon it the platen with chalice on top, votive candle and possibly a small cross (necklace size).

Clergy

O Lord of heaven and earth, we beseech thee to protect this holy altar, allow your love, spirit, and word to flow through it and from it, continue to bless and sanctify it as the Holy of Holies.

Blessed be the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

AMEN

Clergy

Peace be with you all

People

And with thy spirit

Clergy

Go in peace