Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

From the Presentation and Examination of Candidates

We worship today according to the Order for Confirmation, beginning on page 413 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

The Word of God

Hymn: Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven (we stand)...410

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

There is one Body and one Spirit; **There is one hope in God's call to us;** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (we sit)

The First Lesson – Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said to Abraham, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart: * before the gods I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, * because of your love and faithfulness; For you have glorified your Name * and your word above all things. When I called, you answered me; * you increased my strength within me. All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, * when they have heard the words of your mouth. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, * that great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; * he perceives the haughty from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; * you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies: your right hand shall save me. The Lord will make good his purpose for me; * O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands. The Epistle Lesson – Colossians 2:6-19

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Hymn: Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive (we stand)......674

The Gospel – Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, `Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, `Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Sermon The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Presentation and Examination of Candidates

Bishop: The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Senior Warden: I present Darrell Wilson and Suzannah Solomon Wilson for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate: I do.

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

The Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ? We will.

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

- He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 - was crucified, died, and was buried.
- He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

For Confirmation

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N*. with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People (Form III, page 387 BCP) (*We stand or kneel*)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people. We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; That our works may find favor in your sight.

We ask your blessing for **Erica** and **William** Watson *(Erica is Betty Weldon's great niece)* who were married yesterday in Arkansas.

That their union may be long and joyful.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Here in our parish, we pray for Brian Hudson, Jere Van Etten, Greg Dubay, Barbara Trogdon, Laura and Russell Foss, John Haynie, Mike Oniffrey, Micah Hart, Dennis Harper, David Hodges, Barbara Garnett, Charlie Hayes, Hays McKay, and the others we now name.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offertory

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(The celebrant says a Proper Preface)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

We stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. We keep a period of silence.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: Seek Ye First......711

After Communion, we stand or kneel.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision (we stand)......488

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The undesignated offering at today's service will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Immediately after worship, we will gather in the Little House to share in a common meal with the Bishop. All are welcome!

Serving at Epiphany this week:	And next:
Ushers: Kay and Mike Dickey	Ushers: John/Kathy Haynie
Altar Guild: Lavonne Hart	Altar Guild: Lee Borden
Lay Reader: Mike Rallo	Lay Reader: Dana Barlow
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Lee Borden	Lay Eucharistic Minister: Kay Dickey
Refreshments: Everyone	Refreshments: John/Kathy Haynie
Grounds: John Haynie and Mike Rallo	Grounds: Maurice McCord and Lee Borden