

SCOUTING in AMERICA, BSA

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS
for the Episcopal Church USA

Grades 7-9

CONFIRMATION



I BIND UNTO MYSELF TODAY

- I. HOLY BAPTISM (grades 1-3)
- II. COMMUNION (grades 4-6)
- III. CONFIRMATION (grades 7-9)
- IV. RELATIONSHIPS (grades 10-12)

*prepared by the Rev'd Edward K. Erb
under the auspices of the Episcopal Scouters' Association
and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew
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10-2018

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The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

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The Holy Bible

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Hymns

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I BIND UNTO MYSELF TODAY

Hymnal 1982 # 370

(some stanzas omitted)

text attributed to St. Patrick (d.466), translated by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)
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I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me forever, by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan river,
his death on cross for my salvation,
his bursting from the spiced tomb,
his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom,
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay,
God's ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
God's heavenly host to be my guard.

*St. Patrick's Lorica **

** see page 4*

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Hymnal 1982 #370, continued

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		date finished	initialed
<i>page</i>			
1	Reservations & Confirmations	_____	_____
2	Sponsors and more	_____	_____
3	You are Who You Are	_____	_____
4	“Lorica” - A Breastplate	_____	_____
6	from The Catechism	_____	_____
7	Baptism by Water & The Holy Spirit	_____	_____
8	I Believe	_____	_____
10	On my Honor	_____	_____
12	The Holy Spirit, part 1: Pentecost	_____	_____
14	Fire & The Holy Spirit	_____	_____
15	The Holy Spirit, part 2: Fruit of the Spirit	_____	_____
17	Bible Study: The Gifts of the Spirit	_____	_____
18	Discernment	_____	_____
19	Activities: Crossword, Acolyte Olympics	_____	_____
21	Response, part 1: “I Believe”	_____	_____
23	Response, part 2: Prayer	_____	_____
26	Response, part 3: Stewardship	_____	_____
28	The Outdoor Code	_____	_____
27	The Rite of Confirmation	_____	_____
34	Bible Studies	_____	_____
36	Congratulations!	_____	_____
	<i>Finished!</i>		

Reservations and Confirmations

I'm going on a trip, and need to stay at a motel. I go on the Internet to make a reservation. The receipt is on my desk, but I don't trust my computer. So a few days before I leave, I call the motel to confirm that the reservation is there and I have a room prepared and waiting.

Chances are:

- + You've been Baptized - you were only a couple of weeks or months old.
- + Your family or friends have brought you to church
And you've made some friends at Sunday School, Vacation Bible School...
- + You've been dragged to Sunday School, when you'd rather stay in bed
on a Sunday morning (after staying up too late Saturday night!)

And now, maybe you want to know more.

A Reservation was made for you in heaven when you were Baptized, but you were too young to remember. And now you want to confirm that reservation, thanking Jesus for preparing the way, and giving you a place in Heaven.

God called you when you were born.

Maybe God has called *to* you sometime - like in the middle of the night

God wants you as one of his children,
to grow in your knowledge of, and faith in, Him,
in Jesus and in that strange thing we call the Holy Spirit.

God *has* a plan for you - a special plan for you alone.

God wants you to learn what He has planned for you,
and to discover the special gifts and talents He has given to you,
the things that make you "you-nique" - special in His eyes.

It is a long process. A life-long process. You will spend the rest of your life maybe trying to figure it all out. Confirmation is not the end, it is another step.

But Scouting and your Church are two really good sources to help you.

This series of Religious Emblems is where you can start.

SPONSORS/GODPARENTS

If you've not already been Confirmed, now is a good time to ask someone special to walk along this journey with you.

They can work with you (and maybe they'll learn a bunch of stuff, too-including more about you!) and they can support you, pray for you, pray *with* you, and present you to the Bishop for Confirmation.

The PROCESS is

- to be interested
- to study & learn
- coming to understand and believe
- beginning to feel
- to search and wonder
- to express what *you* really believe (and your doubts)
- and to proclaim publicly what you believe
- participating in an act of commitment
- to go out into the world and express your faith in the way you live:
 - the way you treat others,
 - the way you understand yourself,
 - the way you serve the world.
- to love yourself,
 - to love those next to you
 - (your family members, 'neighbors', classmates at school...)
- and to love God - the source of all goodness & love.

Jesus says,

**Love God with your whole being,
and love your neighbor as yourself.**

And those are two parts of Confirmation.

But first you have to ask -

Do I love myself so that I can love others, and love God?

IDENTITY

YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE YOU ARE WHO GOD MADE YOU YOU ARE YOU

There are two famous quotes – maybe you’ve heard them:

“To thine own self be true” Shakespeare
and
“Physician, heal thyself.” Jesus in Luke 4:23

If you need help with healing advice or someone to talk to, there is a teacher, a priest, a Scoutmaster, a parent, an older sister or brother, a good friend. Priests, teachers and counselors are good at confidentiality - not telling anyone what you share with them. I had an 8th grade English teacher, who didn’t even know how much she helped me!

Remember the Third and Second and First Commandments,

You have to love yourself before you love anyone else,
and by loving others, you show your love for God.*paraphrase by E.K.Erb*

Do you love yourself?

Honestly?

These are difficult questions.

But ones you must answer for yourself.

Middle School is the time when many teens struggle with their identity.

God made you a special and unique person,
with special and unique gifts, talents and potentials.

God made you.

God knew you before you were born.

God called you before you were born.

God is calling you, as you are, even now.

What special talents do you have - what makes you unique?

You may still be trying to figure that out - and that’s OK - you’ve got time.

L o r i c a

“St. Patrick’s Breastplate”

What is a Breastplate? Protection against enemies. And a “lorica” is a Spiritual protection against spiritual enemies.

The text of St. Patrick’s Breastplate...

“has been attributed to St. Patrick since at least the year 690. It is an example of a ‘lorica’ or breastplate prayer, to be chanted while dressing oneself or arming for battle (for another example, see hymn #488) [in the Hymnal 1982, “Be thou my vision” also an ancient Irish text from the 7th century.]

“Legend has it that Patrick sang this lorica as protection from the pagan Irish king Loegaire mac Neill and the Druid fire-worshippers who were attempting to prevent Patrick and his followers from reaching Tara where they would proclaim the Christian faith. The power of the lorica to appear to be a herd of deer, sparing them from attack by Loegaire, thus the hymn has also been known as “The Deer’s Cry.”

*from Hymnal Companion, vol. 3
NY, Church Hymnal Corporation, 1994*

For more information, you can look up David Adam’s book, The Edge of Glory: Prayers in the Celtic Tradition (Wilton CT, 1988), or his book of devotions, The Cry of the Deer (Harrisburg PA, 1988).

A similar hymn inviting holiness to encircle us comes from the Native American tradition. “*Peace before us*” is found in the Hymnal supplement, Wonder, Love and Praise, #791 (NY, Church Publishing, 1997).

Another version is given on the next page.

You can print it out and copy onto parchment paper, then hang it in your room.

Did you know?

Many priests say “Sacristy Prayers” while vesting in preparation for Holy Communion. Ask your priest if she/he has a copy of them to share with you.

During your process towards Confirming your faith, remember these words of St. Patrick, and offer your prayers for God to lead you and protect you.

The Breastplate Prayer

attributed to St. Patrick

I arise today
through the strength of heaven;
Light of the Sun
Splendor of Fire
Swiftness of Wind
Depth of Sea
Stability of Earth
Firmness of Rock

I arise today
through God's strength to pilot me
God's might to uphold me
God's wisdom to guide me
God's hand to guard me
Afar and anear
Alone or in multitude

Christ shield me today
against wounding

Christ with me
Christ before me
Christ behind me
Christ on the right
Christ on the left
Christ beneath
Christ above
Christ within.

I arise today
through the mighty strength
of the Lord of Creation.

CONFIRMATION is a SACRAMENT

*“An outward and visible sign
of an inward and spiritual grace.”*

from the Catechism

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, pp. 857-860

Q. *What are the sacraments?*

A. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

Q. *What is grace?*

A. Grace is God’s favor towards us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills

Q. *What are the two great sacraments of the Gospel?*

A. The two great sacraments given by Christ to his Church are Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

Q. *What other sacramental rites evolved in the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?*

A. Other sacramental rites which evolved in the Church include confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation of a penitent, and unction.

Q. *How do they differ from the two sacraments of the Gospel?*

A. Although they are means of grace, they are not necessary for all persons in the same way that Baptism and the Eucharist are.

Q. *What is Confirmation?*

A. Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Q. *What is required of those to be confirmed?*

A. It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

BAPTISM

by

WATER

and

THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 44-47



⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking [to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion], the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his message.

⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who had come from Joppa with Peter were amazed that God had poured out his gift of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in strange tongues and praising God's greatness.

Peter spoke up: ⁴⁷ "These people have received the Holy Spirit, just as we also did. Can anyone, then, stop them from being baptized with water?" ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.



What do you think it was like that day? What if you were Cornelius or one of his family members? What if you were Peter?

Discuss with your class and Leader/Counselor a Baptism you remember. Maybe it was at the Great Vigil of Easter, or on a Sunday morning.

Take a walk to the Church and visit the Baptismal font.

What do you remember?

What items were used and shared?

What was promised for or promised by the person being Baptized?

Everyone present would have renewed their/your own Baptismal Covenant.
(*review the Covenant and promises made - the Book of Common Prayer, p. 304ff.*)

Do you agree with those promises? Discuss with your class.

“I BELIEVE”

Our Baptismal Covenant uses the Apostles’ Creed. It is based on the earliest formal and public proclamation of faith, called the Old Roman Formula and is comes from what the original Apostles taught. It expresses our faith in One God, in Three Persons, the Holy Trinity: God, Jesus and Spirit.

When you stand for Confirming your faith, you will be asked what you believe. Here is an exercise for you to think and explain to your counselor and classmates what you do believe. While we make a joint, communal, corporate statement each time we gather for worship, faith and belief are deeply personal issues. What you believe is unique to who you are.

Let’s go. Write your own thoughts about each portion of the Apostles’ Creed.

+ + +

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

What I believe:

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.

What I believe:

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

What I believe:

+ 8 +

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.

What I believe:

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

What I believe:

the holy catholic Church,

What I believe:

the communion of saints,

What I believe:

the forgiveness of sins,

What I believe:

the resurrection of the body,

What I believe:

and the life everlasting. Amen.

What I believe:

On my honor...

I will do my best.

At each Scout meeting, we say these words.
They are a promise to live the life of a Scout.

*On my honor, I will do my best,
to do my duty
to God and my country.*

When you confirm your faith in Christ,
before the Bishop, your family and Church friends
you will be asked to make a vow -
a vow similar to the Scout Oath or Promise -
and more - to live like Jesus.

Write you own promise to do your best to be a good Christian:

On my honor, I will do my best to _____

With Jesus' help and the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

And when you make the profession of faith in Jesus, and promise to do your best, you may expect something special to happen!

Shivers may go up your spine.

A thrill of excitement may fill you.

You may feel a special movement to continue to grow in Christ.

The Bishop lays hands upon each candidate for Confirmation and says,

**Strengthen, O Lord, your servant _____ (add your name)
with your Holy Spirit;**

**Empower *him / her* for your service;
and sustain *him / her* all the days of *his / her* life. Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 418

As you close this session, pray this prayer -

by yourself in private,

or with your class.

Quietly, slowly.

It is an old Gospel hymn written in 1935 by Daniel Iverson.

*Spirit of the living God,
fall fresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God,
fall fresh on me.*

*Melt me,
mold me,
fill me,
use me.*

*Spirit of the living God,
fall fresh on me.*

in Lift Every Voice and Sing #115

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The Gift of the Holy Spirit, part 1

When Jesus was Baptized by John, the Holy Spirit descended upon him.



²¹ After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

Luke, chapter 3

But, Isn't Jesus perfect, without sin?
And John the Baptist preached about Baptism for the forgiveness of sin.

So, why do you think Jesus came to his cousin John to be baptized for the forgiveness of sin?

And then, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, and all those gathered who believed in Jesus.

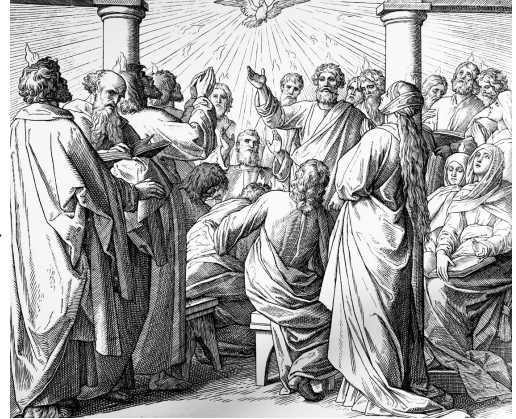
¹ When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. ² Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Acts, chapter 2

My Story of that Day in Jerusalem

The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2

What do you think it would be like if you were one of those who were visiting Jerusalem. Maybe you are a servant standing outside and watching all this. Maybe you are one of the 'locals' witnessing. Maybe you are one of those speaking in strange tongues - and accused of being drunk.



ASSIGNMENT

Write a social media post (Face Book, Twitter, etc) about what happened that day. Then write a response to your own post from a friend. Or two, or three... You have only 120 characters for each post.

FLAMES of FIRE

Forest fires seem to be a horror. But the fire of God's creative Spirit like a forest fire may be needed at times to produce new life and excited energy in nature, in the universe, in our own lives. Think of silver or gold, dug from the mines, and yet it needs to be scraped clean, refined, and burnt in fire to be purified.



In July 2002 I was at Philmont, the National Boy Scout Ranch in North Central New Mexico. (I hope you get to go there some time soon!) There has been a massive forest fire struck by lightening that destroyed thousands of acres of mountainous forests in this pristine wilderness. One afternoon, a friend and I decided to take my rental car up the dirt-road state 'highway' to see how far we could go and see what we could see of the devastation. We were the very first private car to be allowed to go up that road following the destruction. It was amazingly humbling and silently, awesomely, mysterious.

Ten years later, I was with a Crew from my Troop on a horseback Cavalcade at Philmont. The last day, we rode through that same pass of destruction. Over the mountain we passed, and there was total silence in our group of young Scouts as they surveyed the skeletons of charred trees still standing from the fire. And yet, as perhaps only I could see from the perspective of 10 years earlier, there was new growth coming up green and vibrant as undergrowth and promise of new life.

The LODGE PINE

There is a pine tree whose cone will only release its seed from the tightly coursed spines with the harshness of the heat from a forest fire. If it were not for the "refining fire" of forest flames, the Lodge Pine would not be able to break forth and send its seed into the atmosphere to be reproduced for a new generation of trees to be given life.

Are there things in your life that God wants to clean up and purify? That is one thing the Holy Spirit can do. Confession of Sin is one means to accomplish that.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit, part 2

Galatians 5:19-25

The works of the flesh are obvious:

fornication,	anger,
impurity,	quarrels,
licentiousness,	dissensions,
idolatry,	factions,
sorcery,	envy,
enmities,	drunkenness,
strife,	carousing,
jealousy,	and things like these.

“I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

St. Paul writing to the Church in the ancient Roman city of Galatia

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is

love,
joy,
peace,
patience,
kindness,
generosity,
faithfulness,
gentleness, *and*
self-control

“There is no law against such things.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus
have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”

St. Paul, again writing to the Galatians

COMPARE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT . . .

(given by St. Paul)

. . . WITH THE SCOUT LAW

*which of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit do you think
matches each point of the Scout Law?
(First, list the 12 points of the Scout Law, then
write the letter(s) that you think correspond on the right)*

<u>The Fruit of the Spirit is:</u>	<u>The Scout Law:</u>	<u>“A Scout is...”</u>	<u>“Fruit”</u>
	1	_____	_____
<i>a</i> love,	2	_____	_____
<i>b</i> joy,	3	_____	_____
<i>c</i> peace,	4	_____	_____
<i>d</i> patience,	5	_____	_____
<i>e</i> kindness,	6	_____	_____
<i>f</i> generosity,	7	_____	_____
<i>g</i> faithfulness,	8	_____	_____
<i>h</i> gentleness,	9	_____	_____
and <i>i</i> self-control	10	_____	_____
	11	_____	_____
	12	_____	_____

Discuss with your class (do they agree with you?) and Leader/ Counselor.

Note - not everything may fit the pattern, but there are 9 fruit and 12 points, so there's some leeway.

Which of the Fruit is the easiest for you? The hardest?

Which of the points of the Law best describes you? Why?

Which is the hardest for you?

Is it one you can work on? How?

BIBLE STUDY

THE GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

St. Paul writes about some of the unique gifts which Christ gives through the Holy Spirit for the building up of the Church, and the world in general.

You may find out that you are called to use of one these gifts, or you may find that you have other special and unique talents that you can use, both in the Church, and as you come to discern a career outside the Church. Maybe you are good at drawing, or singing, or with math, or really are into science, or taking things apart and putting them back together.

⁴ “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit gives them. ⁵ There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. ⁶ There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. ⁷ The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

- + ⁸ The Spirit gives one person a message full of **wisdom**,
- + while to another person the same Spirit
gives a message full of **knowledge**.
- + ⁹ One and the same Spirit gives **faith** to one person,
- + while to another person he gives the power to **heal**.
- + ¹⁰ The Spirit gives to one person the power to work **miracles**;
- + to another, the gift of **speaking** God’s message;
- + and yet to another, the difference to **tell between the gifts** that come
from the Spirit and those that do not.
- + To one person he gives the ability to **speak in strange tongues**,
- + and to another he gives the **ability to explain** what is said.

¹¹ But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes,
he gives a different gift to each person.

St. Paul explains that the Church is like one body with many parts. A hand to reach out and arms to hold, eyes to see pain and beauty, ears to hear joy and cries of pain...

What gift do you think you might have?

Share what gifts you think your *classmates* have. Discernment needs other people!

DISCERNMENT & LISTENING for the SPIRIT

What gift and talent have you been given?

Now, don't answer right away.

You may be surprised when you think hard and pray about it.

Here's my story:

At a very early age, I discovered a great love for music - and not playing the radio, or recordings - but making music.

My parents had listened with their heart, and I was thrilled that they bought me a beat up old up-right piano for my 6th birthday. A year or so later, the minister of our Church asked if each Sunday I would play a hymn for the Sunday School, and then he invited me to the big city near us, to hear a famous organist.

Many people came to discern where my talents lay. So, I became a music major in college and graduate school, and worked as a full-time professional Church musician for 15 years (Then, well, I became a priest after that. But I still make music as often as I can.)

Are you good at baseball or basketball? Your hand-eye coordination may lead you to consider certain professions.

Does Math make your head hurt? Don't consider being an accountant.

Do you understand poetry when others shake their heads? You may have the ability for abstract thinking.

Are you good at chess? Maybe strategy and logistics are your thing. Thinking ahead and planning moves are key to other professions.

What talents do you have that you may want to develop as you grow older?

Discuss with your classmates, your family and your Leader/ Counselor.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONFIRMATION

“LIFE IS A PUZZLE”

Especially at your age!

You may need to work together to answer some of these clues! I didn't say it would be easy.

The Christian life is not easy, and often needs friends to help.

This Puzzle may not be easy. But you have friends to help you through all of life's puzzles.

Your family can even be of help. And you may help them learn, too!

CLUES:

Across

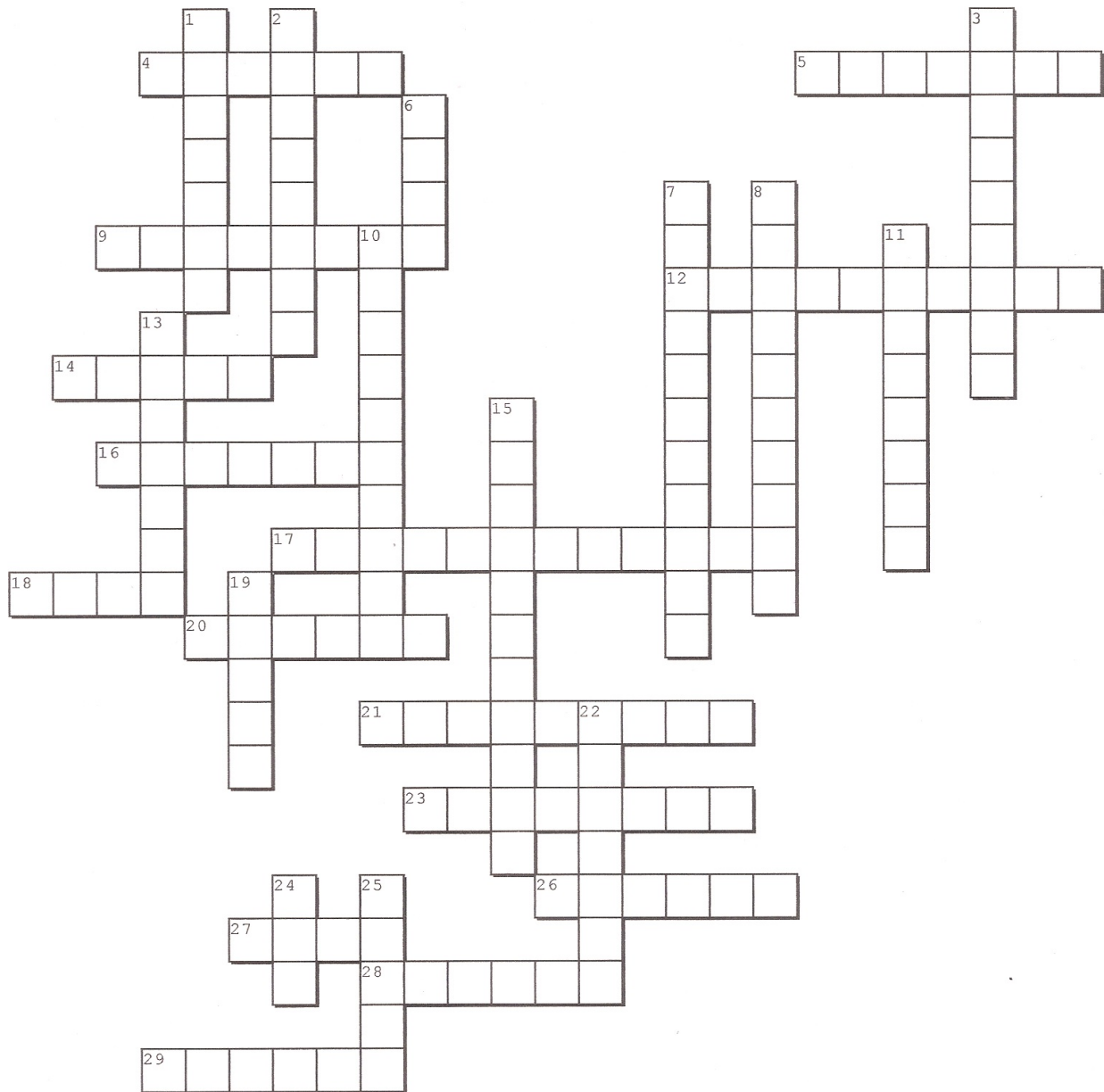
- 4. Oil used for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- 5. Christ send us out to the world
- 9. A fruit of the Spirit: to sit quietly
- 12. What the Holy Spirit does
- 14. A public statement of faith: Nicene, Apostles
- 16 To proclaim Christ to the world
- 17 Continuing every day in what you believe
- 18 The Holy Spirit appears on the Disciples as
- 20 Something unique about you
- 21 The celebration 50 days after Easter
- 23 What Jesus tells us to spread (2 words)
- 26 The one who offers the laying on of hands
- 27 A fruit of the Spirit: to care for someone else
- 28 To say, “Yes”
- 29 What you are as God made you.

Down

- 1 A fruit of the Spirit: to give for someone else
- 2 A fruit of the Spirit: to *do* for someone else
- 3 What we need to do more often
- 6 A creature used as a symbol for the Spirit
- 7 A spiritual process of listening for God
- 8 A fruit of the Spirit: not hurting someone
- 10 To be sent
- 11 Something every Christian has
- 13 A word used often in the Creeds
- 15 The hardest spiritual fruit for most people
(2 words)
- 19 A fruit of the Spirit: to believe with the heart
- 22 To make sure
- 24 A fruit of the Spirit: true happiness
- 25 A fruit of the Spirit: to be contented.

Confirmation

Complete the crossword below. You may wish to consult the Bible for Galatians, chapter 5 for some answers.



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

KEY:

Affirm	Commission	Faith	Good News	Mission	Self Control
Believe	Confirm	Faithfulness	Joy	Patience	Talent
Bishop	Creed	Fire	Listening	Peace	Unique
Charity	Discernment	Gentleness	Love	Pentecost	Witness
Chrism	Dove	Goodness	Ministry	Sanctifies	

AN ACTIVITY

ACOLYTE OLYMPICS

full instructions are in the Leader's Guide

Are you a member of the Acolyte Guild in your parish?

Even if you aren't you might enjoy this "challenge" and maybe you'll consider becoming a server at the Altar for the assistance at Holy Communion.

Work with your priest or counselor. She/he has more details for the events in their leader's book. But this gives you an idea of what you can do. Maybe you can think of other Olympic Events. If so, let me know!

Maybe you can invite acolytes from other nearby parishes, maybe the Church down the street, or other nearby parishes in your Diocese or Synod. Maybe make it a Diocesan or Synod event!

offering plate toss	(frisbee style - <i>not</i> with real offering plates!)
pass the torch relay	(running and passing without extinguishing)
thurible gyronics	(extra points for "Around the World," "Figure Eight," and "Over the Head")
"heaping burning coals"	(handling "lit" coals - hot potato style - using chemical hand warmers, <i>not</i> real coals!)
Eucharistic stack carrying	(distance carrying of full dressed "stack")
Gospel book balancing	(endurance lifting and holding a metal bound Gospels book, Oxford English Dictionary, or volume of the complete works of Shakespeare)
Coordinating lavabo bowl, towel, & cruet of water	(all while standing on one leg!)

RESPONSE, part one
A Personal Faith
“I Believe”

Now that you’ve had more time to think about it, you’ve worked through the Apostles’ Creed, you’ve thought about Baptism, the forgiveness of sin, the Gift of the Holy Spirit, it’s time for you to think ‘outside the ...’ Creed.

Each week we gather as a family of God and proclaim, “We believe...”

But, what do *you* believe?

About God, about the Universe, about yourself, about...

What I Believe to be true:

RESPONSE, part two

Prayer



One of the most important responses we make to our faith is Prayer.

The Disciples weren't sure how to pray. They asked their teacher, Jesus,

“Lord, teach us how to pray.”

And Jesus responded, “When you pray, say this:

² " Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

Luke 11: 2-4, NRSV

It's a simple prayer. And I like the different translations than the ones we learned in Sunday School, because it makes me think about what I'm praying.

Often when we pray, we tell God what we think God should do. None of that is in Jesus's prayer.

He starts with praise of God,

asks for the basic needs of my life (bread - no peanut butter or jelly),

asks forgiveness, and reminds me to forgive,

and asks for God's protection.

What do you think about being forgiven as as you have forgiven others?

Ouch! Do I really want to be forgiven by God the way I *haven't* forgiven others?

If we forget about telling God what we want God to do,
we know that Prayer takes many more important forms:

Q. *What is Prayer?*

from The Catechism, BCP p. 856-7

Adoration & Praise

Thanksgiving & Offering

Penitence & Forgiveness

Intercession for Others

and, if necessary after spending time in all that,

Petition for our own needs

recognizing in all that God's sight is better than ours,
and God's Will takes into balance a whole universe!

Wow! That's amazing to think about.

God over-sees the whole universe and I'm a part of that plan!
That changes my prayer a lot!

Thank you, God, for making me a part of your universal plan!

On the next page, write your own prayer for today, using the pattern given.

Then, you might consider sitting
in silence,
in Meditation
and Contemplation.

Those are 'advanced' segments of prayer,
sort of the Graduate School
of the Spiritual Life.



You can ask your counselor, pastor or priest about this “Advanced Course” of the Spiritual Life. And remember - Prayer is entering the Spirit of God!

MY PRAYER for TODAY

Addressing God in Praise and Adoration

Offering Penitence for your Sins
and asking God to help you forgive others.

Prayers for the Needs of Others.

And if Necessary, after that, Prayers for your own Need.

And finally, Thanksgiving and Offering to God.

RESPONSE, part three
Stewardship

WOW!

THIS IS THE HARDEST PART.

THE THINGS I LOVE - NEED - WANT!



I know you're going to talk about money.

Yeah, I get it.

The Church needs my help to keep the priest, pay the bills, even help the poor.

We hear that every Fall at the Stewardship Campaign.

I'm told it's THANKS - GIVING.

I get it. But I don't have that much money. And I have things to pay for
at school, at Scouts, going out with friends, and...

And yet, I know this kid - he's 17 - and he told me he spends about \$10 a week on
Skittles!

SKITTLES! Candy? Really? Honestly!

10% of that - \$1 out of \$10 and in a year he'd have \$50 (or more). That would
provide one kid a hot lunch at school in Haiti for half of the school year. \$50!

Jesus said:

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust
consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves
treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where
thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ **For where your treasure is, there your
heart will be also.**

Matthew 6:19-21

Skittles!

Think about it.

What about you? What do you spend too much money on?

STEWARDSHIP

A “Tithe”

10%

Means more than committing a tithe of your income to charitable causes (see the Personal Management Merit Badge section!), even to the Church, though that commandment of the Bible is important - 10% of what you get paid, gifts given...

HAVE I PLEDGED TO HELP MY CHURCH?

Ask your pastor for a Pledge Card and dedicate some of your money each week.!

Stewardship is also giving of your time -

10% of your 24 hours to helping others, your family, your church, your community, a friend, someone who just needs a friend to help them rake leaves...



HOW CAN I OFFER MY TIME
(Hint - It serves you, too. Service Hours!!)

Stewardship is also giving of your talents.

WHAT SPECIAL GIFT DO I HAVE?

Theatre Arts - Musician - Computer Geek - Love to Garden - Paint - Cook

How can I OFFER MY TALENT?

Then there is GOD’S CREATION

Do I walk past junk on the sidewalk or pick it up?

Can I volunteer in the State Park?

Do I turn off lights when I’m not in the room?

Do I *really* need to listen to music on a 10-mile hike?



DO I “LEAVE NO TRACE”?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP SAVE THE
UNIVERSE?

REPEAT WITH ME

The OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to -

Be clean in my outdoor manners.

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage.
I will take care of it for myself and others
I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams,
fields, woods, and roadways.

Be careful with fire.

I will prevent wildfire.
I will build my fires only where they are appropriate.
When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out.
I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

Be considerate in the outdoors.

I will treat public and private property with respect.
I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

and

Be conservation minded

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil,
waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy.
I will urge others to do the same.

The RITE of CONFIRMATION

BCP p. 413ff



Now that you've gone through this course, your priest/pastor may consider you ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you've not done so already, you will want to ask at least one person to sponsor and support you. It could be a Godparent, or if you don't have one from your Baptism, consider someone who you view as a spiritual person, leading a Christian example in their life.

Let's go through the service of Confirmation to learn what will happen that day, and what will be expected of you and your sponsors, and even of the whole congregation!

INTRODUCTION

Concerning the Service (BCP, p. 412)

In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.

Those baptized as adults, unless baptized with laying on of hands by a bishop, are also expected to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism in the presence of a bishop and to receive the laying on of hands.

Confirmation

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The Bishop says

The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate **I do.**

Bishop 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.**

After all have been presented, 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?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

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

The Baptismal Covenant



Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

People **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.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**



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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

“I will with God's help.”

You profess first of all that you will “do your best”
but you also acknowledge that it is only with God's help
that you will be able to fulfill these promises.

It is difficult to be a Christian in the world.
And we need the Holy Spirit of God to motivate, feed and sustain us
in our attempt to live the Christian life.
We cannot do it on our own.

We use our own resources,
and engage the help and prayers of our Church family,
and the immense, mystical, wonderful assistance of God
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Shouting, “I will with God's help”
contains a whole lot of power and imagery.
You can use that phrase almost every day.
Maybe this can be your shout every morning:
“I can do all things through Christ!” *(Philippians 4:13)*

I CAN DO THIS! HELP ME, JESUS!

Prayers for the Candidates

The Bishop then says to the congregation

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

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

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.*

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

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.*

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity.

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

Hymnal 1982 #370

BIBLE STUDY

The Good News Translation (Today's English Version, 2nd edition)

read the following Scriptures and discuss with your Counselor/Leader.

JESUS and NICODEMUS (John 3: 1-7)

¹ There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees.

² One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him." ³ Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again." ⁴ "How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!" ⁵ "I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus, "that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit.

⁷ Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again.

By WATER and the HOLY SPIRIT (Mark 1: 4-8)

⁴ John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching. "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," he told the people, "and God will forgive your sins." ⁵ Many people from the province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He announced to the people, "The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

A NEW HEART (Ezekiel 11:14-25)

¹⁴ The Lord spoke to me. ¹⁵ "Mortal man," he said, "the people who live in Jerusalem are talking about you and those of your nation who are in exile. They say, 'The exiles are too far away to worship the Lord. He has given us possession of the land.'

¹⁶ "Now tell your fellow exiles what I am saying. I am the one who sent them to live in far-off nations and scattered them in other countries. Yet, for the time being I will be present with them in the lands where they have gone.

¹⁷ "So tell them what I, the Sovereign Lord, am saying. I will gather them out of the countries where I scattered them, and will give the land of Israel back to them. ¹⁸ When they return, they are to get rid of all the filthy, disgusting idols they find. ¹⁹ I will give them a new heart and a new mind. I will take away their stubborn heart of stone and will give them an obedient heart. ²⁰ Then they will keep my laws and faithfully obey all my commands. They will be my people, and I will be their God. ²¹ But I will punish the people who love to worship filthy, disgusting idols. I will punish them for what they have done." The Sovereign Lord has spoken.

²² The living creatures began to fly, and the wheels went with them. The dazzling light of the presence of the God of Israel was over them. ²³ Then the dazzling light left the city and moved to the mountain east of it. ²⁴ In the vision the spirit of God lifted me up and brought me back to the exiles in Babylonia. Then the vision faded, ²⁵ and I told the exiles everything that the Lord had shown me.

The DAY of PENTECOST

from The Acts of Apostles, chapter 2

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have now learned about as much as can be expected
for the Scout Religious Emblems at this point in your development.

I hope you began with

BAPTISM - Grades 1-3

continued with

COMMUNION - Grades 4-6

have now finished

CONFIRMATION

and will continue with the next segment

RELATIONSHIPS Grades 10-12

You, your counselor/pastor/priest, and your parent/guardian
will sign the application below and submit it for acceptance.

Then you will receive your recognition (or religious emblem) which should be presented to you at
your parish Church -
maybe on Scout Sunday in February,
or possibly at a Scout Court of Honor.

May God's Blessings be with you throughout your growth in the love of Christ,
your dedication and work through Scouting,
and your commitment to serve Christ in the world.

Yours,

Fr. Ed

date finished _____

signed _____ *scout*

signed _____ *parent/guardian*


signed _____ *leader*

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