

The Society of the Holy Trinity

Societas Trinitatis Sanctae

Election of Leaders—Senior, Bursar, and Deans (See *The Rule*, Chapter IX)

The Senior of the Society and the deans of the chapters shall be elected by a pure ecclesiastical ballot. Each ballot shall be preceded by scripture reading, a hymn and prayer for the Holy Spirit.

The Senior (or a dean) shall by life and teaching give pastoral direction to the Society (or a chapter).

The Bursar of the Society shall be elected by nomination and majority vote.

Ecclesiastical Ballot

1. A “pure ecclesiastical ballot” includes both *invocation of the Holy Spirit* and *consensus within the community of faith*: both with the intent of adhering to the apostolic principle, “It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15:28).
2. The *invocation of the Holy Spirit*, with the reading of Holy Scripture, before each ballot is cast provides opportunities for prayer and reflection on the Holy Ministry: that ministry to which all members of the Society have been called and ordained, and thus made eligible for leadership within the Society.
3. Each ballot begins with a brief lesson from the New Testament, followed by a hymn and prayer for the Holy Spirit, and then continues with the casting of individual ballots by the members of the Society present at that time.
4. The first ballot is a *nominating ballot* from which all names submitted are to be considered on the second ballot. The name of any member of the Society present may be submitted on the first ballot. Each member should be open to the possibility of nomination and eventual election.
5. With each successive ballot the members of the Society need to lay aside personal preferences and instead be intent on *achieving a consensus* within the Society. Consensus is best achieved when, whether in discussion or balloting, members do not argue their point of view, but rather put forward only what serves the best interest of the whole and only what reflects the agreed-upon common consent of the whole. Consequently, consensus in balloting must be unanimous (not majority opinion or general agreement).
6. All ballots must be done in secret. With a pure ecclesiastical ballot that is based on invocation of the Holy Spirit and consensus within the community of faith, any campaign or conversation about candidates is inappropriate and unacceptable whether before, during, or after the balloting.

7. The result of each ballot is to be announced after the counting of each ballot: each name, along with the number of votes, is to be read in descending order. However, should the balloting require a break for the divine office, mealtime, or another scheduled matter, the person leading the balloting shall not announce the results of the last ballot, but rather wait until the next ballot is to take place.

8. The balloting, along with the singing, praying, and reading, continues until one person receives unanimous consensus.

9. When an election has occurred the balloting should conclude with the *Te Deum* and a prayer of the Holy Trinity, for example, Almighty and ever-living God, you have given us grace (78).

Suggested Lessons, Hymns, and Prayers (*Lutheran Book of Worship*)

- (1) Mark 10:42b–45 “Whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all”
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire # 472
Or, Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove # 284
Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people (202)
- (2) Matthew 24:45–47 “Who is the faithful and wise slave?”
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord # 163, stanza 1
Pour out upon us, O Lord, the Spirit to think and do what is right (87)
- (3) Romans 15:15b–17 “A minister of Christ Jesus in the priestly service of the gospel”
To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray # 317, stanza 1
Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit (106)
- (4) 1 Corinthians 4:1–2 “Servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries”
Holy Spirit, Be Our Stay # 308, stanza 3
Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people (135)
- (5) 2 Corinthians 4:1–2 “By God’s mercy we are engaged in this ministry”
Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid # 164
O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit (70)
- (6) 2 Corinthians 4:5–6 “We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves”
Come Down, O Love Divine # 508
O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your Church (198)
- (7) 2 Corinthians 5:18–19 “God has given us the ministry of reconciliation”
Come, Oh Come, O Quickening Spirit # 478
Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew (101)
- (8) Ephesians 4:1–6 “Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”
O Holy Spirit, Enter In # 459
Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers (30)
- (9) Philippians 2:1–5 “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”
Awake, O Spirit of the Watchmen # 382
Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor (220)