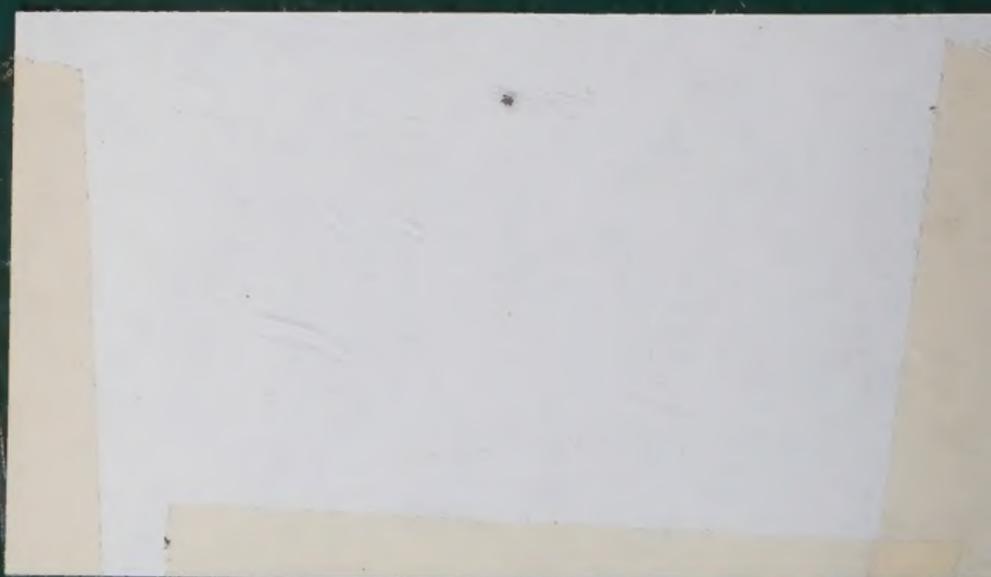




Robert League















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OCCASIONAL SERVICES

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COOPERATIONAL PRINTERS



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# OCCASIONAL SERVICES

A Companion to  
LUTHERAN  
BOOK OF WORSHIP

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## INTRODUCTION

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Pastoral handbooks in the Lutheran tradition have been known by a variety of titles, although *Manual* and *Agenda* have been the most common. The title *Occasional Services* has been used by Lutherans in North America since the *Common Service Book* of 1917.

The occasional services in this volume are services for specific occasions (e.g., Ordination, Dedication of a Church) and for specific situations (e.g., Commendation of the Dying), as distinguished from services of worship of a more general character such as the Holy Communion or Evening Prayer. The services can be divided into three categories. First, there are the orders and ritual actions used by the church—local, regional, or national—to dedicate property, buildings, and furnishings; to set persons in positions of leadership; and to order its own life. Second, there are materials for use in the exercise of the pastoral ministry. These include specific services, as well as suggestions and resources for pastoral care in particular situations. Third, there are materials for use by the congregation which extend the ministry of the whole people of God. Some of these are related to congregational life, such as the Distribution of Communion to Those in Special Circumstances, and some are for family settings, such as the Anniversary of a Baptism and the Anniversary of a Marriage.

*Occasional Services* is a joint effort of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. Not all of the services are common to the tradition and practices of all of the churches. In planning for the use of the services, pastors and other worship leaders should be guided by the polity of their respective church bodies.

This book is a companion to *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978. Those who plan and those who lead the services included in this book are urged to consult carefully *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, especially Notes on the Liturgy, page 13.

The title in *Lutheran Book of Worship* for the chief service of the congregation is “Holy Communion,” even when the Sacrament is not celebrated. The language in *Occasional Services* is consistent with that practice, and when the rubrics here speak of the Holy

Communion they also refer to ante-communion, when the Sacrament is not celebrated.

*Lutheran Book of Worship* symbols are used also to designate the participants in the occasional services. Leadership portions reserved for ordained pastors are marked **P** = presiding minister; unless otherwise noted, the presiding minister is a pastor of the congregation. Leadership portions appropriate for lay persons are marked **A** = assisting minister. Portions for the entire congregation are marked **C** = congregation. Leadership portions which do not require a pastor are marked **L** = leader. The responses of individuals or specific groups are marked **□**. When an assembly of whatever size speaks in unison, **All** = leader or minister and those assembled.

A red line around certain portions of the service indicates optional material. An OR is placed between optional sections.

A vertical red line placed in the left margin indicates material which may be omitted under certain circumstances.

The numbers printed in parentheses ( ) throughout this book are references to *Lutheran Book of Worship* rubrics. The numbers printed in angle brackets < > are references to *Occasional Services* rubrics.

Psalm references and verse divisions reflect the versification of the psalms in *Lutheran Book of Worship*. If a psalm is read from another translation, it is important to check the versification against the psalter in *Lutheran Book of Worship*. When using versions of the Bible which follow the Vulgate numbering system (e.g., The Jerusalem Bible), the number of the psalm must be checked also.

All other scripture references and verse divisions reflect the versification in the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. If another version is used, it is important to check its versification against the RSV.

To facilitate reference, the prayers are numbered consecutively from the beginning of the book, starting with the number 429 to continue the *Lutheran Book of Worship* numbering sequence. (A prayer appearing at two places in the book will have the same number in both positions.) The prayer number is the small number at the end of the prayer.

Care must be taken to preserve the integrity of the church year when using the occasional services during the chief service of the

congregation. The Principal Festivals—The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day), The Epiphany of Our Lord, The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day), The Ascension of Our Lord, The Day of Pentecost, The Holy Trinity—always have precedence over any other day or observance. Moreover, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter have their own distinct character which should be preserved. It is not desirable to schedule an occasional service at the chief service of the congregation on any of those Sundays, lest the message of the day be blunted or obscured. It may be appropriate, however, to schedule an occasional service on one of the Principal Festivals at an hour other than that of the chief service of the congregation. For example, an ordination in the afternoon of The Day of Pentecost is appropriate.

With careful and creative use, *Occasional Services* can provide continuity in the rich heritage of the Church in liturgy and pastoral care, to the end that the Gospel will be proclaimed with faithfulness and clarity.



---

## ENROLLMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM

---

1. *This order is for the enrollment of those who will be given instruction leading to Holy Baptism.*
2. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon, Hymn of the Day, and Creed (20).*

### *Stand*

3. *Each candidate is presented by his/her sponsor to the minister:*

I present \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ for enrollment as a candidate for Holy Baptism.

### *Sit*

4. *The minister addresses the candidates:*

**P** Through the Word of God you have been drawn toward our community of faith. Are you ready now to enter further into our life together by regularly attending the worship of God and by receiving instruction?

5. *Each candidate answers in turn:*

I am.

6. *The minister addresses the sponsors:*

**P** Will you who sponsor these persons support them by prayer and example and help them to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

I will.

### *Stand*

*7. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** Friends in Christ: God's people are called to build up one another in the faith. Will you support the nurture of these persons with prayer, words, and deeds?

**G** We will.

*8. The following prayer is said.*

**P** Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ names \_\_\_\_\_, who have experienced the guiding presence of your Holy Spirit in their lives. Give them your peace, and make them steadfast in faith throughout their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, now and forever. <429>

**G** Amen

*9. One of the following prayers may be said.*

**P** O God, the Creator and Savior of all: Look with mercy on your children whom you call to yourself in love. Cleanse their hearts and guard them as they prepare to receive your sacraments, that, led by your Holy Spirit, they may be united with your Son and enter into the inheritance of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <430>

OR

**P** Almighty God, you have given life to your people by the death and resurrection of your Son. May these candidates for Baptism take up their cross and, following Christ, reveal him in their lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. <431>

**G** Amen

*10. All return to their places. The liturgy for Holy Communion continues with the Prayers (22).*

*11. Those who have been enrolled as candidates for Baptism do not receive Holy Communion.*

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

- ▶ *The preparation of candidates for Baptism is a solemn responsibility of the Christian community. Congregations may find people seeking membership who have received little or no religious instruction and are not baptized. Especially in those cases, an enrollment service, followed by a period of systematic instruction and formation in the Christian faith, may be desirable. The preparation for Baptism is marked by three stages.*
- ▶ **STAGE 1. INQUIRERS' CLASS.** *This stage involves sufficient preparation through instruction and example to enable persons to determine their desire for Baptism.*
- ▶ **STAGE 2. ENROLLMENT.** *This service ordinarily is scheduled on a Sunday several weeks before the stated day for Baptism. When Holy Baptism is administered at Easter, enrollment as a candidate occurs at the beginning of Lent; when Baptism is planned for The Baptism of Our Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany), the enrollment takes place at the beginning of Advent.*
- ▶ **STAGE 3. INSTRUCTION.** *This stage involves regular association with the worshiping community (although the candidates do not receive Holy Communion); the practice of life in accordance with the Gospel (including service to the poor and neglected); encouragement and instruction in the life of prayer; and basic instruction in Christian understandings about God, human relationships, and the meaning of life.*
- ▶ *A fourth period immediately follows the baptismal incorporation into the body of Christ. When persons are baptized at the Vigil of Easter, this period extends over the 50 days of Easter. This period is devoted to formal and informal activities which will assist the newly baptized in experiencing and appropriating the fullness of the corporate life of the Church and in gaining a deeper understanding of the meaning of the sacraments.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

2. ▶ When used with Service of the Word, the order for Enrollment of Candidates for Baptism replaces the Dialog (2) and the Creed.
3. ▶ It is appropriate for members of the congregation to sponsor the candidates, accompanying them through instruction, through the rite of the Baptism, and into the life of the congregation.
10. ▶ Service of the Word continues with the Old Testament Canticle (3).



---

## BAPTISM IN AN EMERGENCY

- 
- 1. This order may be used when an unbaptized person is in danger of death and Baptism is requested. It is desirable that Christian witnesses be present.*
  - 2. When a pastor is not available, any baptized person may administer Holy Baptism.*
  - 3. The baptizing person applies water to the head of the candidate three times while saying:*

\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ is baptized in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

4. *The Lord's Prayer is said by those present.*

**A1** Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**A1** 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, forever and ever. Amen

5. *The following or other appropriate prayers may be said.*

We thank you, almighty God, that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your child the forgiveness of sin and have raised *him/her* to the new life of grace. Bless *him/her*, O Lord, with your presence, enfold *him/her* in the arms of your mercy, and keep *him/her* in your love forever. Amen (432)

***Public Recognition of the Baptism***

6. *Public Recognition of the Baptism is used with a young child who was baptized in an emergency.*

7. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, the public recognition of a Baptism administered in an emergency follows the Sermon (18).*

**Sit**

8. *A baptismal hymn may be sung as the newly baptized, sponsors, and parents gather at the font.*

**P** In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

9. *A sponsor presents the newly baptized with these or similar words:*

I present to this community of faith \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>, who on \_\_\_\_\_<sup>date</sup> was baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

10. *The minister addresses the sponsors and parents:*

**P** In Christian love you have had this child baptized. You should, therefore, faithfully bring *him/her* to the services of God's house, and teach *him/her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As *he/she* grows in years, you should place in *his/her* hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for *his/her* instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of *his/her* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *he/she* may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

I do.

### *Stand*

11. *The Prayers (22) may be said at this time, with special reference to the one baptized.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

12. *The minister begins the thanksgiving.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We give you thanks that by your Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ has been given new life through the waters of Baptism, and that you have made *him/her* an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. (433)

**C** Amen

13. *The minister addresses the baptismal group and congregation:*

**P** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

**P** Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**C** 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 into hell.\*  
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.

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** 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. Amen

### *Sit*

*14. A psalm or hymn may be sung as the minister and the baptismal group go before the altar.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

*15. The minister lays both hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit.*

**P** God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. (246)

**C** Amen

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

16. *The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

*The sponsor responds: "Amen."*

17. *A lighted candle may be given to the sponsor by a representative of the congregation who says:*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

18. *This prayer may be said*

**P** O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (247)

**C** Amen

*Stand*

19. *The ministers and the baptismal group turn toward the congregation; a representative of the congregation says:*

Through Baptism God has made \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**C** We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

20. *The ministers may exchange the peace with the baptized, with his/her sponsors and parents, and with the congregation.*

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

21. *All return to their places.*

*Sit*

22. *The service continues with the Offering (24).*

---

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

---

- ▶ *Baptism conducted in an emergency should be reported to the pastor of the appropriate congregation for recording.*
- ▶ *If the person baptized survives, the pastor should instruct the newly baptized adult or the parents of a newly baptized child regarding the significance of Baptism and the obligations for instruction and nurture in faith.*
- ▶ *Although sponsors may not have been present at the Baptism, it is appropriate that such persons be selected to share responsibility for spiritual nurture.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

6. ▶ Affirmation of Baptism, *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, page 324, may be used for the public recognition of the Baptism of an adult who, in danger of death, was baptized. Or Public Recognition of the Baptism may be modified as necessary.



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## ANNIVERSARY OF A BAPTISM

- 
- 1. Anniversary of a Baptism is intended for use in the home.*
  - 2. A parent or sponsor may lead this service.*
  - 3. A baptismal hymn may be sung.*
  - 4. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism as they say:*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

- 5. As the baptismal candle is lighted, the leader may say:*

✠ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
☩ the light no darkness can overcome.

OR

✠ Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

6. *One or more lessons may be read by members of the family.*

*A reading from Romans:* Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(Rom. 6:3-11)

*A reading from St. John:* "In truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."

(John 3:5)

*A reading from First Peter:* Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

(1 Peter 2:2-3)

*A reading from Colossians:* May you be strengthened with all power, according to God's glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

(Col. 1:11-13)

*A reading from Ephesians:* In Christ you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

(Eph. 1:13-14)

*A reading from Ephesians:* I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit,

just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:1-6)

*A reading from Second Corinthians:* Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. (2 Cor. 5:17)

*A reading from St. Matthew:* Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and to pray for them, but the disciples scolded the people. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." He placed his hands on them and then went away. (Matt. 19:13-15)

*7. Those present may discuss the meaning of Baptism for daily life. The service of Holy Baptism or Luther's Small Catechism may serve as the basis for such discussion. The leader may introduce this conversation with these words:*

**L** In Baptism, God brings us into his family and calls us his own. By Baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, life, forgiveness, and strength, and asks us to respond in faithfulness to him and in service to others.

In answer to the question, "What does Baptism mean for daily living?" The Small Catechism responds: "It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever."

*8. Prayers follow.*

**L** Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, we thank you for the new life you have given us through Holy Baptism. Especially, we ask you to bless \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ on the anniversary of *his/her* Baptism. Continue to strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit, and increase in *him/her* your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <434>

**A** Amen

*Those present may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.  
The prayers conclude:*

**All** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**All** 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, forever and ever. Amen

*9. The blessing is said.*

**L** The Lord bless us and keep us. ✠  
The Lord make his face shine on us  
and be gracious to us.  
The Lord look upon us with favor  
and give us peace.

OR

**L** The Lord almighty bless us, and direct our days and our  
deeds in his peace.

**R** Amen



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## MARRIAGE

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### *Stand*

*1. The bride, groom, and wedding party stand in front of the minister. The parents may stand behind the couple.*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G** And also with you.

**A** Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. (162)

**G** Amen

### *Sit*

*2. One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be sung.*

**A** The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

*Stand*

*3. The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:*

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward,  
to join with you and share all that is to come,  
and I promise to be faithful to you  
until death parts us.

*4. The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:*

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

*5. The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

**G** **Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.**

**P** Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

**G** **Amen**

*Sit*

*6. The bride and groom kneel.*

**P** The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

**G** **Amen**

*7. The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words: the wedding party may join them.*

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

*& The bride and groom stand.*

*Stand*

**A** Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

**P** Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unending love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever. (276)

**G Amen**

**A** Let us pray for \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ in their life together.

**P** Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. (277)

**G Amen**

*Other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

**P** Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. (278)

**G Amen**

9. *When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace (23).*

10. *When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.*

**C** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**C** 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, forever and ever. Amen

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

**C** Amen

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**NOTES ON THE SERVICE**


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▶ *For notes on Marriage, see Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition, page 36.*

**PROPERS**
*Hymn of Praise*

“I will sing the story of your love,” canticle 16.

*Prayer of the Day*

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now. Look in favor upon \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>, and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate the marriage feast which has no end with Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (162)

*Psalms and Lessons*

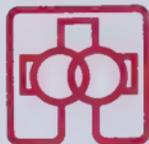
Psalm 33	Psalm 127	Psalm 136
Psalm 100	Psalm 128	Psalm 150
Psalm 117		

*The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord* (Ps. 33:5)

*Happy are they who delight in the commandments of the Lord* (Ps. 112:1)

*They are no longer two but one* (Matt. 19:6)

Genesis 1:26-31	Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Isaiah 63:7-9
Genesis 2:18-24	Song of Solomon 8:7	
Romans 12:1-2	Ephesians 5:21-33	1 John 4:7-12
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13	Philippians 4:4-7	
Matthew 19:4-6	John 2:1-10	John 15:9-12



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## BLESSING OF A CIVIL MARRIAGE

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### *Stand*

*1. The husband and wife stand before the minister. Christian witnesses may accompany them.*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, look in favor upon \_\_\_\_\_  
name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
name \_\_\_\_\_. Grant them your blessing, that they may live in steadfast love and faithfulness to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. <435>

**C** Amen

### *Sit*

*2. One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be sung.*

### 3. *The minister may say:*

**A** The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come. Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

### *Stand*

#### 4. *The husband and wife may join hands.*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ : You have come here today to seek the intercessions of the Church and the blessing of God upon your marriage. Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it. In that same spirit of self-giving love, will you continue to live together as husband and wife, sharing all that is to come until death parts you?

**R** Yes, with the help of God.

#### 5. *The minister addresses the congregation with these or similar words:*

**P** Will you, friends and family of \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, support this marriage with Christian love, remembering them in your prayers?

**R** We will.

#### 5. *If rings have not been exchanged, the couple may exchange rings with these words:*

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

### *Sit*

#### 6. *The husband and wife kneel.*

**P** The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, bless and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

**R** Amen

*7. The parents and witnesses may add their blessing with these or similar words:*

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

*8. The husband and wife stand.*

**Stand**

*9. The prayers are said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.*

**A** Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

**P** Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever. (276)

**Amen**

**A** Let us pray for \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ in their life together.

**P** Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, that they may reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. <436>

**Amen**

*Other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

**P** Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more

with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages.

(278)

**C** Amen

*10. When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace (23).*

*11. When there is no Communion, the service concludes as follows:*

**C** Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**C** 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, forever and ever. Amen

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

**C** Amen

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *This order is intended for use by itself. When appropriate, however, this order may be set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, following the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day (19), beginning with the address <3>.*
- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*
- ▶ *Those desiring to have their civil marriage blessed should discuss their intentions with the pastor. They will need to present official documentation confirming their marriage: date, place, time, and participants.*
- ▶ *The pastor should discuss with the couple the nature of a blessing of a civil marriage, making it clear that it is not a remarriage. The understanding of marriage outlined in the minister's opening address to the couple <3> forms a basis for such discussion.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

2. ▶ The lessons may be selected from those listed in the propers for Marriage, page 31.



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## ANNIVERSARY OF A MARRIAGE

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- 1. Anniversary of a Marriage may be used in a home or similar setting. When it is desirable to mark an anniversary within corporate worship, the prayer <6> may be included in The Prayers.*
- 2. Family members or persons who participated in the couple's marriage service may lead this service.*
- 3. A hymn of thanksgiving may be sung.*
- 4. The prayer is said.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, we thank you for providing \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ these \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ years together. Grant that they, abiding in your love and faithfulness, may continue to share with one another their joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.      <437>

Amen

- 5. One or both of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read. An address may follow. Informal conversation by the family and friends may be appropriate.*

*A reading from First Corinthians:* Earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy

gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 12:31—13:13)

*A reading from St. John:* "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:9-12)

*6. Prayers may be said for the husband and wife, their children and family, the guests assembled, and other concerns.*

**L** Let us pray.

God of love, you are always present with your abundant blessing in our homes. We are especially thankful this day for your grace active in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ as they celebrate their \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary of marriage. Fill them with tenderness and patience, and give them love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world. Be with them today and until that day when we all celebrate the marriage feast that has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (438)

**R** Amen

*Those assembled may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings. The prayers conclude:*

**A1** Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**A1** 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, forever and ever. Amen

*7. The children of the couple, other members of the family, or friends may say:*

May you continue to dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

*8. The blessing may be said.*

**L** The Lord bless us and keep us.  
 The Lord make his face shine on us  
 and be gracious to us.  
 The Lord look upon us with favor  
 and give us peace.

**A** Amen

*9. A hymn of thanksgiving may be sung.*

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

5. ▶ Other lessons may be selected from those listed in the propers for Marriage, page 31.



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## AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE VOWS

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1. *This order is for use in marriage counseling or marriage enrichment occasions.*

2. *A hymn may be sung.*

3. *The minister greets the couple with these or similar words:*

**P.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**R.** And also with you.

**P.** Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, look with continuing favor upon \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. (439)

**R.** Amen

4. *One or more lessons from the Bible may be read.*

5. *The minister may say:*

**P** The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come. Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

6. *The husband and wife face each other and join hands. Each in turn says these or similar words:*

\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, I have taken you to be my *wife/husband*. I now renew my promise to be your loving partner, faithful to you until death parts us.

7. *The husband and wife kneel, and the minister blesses them.*

**P** The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, continue to sustain you, that you may find new delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

**R** Amen

8. *The couple stands.*

9. *The prayers are said.*

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, constant in mercy, we give you thanks for bestowing your blessing on your servants, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_. Grant them continued life together. Awaken them each day to new signs of your presence as they grow in love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <440>

**R** Amen

**P** Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other,

they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. (278)

Amen

*10. Other intercessions for family, counselors, pastors, and the Church may be offered. The prayers conclude:*

**Our Father in heaven,**  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**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, forever and ever. Amen

*11. The blessing is said.*

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

Amen

*12. A hymn may be sung.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *This order is intended for use by itself. When appropriate, however, this order may be set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, following the Sermon and Hymn of the Day (19), beginning with the address <5>.*
- ▶ *The language of this order is to be modified when more than one couple affirm their vows in the same service.*
- ▶ *The pastor should discuss the nature of an affirmation of marriage vows with the couple, making it clear that it is not remarriage, but rather a time of reflection and reaffirmation.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ Circumstances may indicate that Individual Confession and Forgiveness, page 45, or Corporate Confession and Forgiveness, *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, page 318, precede this service.
4. ▶ It is desirable that the lessons be selected carefully, to be appropriate to the reasons the couple is affirming their marriage vows. The lessons may be selected from those listed in the propers for Marriage, page 31.
  - ▶ A brief address, a brief explanation of the texts, or mutual consideration of the texts may follow.
6. ▶ It is recommended that the couple assist in preparing the affirming statement.
10. ▶ The couple may offer petitions on behalf of each other and their families.



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## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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*1. The confession made by a penitent is protected from disclosure. The pastor is obligated to respect at all times the confidential nature of a confession.*

*2. The pastor greets the penitent. Then the penitent may kneel. The pastor asks:*

**P** Are you prepared to make your confession?

**I** am.

*The pastor and penitent say the psalm together.*

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin. (Ps. 51:16-18, 1-2)

**P** You have come to make confession before God. In Christ you are free to confess before me, a pastor in his Church, the sins of which you are aware and the sins which trouble you.

I confess before God that I am guilty of many sins.  
Especially I confess before you that . . .

*3. The penitent confesses those sins which are known and those which disturb or grieve him/her.*

For all this I am sorry and I pray for forgiveness. I want to do better.

*4. The pastor may then engage the penitent in pastoral conversation, offering admonition and comfort from the Holy Scriptures. Then they say together:*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit. (Ps. 51:1, 11-13)

*5. The pastor faces the penitent.*

**P** Do you believe that the word of forgiveness I speak to you comes from God himself?

**R** Yes, I believe.

*6. The pastor lays both hands on the head of the penitent.*

**P** God is merciful and blesses you. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R** Amen

*7. The penitent may pray silently in thanksgiving, or may pray together with the pastor:*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
 so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
 so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children,  
 so does the Lord care for those who fear him. (Ps. 103:8-13)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

**P** Blessed are those whose sins have been forgiven,  
 whose evil deeds have been forgotten.  
 Rejoice in the Lord, and go in peace.

*8. The penitent may exchange the peace with the pastor.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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► *For notes on Individual Confession and Forgiveness, see Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition, page 34.*



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## PSALMS, LESSONS, AND PRAYERS

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### SICKNESS

#### *Psalm 91*

- <sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,\*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- <sup>2</sup> He shall say to the LORD,  
“You are my refuge and my stronghold,\*  
my God in whom I put my trust.”
- <sup>3</sup> He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter\*  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings;\*  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- <sup>5</sup> You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,\*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- <sup>6</sup> of the plague that stalks in the darkness,\*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at midday.
- <sup>7</sup> A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand,\*  
but it shall not come near you.
- <sup>8</sup> Your eyes have only to behold\*  
to see the reward of the wicked.
- <sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,\*  
and the Most High your habitation,
- <sup>10</sup> there shall no evil happen to you,\*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- <sup>11</sup> For he shall give his angels charge over you,\*  
to keep you in all your ways.
- <sup>12</sup> They shall bear you in their hands,\*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup> You shall tread upon the lion and adder;\*

you shall trample the young lion  
and the serpent under your feet.

<sup>14</sup> Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him;\*

I will protect him, because he knows my name.

<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;\*

I am with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

<sup>16</sup> With long life will I satisfy him,\*

and show him my salvation.

***Psalm 27:1a***

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

***Psalm 42:1-3***

<sup>1</sup> As the deer longs for the water-brooks,\*

so longs my soul for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;\*

when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night,\*

while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"

***Other psalms: Psalm 27***

***Luke 4:38-44***

<sup>38</sup> And Jesus arose and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they besought him for her. <sup>39</sup> And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her; and immediately she rose and served them.

<sup>40</sup> Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup> And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them, and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

<sup>42</sup> And when it was day he departed and went into a lonely place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them; <sup>43</sup> but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other

cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.” And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

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### *Jeremiah 14:9b*

You are in our midst, O Lord, and you have named us yours; do not forsake us, O Lord our God.

### *Matthew 11:28-30*

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest. . . . <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

### *John 14:27*

“Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears.”

### *Romans 8:38-39*

<sup>38</sup>I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, <sup>39</sup>in heights or depths—nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### *1 Peter 5:6-9a*

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand, and he will lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your cares on him, for you are his charge. <sup>8</sup>Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith.

*Other lessons: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Matthew 8:1-13; Matthew 9:2-8, 18-26; Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 6:7, 12-13; Mark 7:31-37; Luke 6:6-10; Luke 17:11-19; John 4:46-53; James 5:10-20.*

### *Prayers*

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O Lord, visit and restore your servant for whom we offer our prayers. Look upon *him/her* in your mercy; give *him/her* comfort and sure confidence in you; defend *him/her* from danger and harm; and keep *him/her* in perpetual peace and safety; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <441>

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers:  
 Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servant,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, the help of your power, that *his/her* sickness  
 may be turned into health and our anxiety into joy; through  
 Jesus Christ our Lord. <442>

O God of power and love, be present with \_\_\_\_\_,  
 that *his/her* weakness may be overcome and *his/her* strength re-  
 stored; and that, *his/her* health being renewed, *he/she* may bless  
 your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <443>

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve  
 your servant, \_\_\_\_\_, and give your power of healing  
 to those who minister to *his/her* needs, that *he/she* may be  
 strengthened in *his/her* weakness and have confidence in your  
 loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <444>

O Lord, look upon your servant, \_\_\_\_\_. Touch  
*him/her* with your healing hand and let your life-giving power  
 flow into every cell of *his/her* body and into the depths of  
*his/her* soul, restoring *him/her* to wholeness and strength for  
 service in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <445>

## GRATITUDE

### *Psalm 103:1-5, 19-22*

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, Ó my soul,\*  
 and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, Ó my soul,\*  
 and forget not all his benefits.
- <sup>3</sup> He forgives all your sins\*  
 and heals all your infirmities;
- <sup>4</sup> he redeems your life from the grave\*  
 and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;
- <sup>5</sup> he satisfies you with good things,\*  
 and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>19</sup> The LORD has set his throne,\*  
 and his kingship has dominion over all.
- <sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, you angels of his,  
 you mighty ones who do his bidding,\*  
 and hearken to the voice of his word.

- 21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts,\*  
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion;\*  
bless the LORD, O my soul.

*Other psalms: Psalm 8; 28:6-9; 30; 34:1-8; 100; 145; 150*

### *1 Chronicles 29:10-13*

- 10 David praised the LORD in the  
presence of the whole assembly, saying,  
“Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.
- 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.  
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;  
you are exalted as head over all.
- 12 Wealth and honor come from you;  
you are the ruler of all things.  
In your hands are strength and power  
to exalt and give strength to all.
- 13 Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
and praise your glorious name.”

*Other lessons: 1 Peter 1:3-9*

### *Prayers*

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Almighty and gracious God, we give thanks that you have restored the health of your servant, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, on whose behalf we bless and praise your name. Grant that *he/she* may continue the mission you have given *him/her* in this world and also share in eternal glory at the appearing of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (228)

O Lord our God, source of life and wholeness: Gladly we thank you that you hear our prayers for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, and that you are turning *his/her* sickness into health and *his/her* weakness into strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (446)

**BEFORE CHILDBIRTH***Psalm 67*

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to ús and bless us,\*  
show us the light of his countenance, and c̄ome to us.
- <sup>2</sup> Let your ways be known úpon earth,\*  
your saving health among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise ýou, O God;\*  
let all the p̄eoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and síng for joy,\*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations úpon earth.
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise ýou, O God;\*  
let all the p̄eoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has brought forth her increase;\*  
may God, our own God, give ús his blessing.
- <sup>7</sup> May God give ús his blessing,\*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in áwe of him.

*Other psalms: Psalm 139:1–16*

*Ecclesiastes 11:5*

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

*Other lessons: Luke 1:39–55*

*Prayers*

O God, the creator and sustainer of life, graciously preserve and protect \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ during childbirth, and safely bring forth in health and wholeness the infant whom you have created; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <447>

O Lord our God, creator of all that exists: We thank you for the joy of watching new life begin and for the privilege of sharing with you in your continuing creation. In your mercy grant that these blessings may continue to us and even to our children's children, that generations yet unborn may bless your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <448>

## FOLLOWING CHILDBIRTH

### *Psalm 100*

- <sup>1</sup> Be joyful in the LORD, áll you lands;\*  
 · serve the LORD with gladness  
 and come before his presence wíth a song.
- <sup>2</sup> Know this: The LORD himself is God;\*  
 he himself has made us, and we are his;  
 we are his people and the sheep óf his pasture.
- <sup>3</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his cōurts with praise;\*  
 give thanks to him and call upón his name.
- <sup>4</sup> For the LORD is good; his mercy is éverlasting;\*  
 and his faithfulness endures from áge to age.

*Other psalms: Psalm 8, 113, 127, 128*

### *Luke 18:15-17*

- <sup>15</sup> Now they were bringing even infants to *Jesus* that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.
- <sup>16</sup> But *Jesus* called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

*Other lessons: 1 Samuel 1:19-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; John 16:21*

### *Prayers*

---

Heavenly Father, you sent your own Son into this world as the child of Mary and Joseph. We thank you for the life of this child, \_\_\_\_\_<sub>name</sub>\_\_\_\_\_, entrusted to our care. Help us to remember that we are all your children, and so to love and nurture *him/her* that *he/she* may attain to that full stature intended for *him/her* in your eternal kingdom; for the sake of *Jesus Christ*, your Son and our Lord. (231)

O gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that you have preserved your servant, \_\_\_\_\_<sub>name</sub>\_\_\_\_\_, through the anxiety of childbirth. Enable her to live faithfully according to your will and finally to partake of everlasting glory; through *Jesus Christ* our Lord. <449>

O God our creator, grant that the child of \_\_\_\_\_ name(s) of parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_ may increase in wisdom and stature and grow in your love and service, until *he/she* comes to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <450>

Almighty God, giver of life and love, bless \_\_\_\_\_ names of parents \_\_\_\_\_. Grant them wisdom and devotion in their life together, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. So knit their wills together in your will and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may live together in love and peace all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <451>

## STILLBIRTH OR DEATH SHORTLY AFTER BIRTH

### *Psalm 130*

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

<sup>2</sup> If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,\*  
O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>3</sup> For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

<sup>4</sup> I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.

<sup>5</sup> My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning,\*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>6</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD,\*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;

<sup>7</sup> with him there is plenteous redemption,\*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### *Romans 14:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

<sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**Prayers**

Lord God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort: We thank you for your care in this time of trial and sadness. Console and comfort these your servants with the assurance of your tender compassion and unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

&lt;452&gt;

O God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust \_\_\_\_\_  
name to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(283)

Merciful God, comfort your servants whose hearts grieve, and grant that they may so love and serve you in this life that, together with this your child, they may obtain the fullness of your promises in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

&lt;453&gt;

**ADDICTION****Psalm 121**

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep; \*
- <sup>5</sup> the LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- <sup>6</sup> so that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD shall watch over  
your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth forevermore.

*Other psalms: Psalm 46, 130*

**2 Corinthians 4:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

*Other lessons: Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 15:21-28; Romans 8:38-39; Galatians 2:20*

**Prayers**

O Lord, mercifully regard your servant, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, who is bound with the chains of addiction. Give *him/her* strength, that *he/she* may be freed from fear and guilt and be restored in you to the liberty of the children of God, now and forever. (454)

O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your un-failing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love; for your mercy's sake. (227)

**ANXIETY, APPREHENSION, FEAR****Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*

The LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,\*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,  
who stumbled and fell.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army should encamp against me,\*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

- 4 and though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life;
- 6 to behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!
- 18 Oh, tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

*Other psalms: Psalm 4, 46, 91, 121*

*Isaiah 43:1-3a*

- <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob,  
 he who formed you, O Israel:  
 “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
- <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters I will be with you;  
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
 and the flame shall not consume you.
- <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

*Romans 8:31-35, 37-39*

- <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Other lessons: Lamentations 3:55-58; Matthew 6:25-34; John 10:1-18; John 14:1-6; Philippians 4:4-7*

*Prayers*

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Almighty and merciful God, our only source of health and healing, who alone can bring calmness and peace: Grant to us, your children, a consciousness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (455)

Loving Lord, we entrust ourselves to your care this day. Guide with wisdom and skill the minds and hands of those who minister in your name. Grant that your servant may be restored to health and may live in harmony with you and with others; through Jesus Christ. <456>

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing except losing you, and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that fears and anxieties in this mortal life may not hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <457>

## GUILT

*Individual Confession and Forgiveness (page 45) may be appropriate.*

### *Psalm 139:1-17, 22-23*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>2</sup> You trace my journeys and my resting-places\*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>3</sup> Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,\*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- <sup>4</sup> You press upon me behind and before\*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>5</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- <sup>6</sup> Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>7</sup> If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- <sup>8</sup> If I take the wings of the morning\*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
<sup>9</sup> even there your hand will lead me\*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- <sup>10</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,\*  
and the light around me turn to night,"

- <sup>11</sup> darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- <sup>12</sup> For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>13</sup> I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- <sup>14</sup> My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>16</sup> How deep I find your thoughts. O God! \*  
How great is the sum of them!
- <sup>17</sup> If I were to count them,  
they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.
- <sup>22</sup> Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- <sup>23</sup> Look well whether there be any wickedness in me, \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

*Other psalms: Psalm 15, 25, 32, 51, 86*

### ***Romans 5:1-11***

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. <sup>8</sup> But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood,

much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

*Other lessons: Isaiah 1:18; Isaiah 53; Matthew 9:2-8; John 3:16-21; Ephesians 3:13-21; 1 John 1:1-9; 1 John 4:9-21*

### *Prayers*

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God of mercy, compassion, and healing: You are more willing to forgive than we are to confess. The burden of guilt is heavy upon us. We thank you that you hear us when we pray, that you share our suffering and pain, and that you forgive our sins. Remind us that with you there is mercy, and make us to hear of joy and gladness. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <462>

Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(223)

## LONELINESS

### *Psalms 139:1-17*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>2</sup> You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>3</sup> Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- <sup>4</sup> You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>5</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- <sup>6</sup> Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
Where can I flee from your presence?

- <sup>7</sup> If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- <sup>8</sup> If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- <sup>9</sup> even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- <sup>10</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"
- <sup>11</sup> darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- <sup>12</sup> For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>13</sup> I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- <sup>14</sup> My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>16</sup> How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
How great is the sum of them!
- <sup>17</sup> If I were to count them,  
they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

*Other psalms: Psalm 6, 13, 27, 31, 42*

***Isaiah 35:1-10***

- <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.
- <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees,

- <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
 "Be strong, fear not!  
 Behold, your God will come with vengeance,  
 with the recompense of God.  
 He will come and save you."
- <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a hart,  
 and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;
- <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- <sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there,  
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
 the unclean shall not pass over it,  
 and fools shall not err therein.
- <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
 they shall not be found there,  
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
- <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
 and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Other lessons: Isaiah 43:1-3a; Isaiah 49:13-15; Jeremiah 20:7-13; John 14:1-6; John 15:7-11; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8:18-28; Romans 8:31b-39; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 2 Corinthians 4:13b-5:9; Philippians 4:4-7; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:3-9, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 1 John 5:14-15*

### **Prayers**

Merciful God, our Father, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you stand within the shadows, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then deal with us as seems best to you, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. <463>

O Lord our God, you see and know and feel the pain of the world. Look upon us in our loneliness and enfold us with your love, that in the midst of pain we may know your presence. To those who attend \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ give compassionate hearts and healing hands, and give \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ health again for your mercy's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <464>

Blessed Lord, in moments of pain we turn to you for strength; in times of loneliness we feel your loving nearness. Grant that your life and love and joy may flow through us for the healing of others in Jesus' name. <465>

## IMPATIENCE OR BOREDOM

*Psalm 119:81-84, 88-96, 105-112, 169-170, 175*

<sup>81</sup> My soul has longed for <sup>your</sup> salvation; \*  
I have put my hope in your word.

<sup>82</sup> My eyes have failed from watching <sup>for</sup> your promise,\*  
and I say, "When will you <sup>comfort</sup> me?"

<sup>83</sup> I have become like a leather flask in the smoke,\*  
but I have not forgotten your statutes.

<sup>84</sup> How much longer <sup>must</sup> I wait? \*  
When will you give judgment  
against those who <sup>persecute</sup> me?

<sup>88</sup> In your lovingkindness, revive me,\*  
that I may keep the decrees <sup>of</sup> your mouth.

<sup>89</sup> O LORD, your word is <sup>everlasting</sup>; \*  
it stands firm in the heavens.

<sup>90</sup> Your faithfulness remains from <sup>one</sup> generation <sup>to</sup> another; \*  
you established the earth, and it abides.

<sup>91</sup> By your decree these continue <sup>to</sup> this day,\*  
for all things <sup>are</sup> your servants.

<sup>92</sup> If my delight had not been in your law,\*  
I should have perished in <sup>my</sup> affliction.

<sup>93</sup> I will never forget <sup>your</sup> commandments,\*  
because by them you <sup>give</sup> me life.

<sup>94</sup> I am yours—oh, that <sup>you</sup> would save me!—\*  
for I study <sup>your</sup> commandments.

<sup>95</sup> Though the wicked lie in wait for me <sup>to</sup> destroy me,\*  
I will apply my mind to <sup>your</sup> decrees.

- 96 I see that all things come to an end,\*  
but your commandment has no bounds.
- 105 Your word is a lantern to my feet\*  
and a light upon my path.
- 106 I have sworn and am determined\*  
to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am deeply troubled;\*  
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips,\*  
and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand,\*  
yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me,\*  
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance forever;\*  
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes\*  
forever and to the end.
- 169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD;\*  
give me understanding, according to your word.
- 170 Let my supplication come before you;\*  
deliver me, according to your promise.
- 175 Let me live, and I will praise you,\*  
and let your judgments help me.

*Other psalms: Psalm 126*

### *Lamentations 3:55-58*

- 55 I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit.
- 56 You heard my plea: "Do not close your ears  
to my cry for relief."
- 57 You came near when I called you, and you said, "Do not fear."
- 58 O Lord, you took up my case; you redeemed my life.

*Other lessons: Romans 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Corinthians 4:13b-5:9; Ephesians 6:10-17; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 12:11-14; James 5:7-11a*

*Prayers*

O Lord our God, we need your guidance in all we do. Let your wisdom counsel us, your hand lead us, and your arm support us. Conform us to your image and make us like our Savior, that in some measure we may live here on earth as he lived and may act in all things as he acted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (466)

Lord, do with us as seems best in your own eyes; only give us, we ask, a humble and a patient spirit to wait expectantly for you. Make our service acceptable to you while we live and ourselves ready for you when we die, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. (467)

**IMPENDING DEATH OR IRREVERSIBLE ILLNESS***Psalm 143*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, hear my prayer,  
and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; \*  
answer me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> Enter not into judgment with your servant,\*  
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- <sup>3</sup> For my enemy has sought my life;  
he has crushed me to the ground; \*  
he has made me live in dark places  
like those who are long dead.
- <sup>4</sup> My spirit faints within me; \*  
my heart within me is desolate.
- <sup>5</sup> I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; \*  
I consider the works of your hands.
- <sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to you; \*  
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.
- <sup>7</sup> O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; \*  
do not hide your face from me  
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear of your lovingkindness in the morning,  
for I put my trust in you; \*  
show me the road that I must walk,  
for I lift up my soul to you.
- <sup>9</sup> Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD,\*  
for I flee to you for refuge.
- <sup>10</sup> Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; \*  
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

- <sup>11</sup> Revive me, O LORD, for your name's sake; \*  
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.
- <sup>12</sup> Of your goodness, destroy my enemies  
and bring all my foes to naught, \*  
for truly I am your servant.

### *John 14:1-6*

- <sup>1</sup> "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

*Other lessons: Matthew 26:36-46; 2 Corinthians 4:13b-5:9, Ephesians 6:10-17*

### *Prayers*

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O merciful Father, you teach us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve your children. Look with compassion on \_\_\_\_\_, name, your servant, for whom we pray. Remember *him/her*, O Lord, in mercy. Strengthen *him/her* in patience, comfort *him/her* with the memory of your goodness, let your presence shine on *him/her*, and give *him/her* peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. <468>

Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your Word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of darkness into the light and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <469>

O blessed Lord, God of mercies and of comfort: Look in compassion on your servant, \_\_\_\_\_, name, who is shaken and troubled. In your good time give *him/her* a right understanding of *himself/herself* and of your will for *him/her*, that *he/she* may not lose confidence in you. Preserve *him/her* from bitterness and fear, look upon *him/her* with favor, and give *him/her* your peace which passes understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <470>

## ANGER, BITTERNESS, SELF-PITY, TURMOIL

### *Psalm 88*

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, my God, my Savior,\*  
by day and night I cry to you.
- <sup>2</sup> Let my prayer enter into your presence;\*  
incline your ear to my lamentation.
- <sup>3</sup> For I am full of trouble;\*  
my life is at the brink of the grave.
- <sup>4</sup> I am counted among those who go down to the pit;\*  
I have become like one who has no strength;
- <sup>5</sup> lost among the dead,\*  
like the slain who lie in the grave,
- <sup>6</sup> whom you remember no more,\*  
for they are cut off from your hand.
- <sup>7</sup> You have laid me in the depths of the pit,\*  
in dark places, and in the abyss.
- <sup>8</sup> Your anger weighs upon me heavily,\*  
and all your great waves overwhelm me.
- <sup>9</sup> You have put my friends far from me;  
you have made me to be abhorred by them;\*  
I am in prison and cannot get free.
- <sup>10</sup> My sight has failed me because of trouble;\*  
LORD, I have called upon you daily;  
I have stretched out my hands to you.
- <sup>11</sup> Do you work wonders for the dead? \*  
Will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?
- <sup>12</sup> Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave,\*  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?
- <sup>13</sup> Will your wonders be known in the dark\*  
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?
- <sup>14</sup> But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help;\*  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- <sup>15</sup> LORD, why have you rejected me? \*  
Why have you hidden your face from me?
- <sup>16</sup> Ever since my youth, I have been wretched  
and at the point of death;\*  
I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.
- <sup>17</sup> Your blazing anger has swept over me;\*  
your terrors have destroyed me;

- <sup>18</sup> they surround me all day long like a flood; \*  
 they encompass me on every side.
- <sup>19</sup> My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me,\*  
 and darkness is my only companion.

*Other psalms: Psalm 30, 39, 73, 139*

***Isaiah 53***

- <sup>1</sup> Who has believed what we have heard?  
 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
 and like a root out of dry ground;  
 he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him,  
 and no beauty that we should desire him.
- <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men;  
 a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
 and as one from whom men hide their faces  
 he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
 yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
 he was bruised for our iniquities;  
 upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,  
 and with his stripes we are healed.
- <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
 we have turned every one to his own way;  
 and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
 yet he opened not his mouth;  
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb,  
 so he opened not his mouth.
- <sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
 and as for his generation, who considered  
 that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
 stricken for the transgression of my people?

- <sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when he makes himself an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand;
- <sup>11</sup> he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous;  
and he shall bear their iniquities.
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out his soul to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

*Other lessons: Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 23:27-49; 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 2 Corinthians 4:13b-5:9; Ephesians 6:10-17; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 5:6-11*

### **Prayers**

Our Lord and our God, grant us grace to see your love in whatever we face. Give us patience and thankfulness even in our pain, anxiety, or loss; and move us with compassion and tenderness for our afflicted neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord.     <471>

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not or, in our blindness, cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.     (211)

Merciful God, grant that the spirit of Jesus may dwell and reign in our hearts, that we may enjoy your peace and know the power of your Spirit, bearing witness with our lives that we are indeed your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.     <472>

## ACCEPTANCE OF INEVITABLE DEATH

### *Psalm 23*

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd,\*  
I shall not be in want.
- <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures\*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup>He revives my soul\*  
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil,\*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me,  
in the presence of those who trouble me,\*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- <sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life,\*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### *Psalm 31:5*

Into your hands I commend my spirit,\*  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

*Other psalms: Psalm 46, 90, 116, 121, 139*

### *2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

<sup>7</sup>We have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

<sup>11</sup>For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. <sup>17</sup> For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

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*Matthew 25:34*

“Come, you blessed of my Father,” says the Lord Jesus, “and take possession of the kingdom prepared for you.”

*John 6:40*

“All who believe in the Son of God will have eternal life.”

*John 14:3*

“When I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

*Acts 7:59b*

“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

*Romans 8:35a*

What can come between us and the love of Christ?

*Romans 14:8b*

Whether we live or die we are the Lord’s.

*2 Corinthians 5:1*

We have an everlasting home in heaven.

*1 Thessalonians 4:17b*

We shall be with the Lord forever.

*1 John 3:2c*

We shall see God as he really is.

*Other lessons: John 3:16–21; John 6:47–51; John 14:1–6; John 20:1–18; Romans 8:28–39; 1 Corinthians 15:12–26; Philippians 3:7–14; Revelation 7:9–17; Revelation 21:1–7, 22—22:5*

*Prayers*

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (260)

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (284)

Lord God, you have brought us near to a great company of angels and to the spirit of the righteous made perfect. Grant us, during our earthly pilgrimage, to abide in their fellowship and, in our heavenly country, to become partakers of their joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (473)

Lord Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and brought life and immortality to light. Give us grace so to believe in you, the Resurrection and the life, that we may not fear death nor dread the grave. Help us joyfully to await the time when, by your almighty power, our frail bodies will be fashioned like your glorified body, in which you are exalted forevermore at the right hand of the Father, where with the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. ✠ (474)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, set your Passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, and present us to the Father clothed in your righteousness. (475)

**BEFORE SURGERY**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, graciously protect \_\_\_\_\_  
name in *his/her* surgery. Fill *his/her* heart with confidence that, though *he/she* may be anxious, *he/she* may put *his/her* trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (458)

Strengthen your servant, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, O God, to do what *he/she* must do and bear what *he/she* must bear; that, accepting your healing gifts through the skill of the medical staff, *he/she* may be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <459>

Loving God, hold \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ in your care. Give wisdom and skill to *his/her* doctors and nurses, and enable them to serve your purposes of love and healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <460>

## FOLLOWING SURGERY

Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks that you have protected \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ during surgery. Enable *him/her* to trust in your goodness, to find comfort in your abiding presence, and to praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <461>

## BENEDICTIONS

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. (2 Thess. 2:16-17)

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)

The almighty Lord, a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of peace sanctify you, and keep your spirit, soul, and body sound and blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful and he will do it. The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom. 15:13)



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## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION TO THOSE IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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- 1. The distribution is an extension of the Lord's Supper to those, such as the sick and homebound, who are unable to be present at the celebration of the congregation.*
- 2. Those designated by the congregation as assisting ministers of communion are to be carefully selected and trained for their ministry. The ministers may be lay or ordained persons.*
- 3. As the ministers prepare to leave the church, they may say:*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we set forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this Sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. Amen (476)

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- 4. Upon arrival at the place of distribution, the minister places on the table the containers of bread and wine still closed.*
- 5. The minister may greet the communicant(s) in these or similar words:*

**A** Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 6. The minister addresses the communicant(s):*

**A** When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and

of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that “in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

We were given assurance of our Lord’s presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

*7. Confession may be made.*

☩ As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

☩ Most merciful God,

— we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

*The declaration of grace is said.*

☩ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen

*8. The minister and communicant(s) may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

☩ Peace be with you.

*9. The Prayer of the Day may be said.*

10. *The minister reads the Gospel appointed for the day, or:*

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

(John 6:35)

*Brief comment on the reading may be made.*

11. *The container of bread is opened and the wine is poured into the cup.*

**All** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**All** 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, forever and ever. Amen

12. *The minister may say:*

**A** As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

13. *The minister then gives the bread and wine, saying:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: "Amen."*

14. *Silence for reflection follows.*

15. *One of these prayers is said.*

**A** Let us pray.

**A** Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen (209)

OR

**A** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (241)

16. *The service concludes:*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**R** Thanks be to God.

**A** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R** Amen

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

▶ *To underscore the significance of bringing the congregational Eucharist to those unable to participate in the assembly, the Communion should be carried to the absent without delay following the congregational celebration. Sufficient ministers should be appointed so that all the absent may receive Communion within a few hours of the congregation's service that day.*

▶ *Lay assisting ministers of communion should be appointed for a definite period, such as a year or a season of the church year.*

▶ *Provision should be made for maintenance of the communion records of those to whom Communion is distributed.*

- ▶ *The distribution of Communion to those in special circumstances should always be done according to the polity of the congregation.*
- ▶ *During certain seasons—especially Advent–Christmas and Lent–Easter—celebrations of the Lord’s Supper by an ordained minister should be scheduled for the sick and homebound, with the congregation or significant numbers from the congregation invited. Thus those who cannot attend church will occasionally have the benefit of a visible community and a fuller liturgy, including a sermon and perhaps singing.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICE

- ▶ *The vessels in which the Communion is carried need not be expensive or elaborate. Glass cruets (so one may see how much wine remains) with tight stoppers are appropriate for the wine. Metal, glass, or ceramic boxes are appropriate for the bread.*
- ▶ *The amount of bread and wine needed should be carefully estimated so there is sufficient for each communicant yet without a great quantity remaining after all have communed.*
- ▶ *A table should be set near the person who is to receive Communion; the table may be covered with a clean white cloth. The central objects on the table are the bread and wine, held in suitable containers. Candles and cross (or crucifix) may also be placed on the table.*
- ▶ *Purificators (linens for wiping the cup) should be provided to each assisting minister of communion.*
- ▶ *Extended conversation may not be advisable at this time; however, the minister should be sensitive to the needs of those visited.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

4. ▶ The containers of bread and wine<sup>\*</sup> are to remain closed <11> in order that the communicant(s) not understand the biblical words of institution to be a consecration of the elements.
5. ▶ One of the following may be used as an alternate to the greeting provided: “Peace to this house and to all who dwell in it” or “Grace to you and peace.”
6. ▶ The assisting minister of communion does not touch or lift the bread or wine during the address.
7. ▶ Normally, confession and forgiveness are included. The sick, infirm, and institutionalized may be keenly aware of their being part of a fallen humanity, and may welcome the opportunity to hear an assurance of forgiveness.

▶ If the communicant is unable to read or recite the prayer of confession, the assisting minister of communion may read it and then ask, “Is this your confession? If so, answer ‘yes’.”

▶ When a pastor serves as a minister of communion, the form of the declaration of grace reserved for ordained ministers should be used:

☩ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

▶ Or the pastor may use the absolution:

☩ Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

▶ Or the pastor may use Individual Confession and Forgiveness, page 45.

9. ▶ The Prayers of the Day, page 263, are also in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, page 13.
10. ▶ Instead of the Gospel of the day or the reading provided, one of the following may be read:
 

John 3:16	God so loved the world
John 6:50–51	I am the living bread
John 6:53–58	Whoever eats this bread will live forever
John 14:23	If any love me, we will come to them
John 14:27	Peace I leave with you
John 15:4	Abide in me
13. ▶ Other communicants who are present with the sick person should be encouraged to commune also, that the communal nature of the meal may be more evident.
14. ▶ The silence for reflection and meditation is an important part of the ministrations of Communion and should not be omitted.
 

▶ When a pastor serves as a minister of communion, this blessing may be used:

☩ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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### *1. An ordained minister presides.*

**P** As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

**P** Most merciful God,

**R** we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

### *2. The absolution is said.*

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **✝** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R** Amen



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## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THOSE IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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- 1. Confession and forgiveness may precede this service.*
- 2. This order is for celebrating the Holy Communion in such places as the homes of the sick or shut-in, health-care institutions, or prisons.*
- 3. An ordained minister presides at this service.*
- 4. The minister greets the communicants.*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you [all].

**R** And also with you.

*5. The Prayer of the Day is said.*

**P** Let us pray. . . .

**R** Amen

*6. The minister reads the Gospel. Another reading from Scripture may precede the Gospel. Brief comment may be made.*

*7. Prayers may be offered for the Church and the world, remembering the local congregation and its ministry and the special circumstances under which this Holy Communion is celebrated.*

8. *The peace may be shared.*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R And also with you.

*The minister and those assembled may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

R Peace be with you.

9. *One of the following is said.*

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, \*  
resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion  
we may know the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours,  
almighty Father, now and forever.

R Amen

OR

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

OR

**P** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation  
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**A** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**AU** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**AU** 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, forever and ever. Amen

*10. The minister gives the bread and wine, saying:*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: "Amen."*

*11. Silence for reflection follows.*

*12. One of these prayers is said.*

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have re-  
ceived the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in  
him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his  
endless life, now and forever. (209)

OR

**P** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. (241)

**R** Amen

### 13. *The benediction is said.*

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

OR

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and ✠ give you peace.

**R** Amen

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

▶ *This service retains the essential action of the celebration of Holy Communion—Prayer of the Day, Gospel (and comment on it), Great Thanksgiving, Communion, post-communion thanksgiving, Benediction. Congregational and festive elaborations—entrance rite, extended readings and psalmody, Creed, extended intercessions, preface dialog, and Sanctus—are eliminated.*

▶ *It is not always desirable to commune those who suffer an extended illness by celebrating the Holy Communion with them alone. During certain seasons—especially Advent–Christmas and Lent–Easter—celebrations of the Lord’s Supper should be scheduled in the homes of such persons, with the congregation or significant numbers from the congregation invited. Thus those who cannot*

*attend church will occasionally have the benefit of a visible community and a fuller liturgy, including a sermon and perhaps singing.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ Normally, confession and forgiveness are included. Confession and Forgiveness, page 82, or Individual Confession and Forgiveness, page 45, may be used.
4. ▶ The apostolic greeting prepares for the Prayer of the Day which follows directly, and thus the lesser salutation, “The Lord be with you”; “And also with you,” is omitted.
6. ▶ The Gospel of the day may be read throughout the week except when a Lesser Festival or Commemoration occurs; or the third reading from the Daily Lectionary may be used. The Gospel or the lesson may be abbreviated as appropriate.
9. ▶ The first prayer follows ecumenical precedents, omitting the preface dialog (28) but in its opening lines recalling the *Sanctus*, “Holy, holy, holy Lord.”
  - ▶ Instead of this prayer, eucharistic prayer IV from *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, page 226, which does not use the *Sanctus*, may be used with or without the preface dialog (28).
11. ▶ The silence for reflection and meditation is an important part of the ministration of Communion and should be observed.
  - ▶ The blessing, “The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace,” is omitted here because the post-communion prayer and benediction follow shortly.



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## SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING

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*1. This order is for use in a corporate setting. Laying on of Hands and Anointing the Sick, page 99, may be used with an individual in a home or hospital.*

***Stand/Sit***

*2. A hymn is sung.*

*3. The following dialog is read. It may be said responsively by the minister and the congregation, or antiphonally by two sections of the congregation. Another dialog may be used instead.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
**and his mercy endures forever.**

They cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
**and he delivered them from their distress.**

He sent forth his Word and healed them,  
**and saved them from the grave.**

The Lord is righteous in all his ways,  
**and loving in all his works.**

The Lord upholds all who fall;  
**he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

The Lord sustains them on their sickbed,  
**and ministers to them in their illness.**

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
**and he has become my salvation.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
**and his mercy endures forever.**

*4. The minister says:*

**A** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

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 into hell.\*  
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.

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. Amen

*5. An Old Testament canticle (see canticles 14, 15, 16, 18, 19) appropriate to the season or occasion may be sung.*

*6. The Prayer of the Day is said; the salutation may precede it.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. . . .

**C** Amen

*Sit*

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\* Or, He descended to the dead.

7. *The first lesson is announced and read.*

**A** The first lesson is from the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of \_\_\_\_\_.

8. *After the lesson, the reader may say: "Here ends the reading."*

9. *A psalm, hymn, or anthem is sung.*

10. *The second lesson is announced and read.*

**A** The second lesson is from the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of \_\_\_\_\_.

11. *After the lesson, the reader may say: "Here ends the reading."*

12. *A response may follow the second lesson.*

13. *Silence for meditation.*

14. *The sermon follows the silence. In place of the sermon the minister may engage those present in mutual conversation or consolation.*

### **Stand/Sit**

15. *A hymn is sung.*

### **Sit**

16. *An offering may be received.*

17. *Appropriate prayers may be selected from those which follow. Other prayers may be used instead.*

### **Stand/Sit**

**A** Let us pray for all who suffer.

Merciful Lord, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in him strength and peace, so that their trust in your promises may be renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <477>

**C** Amen

**A** Let us pray for recovery from sickness.

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>names</sup>, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ. (226)

**C Amen**

**A** Let us pray for those in affliction.

Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (223)

**C Amen**

**A** Let us pray for those who minister in healing.

Almighty God, source of human knowledge and skill: Guide physicians and nurses and all those you have called to practice the arts of healing. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that, by their ministries, the health of all people may be promoted and your creation may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (478)

**C Amen**

**A** Let us pray for the ministry of family and friends.

Loving God, our creator and redeemer: Give strength and gentleness, patience and faithfulness to family members and friends. Let their hope be in you, and by their ministry of love let your love be known; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (479)

**C Amen**

**A** Let us pray for those who desire our prayers.

Blessed Lord, we ask your loving care and protection for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit and who desire our prayers.

Take from them all fears and help them put their trust in you, that they may feel your strong arms around them. Touch them with your renewing love, that they may know wholeness in you and glorify your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <480>

**C Amen**

*The following prayer is appropriate for those who are deciding which treatment to follow in an illness or affliction, how long to continue life-support systems, or where to spend days of recovery or growing older.*

**A** Let us pray for those making decisions.

O Lord our God, send your Holy Spirit to guide us, that we may make our decisions with love, mercy, and reverence for your gift of life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <481>

**C Amen**

*The prayers may conclude:*

**P** Praise to you, almighty God and Father. You sent your Son to live among us and to bring us your salvation.

**C Blessed be God.**

**P** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, incomparable Son of the Father. You humbled yourself to share in our humanity, and you came to heal all our illnesses.

**C Blessed be God.**

**P** Praise to you, Holy Spirit, our defender and consoler. You heal our sickness with your mighty and life-giving power.

**C Blessed be God.**

**P** Holy and blessed Trinity, sustain your servants, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>names</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, with your presence; drive away their sickness of body and spirit; and give them that victory of life and peace which will enable them to serve you now and evermore.

**C Amen**

*Sit*

18. *Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and anointing) come to the altar and, if conditions permit, kneel.*

19. *The minister lays both hands on each person's head:*

**P** Father in heaven,  
for Jesus' sake, send  
your Holy Spirit upon  
your servant,  
\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_;  
drive away all sickness  
of body and spirit;  
make whole that which  
is broken; deliver  
*him/her* from the  
power of evil; and pre-  
serve *him/her* in true  
faith, to share in the  
power of Christ's resur-  
rection and to serve  
you with all the saints  
now and evermore.

**OR** **P** I lay my hands upon  
you in the name of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ, beseeching him to  
uphold you and fill you  
with grace, that you may  
know the healing power  
of his love.

**R** Amen

**OR**

20. *The minister lays both hands on each person's head in silence, after which he/she may dip a thumb in the oil and make the sign of the cross on the person's forehead, saying:*

**P** O God, the giver of health and salvation: As the apostles  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, at his command, anointed many that  
were sick and healed them, send now your Holy Spirit, that  
\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, anointed with this oil, may in repentance  
and faith be made whole; through the same Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

**R** Amen

21. *After all have returned to their places:*

**P** The almighty Lord—a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the

earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen

*Stand/Sit*

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (482)

**C** Amen

**C** Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**C** 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, forever and ever. Amen

22. *A New Testament canticle (see canticles 13, 17, 20, 21) appropriate to the season or occasion may be sung.*

23. *The minister blesses the congregation. A hymn may follow.*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor  
 and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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▶ *Those responsible for planning and leading the service will want to consult "Notes on the Liturgy" for Service of the Word in Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition, page 32.*

▶ *The festival of St. Luke, Evangelist (October 18), is a traditional day for this service. In addition, the appointed Gospels make the following Sundays and weeks especially appropriate for a service of the Word for healing:*

3 Epiphany A	2 Easter ABC	8 Pentecost BC
5 Epiphany B	2 Pentecost C	13 Pentecost A
6 Epiphany B	3 Pentecost C	16 Pentecost B
7 Epiphany B	4 Pentecost A	21 Pentecost C
2 Lent C	6 Pentecost B	23 Pentecost B
3 Lent A		

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

3. ▶ Another dialog may be used instead. One of the dialogs in *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, page 313, may be appropriate.

## PROPER

### *Psalms and Lessons*

Psalms 13	My heart is joyful because of your saving help
Psalms 20:1-6	May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble
Psalms 23	You have anointed my head with oil
Psalms 27:1-9 (10-17) 18	The Lord is the strength of my life

Psalm 91	He shall give his angels charge over you
Psalm 103	He forgives all your sins
Psalm 121	My help comes from the Lord
Psalm 130	My soul waits for the Lord
Psalm 138	The Lord will make good his purpose for me
Psalm 139:1-17	Where can I go from your Spirit?
Psalm 145:14-22	The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord
Psalm 146	Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help

*Our help is in the name of the Lord* (Ps. 124:8)

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy* (Ps. 103:8)

*O Lord, your love endures forever* (Ps. 138:9)

*The Lord is my shepherd* (Ps. 23:1)

Exodus 16:13-15	Manna in the wilderness
1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah restores the widow's son to life
2 Kings 5:9-14	Healing of Naaman
Isaiah 11:1-3a	The gifts of the Spirit
Isaiah 35:1-10	The promise of God's coming
Isaiah 42:1-7	The suffering servant
Isaiah 53:3-5	With his stripes we are healed
Isaiah 61:1-3	Good tidings to the afflicted
Acts 3:1-10	Peter and John heal the lame man
Acts 5:12-16	Healings in Jerusalem; Peter's shadow
Acts 10:36-43	Apostolic preaching; He went about . . . healing
Acts 16:16-18	The slave girl with the spirit of divination
Romans 8:18-23	We await the redemption of our bodies
Romans 8:31-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of God
2 Corinthians 1:3-5	God comforts us in affliction
Colossians 1:11-20	May you be strengthened with all power
Hebrews 12:1-2	Looking to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith
James 5:(13) 14-16	Is any among you sick?
1 John 5:13-15	That you may know that you have eternal life
Matthew 8:1-3, 5-8, 13-17	He took our infirmities and bore our diseases
Matthew 9:2-8	Your sins are forgiven
Matthew 26:26-30, 36-39	The Last Supper; Not as I will
Mark 1:21-28	Jesus heals the man with the unclean spirit
Mark 1:29-34a	Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and others
Mark 5:1-20	Healing of the Gerasene demoniac
Mark 5:22-24 (35-43)	Request for the healing of Jairus' daughter
Mark 6:7, 12-13	They anointed with oil many that were sick
Luke 17:11-19	Your faith has made you well
John 5:1b-9	Do you want to be healed?
John 6:47-51	I am the bread of life
John 9:1-11	Healing of the man born blind

### *Hymns*

"Children of the heav'nly Father," hymn 474

"God loved the world so that he gave," hymn 292

"If you but trust in God to guide you," hymn 453

SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING

"O Christ, the healer, we have come," hymn 360

"O day full of grace that now we see," hymn 161

"O God, whose will is life and good," hymn 435

"O Son of God, in Galilee," hymn 426

"The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want," hymn 451

"Unto the hills around do I lift up," hymn 445

"Your hand, O Lord, in days of old," hymn 431

*Color:* of the season





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## LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING THE SICK

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- 1. This order is for use in a hospital or home with individuals who are unable to attend a corporate service of the Word for healing.*
  - 2. Confession and forgiveness; Psalms, Lessons, and Prayers; Laying on of Hands and Anointing the Sick; and Holy Communion are components of a ministry of healing.*
  - 3. Anointing normally is done by a pastor.*
  - 4. The minister says these or similar words:*

**P** Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

OR

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R** And also with you.

5. *An address may be said in these or similar words:*

**P** We are here in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who restored the sick to health and who himself suffered for our sake. He is present among us still to heal and to make whole. We entrust our *brother/sister*, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, to the grace and power of Jesus Christ, that the Lord may ease *his/her* suffering and grant *him/her* health and salvation.

6. *Confession and forgiveness may follow.*

7. *One or more of the following lessons are read.*

*A reading from St. Luke:* When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. (Luke 4:40)

*A reading from the gospels:* Jesus called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. These twelve he sent out, charging them, "Preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

(Matt. 10:1,5,7-8a; Mark 6:12-13)

*A reading from James:* Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

(James 5:14-16a)

8. *The minister lays both hands on the person's head and, following a brief silence, says:*

**P** I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.

**A** Amen

9. *If the person is to be anointed, the minister dips a thumb in the oil and makes the sign of the cross on the sick person's forehead, saying:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_, I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A** Amen

10. *The prayer is said.*

**P** God of mercy, source of all healing, we give you thanks for your gifts of strength and life, and especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we have health and salvation. Help us by your Holy Spirit to feel your power in our lives and to know your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <483>

**A** Amen

11. *The blessing concludes the service.*

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, give you strength and bless you with peace, now and forever.

**A** Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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► *Our Lord in his ministry performed many different acts of healing—forgiving sins, casting out demons, curing physical disease. His disciples also performed similar acts. These practices continued as part of the Church's ministry of healing. The laying on of hands was associated with prayers for the work of the Holy Spirit. Anointing with oil was also associated with the activity of the Holy Spirit, but was especially related to the healing of sickness or infirmity.*

► *In recent decades, many have rediscovered the value of the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, both in the visitation of the sick and in public services of healing.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICE

▶ *The oil used for anointing is olive oil, to which an aromatic ingredient such as synthetic oil of cinnamon or oil of bergamot may be added. This prayer may be said when the oil has been prepared:*

☐ Lord God, you bring healing to the sick through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. May your blessings come upon all who are anointed with this oil, that they may be freed from pain and illness and be made whole. Amen (484)

▶ *The oil may be kept in a stock (a small metal cylinder) with a securely fitting lid. To prevent spillage, cotton may be put in the stock and only enough oil poured in to moisten the cotton.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

2. ▶ The appropriate material from confession and forgiveness; Psalms, Lessons, and Prayers, page 48; Laying on of Hands and Anointing the Sick, page 99; and Holy Communion may be used in one unified service for healing. Or, each may be used on separate occasions in visiting the sick. Or, one or more may be used as appropriate to the needs of the sick.
4. ▶ One of the following may be used as an alternate greeting: "Peace to this house and to all who dwell in it" or "Grace to you and peace."  
▶ When this service is combined with confession and forgiveness and/or Holy Communion, the greeting (4) is omitted.
6. ▶ Normally, confession and forgiveness are included. Individual Confession and Forgiveness, page 45, may be used.
11. ▶ When this service is combined with confession and forgiveness and/or Holy Communion, the blessing is omitted.



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## COMMENDATION OF THE DYING

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*1. When a Christian is near death, the pastor should be notified so that the ministry of the Church may be extended.*

**P** Almighty God, look on \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, whom you made your child in Baptism, and comfort *him/her* with the promise of life with all your saints in your eternal kingdom, the promise made sure by the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.      <485>

**R** Amen

*2. The following litany may be said. If no one present is able to say the responses, the minister says them also.*

**P** God the Father in heaven,

**R** have mercy on your servant.

**P** God the Son, redeemer of the world,

**R** have mercy on your servant.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,

**R** have mercy on your servant.

**P** Holy Trinity, one God,

**R** have mercy on your servant.

- P** From all sin, from all evil, from all suffering,
- R** good Lord, deliver *him/her*.
- P** By your holy Incarnation, by your Cross and Passion, by your precious Death and Burial,
- R** good Lord, deliver *him/her*.
- P** By your glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the coming of your Holy Spirit,
- R** good Lord, deliver *him/her*.
- P** We sinners cry to you to hear us, Lord Christ; that it may please you to deliver your servant from the power of evil and from eternal death,
- R** we implore you to hear us, good Lord.
- P** That you mercifully pardon all *his/her* sins,
- R** we implore you to hear us, good Lord.
- P** That you grant *him/her* a place of refreshment and everlasting blessedness,
- R** we implore you to hear us, good Lord.
- P** That you give *him/her* joy and gladness in your kingdom with your saints in light,
- R** we implore you to hear us, good Lord.
- P** Jesus, Lamb of God,
- R** have mercy on *him/her*.
- P** Jesus, bearer of our sins,
- R** have mercy on *him/her*.
- P** Jesus, redeemer of the world,
- R** grant *him/her* your peace.
- P** Lord, have mercy.
- R** Christ, have mercy.

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All** Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**All** 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, forever and ever. Amen

### 3. *The prayer may be said.*

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, deliver your servant, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_,  
 from all evil and set *him/her* free from every bond, that  
*he/she* may join all your saints in the eternal courts of  
 heaven, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live  
 and reign, one God, now and forever. <486>

**D** Amen

OR

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, our *brother/sister* in the faith, we  
 entrust you to God who created you. May you return to the  
 one who formed us out of the dust of the earth. Surrounded

by the angels and triumphant saints, may Christ come to meet you as you go forth from this life.

Christ, the Lord of glory, who was crucified for you, bring you freedom and peace.

Christ, the High Priest, who has forgiven all your sins, keep you among his people.

Christ, the Son of God, who died for you, show you the glories of his eternal kingdom.

Christ, the Good Shepherd, enfold you with his tender care. May you see your redeemer face to face and enjoy the sight of God forever.

☒ Amen

*4. The minister lays his/her hand on the head of the dying:*

☐ Child of God, go forth in the name of God the Father almighty who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who redeemed you; in the name of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon you. May you rest in peace and dwell forever in the paradise of God. Amen

*When a life-support system is withdrawn*

*5. The minister may say:*

☐ God of compassion and love, you have breathed into us the breath of life and have given us the exercise of our minds and wills. In our frailty we surrender all life to you from whom it came, trusting in your gracious promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen <487>

*6. The minister may say:*

☐ Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

☒ Amen

7. *At the time of death, the minister says:*

**P** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. (286)

 Amen

8. *After death, the following may be said:*

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, through water and the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ has been brought into your family; receive *him/her* and present *him/her* to God Most High.

 Amen

**P** O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (260)

 Amen

9. *Prayers may be included for the family: Those present may be invited to offer prayers.*

10. *The minister says:*

**P** May \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

OR

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

 Amen



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## COMFORTING THE BEREAVED

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*1. This order may be used at the place of death, the home of the deceased, or a funeral establishment.*

*2. When the family has gathered:*

▣ Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

OR

▣ Holy God,  
holy mighty One,  
holy immortal One,  
have mercy on us.

*3. One of the following psalms is said.*

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills,\*  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved\*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel\*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- <sup>5</sup> the LORD himself watches over you;\*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- <sup>6</sup> so that the sun shall not strike you by day,\*  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;\*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD shall watch over  
your going out and your coming in,\*  
from this time forth forevermore.

(Ps. 121)

OR

- <sup>1</sup> Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice;\*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- <sup>2</sup> If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,\*  
O LORD, who could stand?
- <sup>3</sup> For there is forgiveness with you;\*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- <sup>4</sup> I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;\*  
in his word is my hope.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning,\*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- <sup>6</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD,\*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;  
<sup>7</sup> with him there is plenteous redemption,\*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. (Ps. 130)

*4. One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.*

*A reading from Deuteronomy:* The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deut. 33:27a)

*A reading from St. John:* "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

(John 10:27-29)

*A reading from Romans:* When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (Rom. 6:3-9)

*A reading from Romans:* We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

5. *Reflection on the readings and on the life of the deceased may follow. Informal conversation with the family may be appropriate.*

6. *One or more of the following prayers may be said.*

☐ Let us pray.

☐ Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (280)

☐ Amen

OR

☐ Eternal God, you gave \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ a new birth in Baptism and entrusted *him/her* to us for a time that seems too short. As we thank you for the life we shared, help us now to release *him/her* to your mighty keeping. Bring us all to that day when we shall stand in your presence with all your saints in light eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <488>

☐ Amen

OR

☐ With reverence and affection we remember before you, O everlasting God, all our departed friends and relatives. Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward you, that hereafter we may enter into your presence and be numbered with those who serve you and look upon your face in glory everlasting, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (235)

☐ Amen

OR

**L** O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing except losing you, and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that no clouds in this mortal life may hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A** Amen

(489)

OR

**L** Merciful Creator, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us even when we do not know how to pray. Send your Spirit now to comfort us in these days of need and loss, and help us to commend \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ to your merciful care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (490)

**A** Amen

OR

*At the death of a child* \_\_\_\_\_

**L** O God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (283)

**A** Amen

7. *The prayers conclude:*

**L** Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**A** Amen

**AU** **Our Father in heaven,**

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**AN** 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, forever and ever. Amen

8. *The blessing is said.*

**□** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**□** Amen

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## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

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- 1. This order may be used as a memorial service by omitting those portions indicated by the red line in the left margin.*
- 2. The ceremonies or tributes of social or fraternal societies have no place within the service of the Church.*

### **At the Entrance to the Church**

- 3. The ministers meet the coffin, the pallbearers, and the bereaved at the entrance to the church.*

**P** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

### **☒ Thanks be to God.**

- 4. A pall may be placed upon the coffin by the pallbearers or other assisting ministers, and the following may be said.*

**P** When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

## Procession

### Stand

5. *The procession forms and enters the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.*
6. *A psalm, hymn, or appropriate verse may be sung as the procession goes to the front of the church.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

7. *One of the following prayers is said.*

**P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our *brother/sister*, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. We thank you for giving *him/her* to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (279)

**C** Amen

OR

**P** Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (280)

**C** Amen

OR

**P** Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. May we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (281)

**G** Amen

OR

**P** O God, your days are without end and your mercies cannot be counted. Make us aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, so that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in peace with all humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (282)

**G** Amen

OR

*At the burial of a child* \_\_\_\_\_

**P** O God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust \_\_\_\_\_  
name to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (283)

**G** Amen

*Sit*

8. *One or two lessons are read. A psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung between the first and second readings.*

*As a first reading, one of the following or another appropriate lesson may be announced and read.*

“Oh, that my words were recorded,  
that they were written on a scroll,  
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,  
or engraved in rock forever!

I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;

I myself will see him,  
with my own eyes—I, and not another.” (Job 19:23–27a)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (Isa. 25:6–9)

*One of the following or another appropriate psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung between the first and second readings.*

*Antiphon:* The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (v. 4)

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,\*  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,\*  
and though the mountains  
be toppled into the depths of the sea;

<sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam,\*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us,\*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- <sup>5</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,\*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>6</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown;\*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- <sup>7</sup> The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;\*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. (Ps 46:1-7)

*Antiphon:* The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (v. 4)

*Antiphon:* Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. (v. 4)

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;\*  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved\*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel\*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- <sup>5</sup> the LORD himself watches over you;\*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- <sup>6</sup> so that the sun shall not strike you by day,\*  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;\*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,\*  
from this time forth forevermore. (Ps. 121)

*Antiphon:* Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. (v. 4)

*As a second reading, one of the following or another appropriate lesson may be announced and read.*

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trib-

ulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:31-35, 37-39)

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

(1 Cor. 15:12-26)

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: "Now God's home is with mankind! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared."

Then the one who sits on the throne said, "And now I make all

things new!" He also said to me, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted." And he said, "It is done! I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end. To anyone who is thirsty I will give the right to drink from the spring of the water of life without paying for it. Whoever wins the victory will receive this from me: I will be his God, and he will be my son."

(Rev. 21:2-7)

9. *The appropriate verse may be sung:*

**☒ Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

OR

*Lent*

**☒ If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him.**

*Stand*

10. *The Gospel is announced. One of the following or another appropriate Gospel is read.*

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." (John 11:21-27)

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:1-6)

*Sit*

11. *The sermon follows the reading of the Gospel.*

*Stand*

12. *A hymn is sung.*

13. *The creed may be said.*

**P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**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 into hell.  
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.**

**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. Amen**

14. *The prayers are said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.*

**A** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

**C** **Hear us, Lord.**

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\* Or, He descended to the dead.

**A** Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

**A** Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

**A** Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

**A** Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

**A** Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

**A** Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

**A** Grant us grace to entrust \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to your never-failing love which sustained *him/her* in this life. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him/her* according to the favor you bear for your people.

**G** Hear us, Lord.

15. *The intercessions conclude with one of the following prayers.*

**A** God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(284)

OR

**A** God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you. . . . Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever.

(285)

**C** Amen

16. *When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace (23). The Commendation then follows the post-communion canticle ("Lord, now you let your servant . . .") (39) and prayer (40).*

17. *When there is no Communion,\* the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.*

**C** Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory

are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**C** 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, forever and ever. Amen

*Sit***Commendation**

*18. The ministers take their places at the coffin.*

**P** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. (286)

**C Amen**

**P** Let us go forth in peace.

**C** In the name of Christ. Amen

*Stand*

*19. The procession forms and leaves the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.*

*20. As the procession leaves the church, a psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung. The canticle, "Lord, now you let your servant . . .," may be sung if it has not been sung in the Holy Communion (39).*

## Committal

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*21. The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During the procession, one or more of these verses may be sung or said.*

**A** I called to the Lord in my distress;  
the Lord answered by setting me free.

It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh.  
It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in rulers.

I was pressed so hard that I almost fell,  
but the Lord came to my help.

There is a sound of exultation and victory  
in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!  
The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!”

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

“This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter.”

(Ps. 118:5, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 19-20)

**A** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25-26)

**A** None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

(Rom. 14:7-8)

**A** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord; “he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26a)

22. *When all have arrived at the place of burial, the following prayer may be said.*

**P** Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all your saints. Keep our *brother/sister*, whose *body* we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints and, at the last, raise *him/her* up to share with all your faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (287)

**C Amen**

23. *One of the following lessons may be read.*

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

(John 12:23-26)

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:51-57)

Our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil. 3:20-21)

24. *The coffin is lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place. Earth may be cast on the coffin as the minister says:*

**P** In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *brother/sister*, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, and we commit *his/her* body to *the ground/the deep/the elements/its resting place*; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him/her* and keep *him/her*. The Lord make his face shine on *him/her* and be gracious to *him/her*. The Lord look upon *him/her* with favor and give *him/her* ✠ peace.

**C** Amen

OR

**P** Since almighty God has called our *brother/sister*, \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, from this life to himself, we commit *his/her* body to *the earth from which it was made/the deep/the elements/its resting place*. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and we know that he will raise up our mortal bodies to be like his in glory. We commend our *brother/sister* to the Lord: May the Lord receive *him/her* into his peace and raise *him/her* up on the last day.

**C** Amen

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**G** 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, forever and ever. Amen

**P** Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever. (288)

**G** Amen

25. *Then may be said:*

**P** Rest eternal grant *him/her*, O Lord;

**A** and let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

26. *The minister blesses the people.*

**P** The God of peace—who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant—make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**G** Amen

**P** Let us go in peace.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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► *This service is intended primarily for use in a church with the body of the deceased present. When used in other locations—crematory chapel, private house, funeral parlor—where processions*

*and other liturgical actions are not feasible, the service is to be modified accordingly.*

► *For additional notes on Burial of the Dead, see Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition, page 37.*

## PROPER S

### *Psalms and Verses for the Processions*

Psalm 23  
*Refrain/antiphon* (v. 4)  
 Psalm 90  
*Refrain/antiphon* (v. 13)  
 Psalm 118  
*Refrain/antiphon* (v. 19)  
 Psalm 130  
*Refrain/antiphon* (v. 5)  
 John 11:25-26  
 Romans 14:7-9  
 Revelation 14:13  
 "Even as we live each day," hymn 350

### *Psalms and Lessons*

Psalm 42:1-7		
<i>Refrain/antiphon</i>	(v. 2)	
Psalm 46:1-7		
<i>Refrain/antiphon</i>	(v. 4)	
Psalm 121		
<i>Refrain/antiphon</i>	(v. 4)	
Psalm 143		
<i>Refrain/antiphon</i>	(v. 1)	
Job 19:23-27a	Isaiah 61:1-3	*Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33
Isaiah 25:6-9		
Romans 5:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:12-26	Revelation 7:9-17
Romans 5:17-21	1 Peter 1:3-9	Revelation 21:2-7
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	*1 John 3:1-2	
*Matthew 11:25-30	John 5:24-29	John 11:21-27
Matthew 25:1-13	*John 6:37-40	John 14:1-6
Luke 12:35-40		

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\* *Appropriate at the burial of a child.*



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## RECEPTION OF LUTHERANS BY TRANSFER

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- 1. The reception of Lutherans in good standing by transfer from other congregations acknowledges the identity of the total Lutheran family.*
  - 2. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Creed (20).*

**Sit**

- 3. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** *These persons have come to us from other Lutheran congregations and desire to transfer their membership into our community of faith.*

- 4. Their names are read. The new members may come forward.*
- 5. A representative of the congregation welcomes them.*

We welcome you as *members* of name of congregation to join with us in worshiping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Stand*

6. *The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish, special concerns.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

OR

**A** Let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** We thank you, Lord, for *these new members* of our congregation. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one and you will be All-in-All.      <491>

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

7. *The peace is shared.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The minister, the new members, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**P** Peace be with you.

8. *All return to their places.*

*Sit*

9. *The service continues with the Offering (24).*

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**NOTES ON THE SERVICE**

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▶ *When Lutherans are received by transfer at the same service in which persons are received from other denominations, the reception of Lutherans by transfer is placed at the conclusion of Affirmation of Baptism, Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition, page 324; immediately before the Peace (17), the minister addresses the congregation <3> and reads the names <4> of the Lutherans to be received by transfer; these persons may come forward, and a representative of the congregation welcomes them <5>. The prayers <6> are not used, and the service continues with the Peace (17).*



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## INSTALLATION OF ELECTED PARISH OFFICERS

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- 1. This order is appropriate for installing church council members and other elected officers of the congregation.*
  - 2. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18).*

### *Stand*

- 3. The Hymn of the Day is sung.*

### *Sit*

- 4. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** The following persons, having been elected [by the congregation] to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read.

- 5. The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read by a representative of the congregation. As their names are called, they come forward and stand before the minister.*

6. *The minister addresses those being installed:*

**P** In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

*Stand*

7. *The Creed is said.*

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

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 into hell.\*

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.

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. Amen

*Sit*

8. *The minister addresses those being installed:*

**P** *St. Paul writes:* There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

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\*Or, He descended to the dead.

*9. The minister may read the specific duties of those being installed as outlined in the constitution of the congregation, or the following may be read.*

**P** You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather.

You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

*10. The minister addresses those being installed.*

**P** On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

**R** Yes, by the help of God.

### *Stand*

*11. Those being installed face the congregation. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**C** Yes, by the help of God.

*12. Those being installed face the minister, who addresses them:*

**P** I now declare you installed as *officers/council members* of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

**R** Amen

*13. The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish, special concerns.*

*Prayers are included for the newly installed officers.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.*

*The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**Ā** Lord, in your mercy,

**☩** hear our prayer.

OR

**A** Let us pray to the Lord.

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**☩** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**☩** Amen

*14. The peace is shared.*

**☩** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**☩** And also with you.

*The minister, the newly installed officers, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

☩ Peace be with you.

*15. All return to their places.*

*Sit*

*16. The service continues with the Offering (24).*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

- ▶ Installation of a Lay Professional Leader, page 136, is used to install staff persons whose ministries entail major occupational commitments.



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## INSTALLATION OF A LAY PROFESSIONAL LEADER

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1. *This order is appropriate for installing those whose ministries entail major occupational commitments within the Church.*
2. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*

### ***Stand***

3. *The Hymn of the Day is sung.*
4. *A representative of the church council/board/agency comes forward and addresses the presiding minister:*

After prayerful deliberation, we of \_\_\_\_\_ certify that \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed to work as \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_.

5. *The person to be installed is presented to the presiding minister by the representative who has announced the appointment.*

### ***Sit***

6. *The minister addresses the candidate:*

**P** Our Lord, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You stand among us as one called to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

7. *As a brief lesson, one or more of the following are read.*

*A reading from Romans:* Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your faith suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it for teaching. Let the preachers deliver sermons, the almsgivers give freely, the officials be diligent, and those who do works of mercy do them cheerfully. (Rom. 12:4-8)

*A reading from First Peter:* Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:8-11)

*A reading from St. Matthew:* Jesus called *the disciples* to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:25-28)

8. *The minister questions the candidate:*

**P** Will you assume this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the teaching and practice of the Lutheran Church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the Gospel of God with a godly life?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C** Amen

*9. The minister addresses the candidate:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, I install you as \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

*10. The newly installed may kneel, and the minister says the prayer appropriate to the ministry.*

**P** Let us pray.

*General* \_\_\_\_\_

**P** Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your Church, so you have called this your servant to this ministry. Grant *him/her* joy and a spirit of bold trust, that *his/her* work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <492>

OR

*Medical worker* \_\_\_\_\_

**P** Merciful God, as your beloved Son brought health and strength to the sick and afflicted, so you have called this your servant to offer aid to the suffering. Make *him/her* wise in using *his/her* knowledge and skill, diligent in ministering to those in need, and compassionate in all *his/her* work. In the midst of suffering and death, make *him/her* a faithful witness to the hope of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

<493>

OR

*Director of Christian education, youth minister*

**P** Almighty and ever-living God, as you called apostles and evangelists, pastors and teachers to instruct, comfort, admonish, and care for us, so you have called this your servant. Fill *him/her* with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your Word, that *he/she* may with gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus, your Son, our Lord.      <494>

OR

*Christian day school teacher*

**P** O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your Church. By your Holy Spirit give all teachers insight into your Word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.      (198)

OR

*Church musician*

**P** O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Be present with your servant who seeks through your gift of music to perfect our praises and to proclaim your Word with power. Through this ministry grant us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and make us all worthy at length to join the praises of the hosts of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.      <495>

OR

*Administrative personnel*

**P** O God, we remember with thanksgiving the orderliness of your continual creation and preservation of life. Bless and accept the work of this your servant in helping the Church fulfill its task. Remind us that we are accountable to you in all things great and small; through Jesus Christ our Lord.      <496>

**C** Amen

*11. The minister blesses the newly installed:*

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide, bless, and keep you, that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called.

**C** Amen

*Stand*

*12. The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the newly installed; all ministries in the Church; all Christians in their vocation; the calling body, its mission, and the community it serves.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings. After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

OR **A** Let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

*13. The peace is shared.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The ministers, the newly installed, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**P** Peace be with you.

*14. All return to their places.*

*Sit*

*15. The service continues with the Offering (24).*

## COMMISSIONING OF A LAY PROFESSIONAL LEADER

*16. Where church body polity permits, this order may be used for commissioning those who are making a major occupational commitment (e.g., full-time Christian day school teachers and musicians) and others who have achieved professional certification (e.g., parish secretaries and business administrators).*

*In a commissioning service, the following address is said after the Hymn of the Day (19), prior to the presentation by a representative of the congregation <4>.*

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

**P** Having been authorized by the Church to commission \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, our co-worker in the Gospel, as \_\_\_\_\_<sup>position</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, I ask for certification of this appointment.

*In a commissioning service, the following replaces the address to the candidate <9>.*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, you have been certified for this ministry and have made your confession and promises before the assembly. I therefore commission you as \_\_\_\_\_<sup>position</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*
- ▶ *Those to be installed are not vested unless local custom suggests it.*
- ▶ *When the installation is set within the chief service of the congregation, the propers are those appointed for the day.*

### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ The order for Installation of Elected Parish Officers, page 132, is used to install church council members and other elected officers within the congregation.
5. ▶ The presentation of the candidate and the announcement of certification may be modified to fit the particular situation.
10. ▶ The prayer appropriate to the ministry is said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.



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## RECOGNITION OF MINISTRIES IN THE CONGREGATION

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- 1. This order is appropriate for recognizing those who contribute their time and talents to the various ministries of the congregation.*
  - 2. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Offering (24) and the Offertory (25).*

**Sit**

- 3. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.

- 4. As a representative of the congregation reads a brief description of the ministry to be recognized, the persons engaged in that ministry stand.*

*5. When this order is used to recognize those who are beginning a particular ministry, the following may be asked:*

**P** Having offered yourselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ ministry of this congregation, will you follow our Lord's example of humble service?

**R** Yes, with God's help.

**Stand**

*6. The prayer appropriate to each ministry is said. Prayers for other ministries may also be said.*

**P** Let us pray.

**The ministry of worship** \_\_\_\_\_

**P** God of majesty, whom saints delight to worship in heaven and on earth: Bless the ministry of those serving as \_\_\_\_\_, that we may know the joy of your presence and may worship to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <497>

**R** Amen

**The ministry of education** \_\_\_\_\_

**P** Almighty God, source of wisdom and knowledge: Help us to study your Word diligently and to grow in your love and in all that is good. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <498>

**R** Amen

**The ministry of witness** \_\_\_\_\_

**P** Lord God of our salvation, it is your will that all people might come to you through your Son, Jesus Christ. Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. <499>

**R** Amen

*The ministry of service*

**P** O God of love, your Son washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of servanthood. Uphold those who follow his example of humble service, and strengthen them in their faith. Help us all to do faithfully those deeds of love and mercy expected of your servants; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (500)

**C** Amen

*The ministry of stewardship*

**P** Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth: We thank you for the many gifts we receive from your bountiful hand. Strengthen and encourage your servants who call us to be stewards of your gifts. Move us to respond in gratitude to your gracious goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (501)

**C** Amen

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** For all who offer themselves in your name, we give thanks, O God. Give them the joy of service, and constant care and guidance. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of ministry, that your name be glorified, your people live in peace, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (502)

**C** Amen

7. *The service continues with the offertory prayer (26).*

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**NOTES ON THE SERVICE**

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► *This service brings to the attention of the congregation the ministry which is part of the life of all the baptized, and specifically recognizes those who are or will be offering themselves in a particular ministry of the congregation. The entire order may be used on a day when the congregation chooses to celebrate and recognize all*

*of those involved in ministries. Or, the appropriate part of the order may be used to recognize a particular ministry on a special day (such as when teaching and learning are central, when an evangelism emphasis is planned, when committees are chosen and begin functioning).*

## **THE SERVICE IN DETAIL**

1. ▶ A recognition of worship ministry may include acolytes, ushers, altar guild members, lay assisting ministers, lectors, lay ministers of communion, volunteer church musicians and choir members, and worship committee members.
  - ▶ A recognition of education ministry may include church school teachers, superintendents, catechists, education committee members, and youth advisors.
  - ▶ A recognition of witness ministry may include evangelism visitors and evangelism committee members.
  - ▶ A recognition of service ministry may include social ministry committee members and hospital visitors.
  - ▶ A recognition of stewardship ministry may include stewardship callers/visitors and stewardship committee members.



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## AFFIRMATION OF THE VOCATION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD

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- 1. This order is appropriate for affirming the vocation of Christians in the world, as they serve through family, occupation, voluntary organizations, the community and nation.*
- 2. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Offering (24) and the Offertory (25).*

### **Sit**

- 3. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**☩** Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to affirm those who are endeavoring to carry out their vocation as Christians in the world.

- 4. A representative of the congregation says:*

Through Holy Baptism our heavenly Father set us free from sin and made us members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus. Through Word and Sacrament we have been nurtured in faith, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

- 5. As a representative of the congregation reads a brief description of the area of service to be affirmed, the persons engaged in that service stand.*

6. *The following may be asked.*

**P** Having determined to live out your baptismal covenant as \_\_\_\_\_, will you endeavor to pattern your life and service after our Lord Jesus?

**R** Yes, with God's help.

*Stand*

7. *A prayer appropriate to the area of service may be said.*

**P** Let us pray. . . .

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <503>

OR

**P** Almighty God, you have blessed each of us with unique gifts, and you have called us into specific occupations, relationships, and activities using those gifts. Enable us to use our talents to witness to our faith in you and to communicate your love to the people we meet each day. Empower us to be ministers of your reconciliation, love, hope, and justice. Keep us steadfast in our commitment to serve actively in your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <504>

**G** Amen

8. *The service continues with the offertory prayer (26), after which all return to their places.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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► *The following days are especially appropriate for affirming the vocation of Christians in the world: Family: Joseph, guardian of our Lord (March 19); Monica, mother of Augustine (May 4); Mary, Mother of Our Lord (August 15). Occupation: Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society (April 23); Nicolaus Copernicus and Leonhard Euler, teachers (May 24); Florence Nightingale and Clara Maass, renewers of society (August 13). Voluntary organizations: Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society (April 23); Elizabeth of Thuringia, Princess of Hungary (November 17). Community and nation: Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society (April 23); Dag Hammarskjöld, peacemaker (September 18).*



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## ANNIVERSARY OF AN ORDINATION

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- 1. It is appropriate to celebrate significant anniversaries of ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.*
- 2. The appropriate way for a pastor to be honored is for him/her to preside at the Holy Communion.*
- 3. A colleague who has been especially important to the pastor's life and work may be invited to preach the sermon.*
- 4. Petitions for the pastor, his/her family, and his/her work are appropriately included in the Prayers (22).*
- 5. This prayer may be said as the post-communion prayer (40):*

**A** We give you thanks, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, especially for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, and we pray that *he/she* may continue to exemplify in word and deed the Gospel of your Son. Grant that we, with \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, may serve you now in the Church on earth and rejoice before you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <505>

**C** Amen



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## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

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1. *Farewell and Godspeed is a public affirmation of the corporate nature of the baptismal faith, for use when members leave a congregation.*
2. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following either the Prayers (22) or the post-communion prayer (40).*

### **Sit**

3. *A representative of the congregation comes forward with those who are leaving the congregation and addresses the assembly:*

\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>names</sup> are leaving our congregation, and we wish to bid *them* farewell.

4. *The pastor or a representative of the congregation may make brief comments about those who are leaving, recalling the important events which have been shared with the congregation.*
5. *The minister says:*

**P** In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you *members* of his Church. When you *came to/were baptized* in this congregation we rejoiced to receive you into our fellowship in the Gospel. In this community of faith you have heard the proclamation of God's Word, which reveals his loving purpose for you and for all creation. You have been nourished at Christ's holy table and called to be *witnesses* to the Gospel. God has blessed you in this fellowship, and he has blessed us through you.

**A** We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>name of new congregation</sup> as *workers* with us in the kingdom of God.

6. *The prayer is said.*

**A** Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>names</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and for our life together in this congregation and community. *As they have* been a blessing to us, so now send *them* forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <506>

**C** Amen

*Stand*

7. *The service continues with the Peace (23) or the Benediction (42).*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

5. ▶ When appropriate, the following or a similar statement may be made by a representative of the congregation:

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_<sup>date of call</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, we called you to be our pastor: to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you [and your family] have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.



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## THANKSGIVING AT THE RETIREMENT OF A DEBT

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1. *This order of thanksgiving may be used to mark those times when a congregation has fulfilled a financial obligation, paid off a mortgage, or retired a debt.*

2. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Creed (20).*

### **Sit**

3. *A representative of the congregation brings forward a copy of the debt-agreement and addresses the congregation:*

We have the joy of completing a major venture of this congregation: name of the specific obligation completed.

4. *The prayer is said.*

**P** Let us pray.

Eternal God, giver of all good gifts: You have brought us to this milestone in the life of our congregation. With gratitude to you we remember the planning, the years of working together, the gifts, and the sense of common purpose that we have shared in this task. Be present with us now as we rejoice in its completion; through Jesus Christ our Lord.      <507>

**C** Amen

5. *A copy of the completed debt-agreement may be presented to the president of the congregation by a representative.*

**Stand**

6. *A hymn of thanksgiving may be sung.*

7. *The minister says:*

☐ On this occasion we mark not only a fulfillment and an ending, but also a beginning. Let us pray that the Lord will guide us in his mission.

*The following or another appropriate prayer may be said.*

☐ Almighty God, giver of all things, with gladness we give thanks for all your goodness. We bless you for the love which has created and which sustains us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son our Savior, through whom you have made known your will and grace. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the comforter; for your holy Church; for the means of grace; for the lives of all faithful and good people; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness by lives that are wholly given to your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <508>

☐ **Amen**

8. *All return to their places.*

9. *The service continues with the Prayers (22).*



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## THANKSGIVING AT THE DISPOSITION OF A CHURCH BUILDING

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1. *This order of thanksgiving is used when a congregation vacates a church building in order to move to another building.*
2. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the post-communion prayer (40).*

### ***Stand***

3. *A hymn may be sung.*
4. *The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P.** Brothers and sisters in Christ: Let us give thanks for this *church building*, which was dedicated for the ministry of God's Word and holy Sacraments, but which we will no longer use for that purpose.

5. *The minister may say:*

**P** Moses said to the Lord: "If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

The Lord replied: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

(Exod. 33:15, 14)

*6. The salutation and prayer are said.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You fill the entire world with your presence; your name is to be hal-  
lowed through all the earth.

Receive our praise and thanksgiving for the blessings, help, and  
comfort which you bestowed upon your people in this house.  
Continue your mercies to your Church, that we may be conscious  
of your unchanging love as we take leave of this place of wor-  
ship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (509)

**C** Amen

*Other prayers may be said.*

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single  
will. Make us love what you command and desire what you  
promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may  
be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever. (69) ■

**C** Amen

*7. The benediction is said.*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and ✠ give you peace.

OR

**P** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen

**A** Let us go forth in peace,

**C** in the name of the Lord.

8. *Designated persons receive the worship furnishings and sacramental vessels—processional cross, torches, candles, vessels, paraments, Bible, service book, linens—and prepare to join the procession from the building.*

9. *The ministers lead the procession, followed by those who carry the furnishings and vessels.*

10. *An appropriate hymn is sung as the congregation moves in procession from the building.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

2. ▶ When this thanksgiving concludes another service, it replaces the benediction.
9. ▶ The cornerstone or its contents may be removed.
10. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - “Now thank we all our God,” hymn 533 or 534
  - “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!” hymn 543



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## GROUNDBREAKING

- 
- 1. Groundbreaking, laying of a cornerstone, and dedication of the completed edifice together constitute the dedication of a church building.*
  - 2. Groundbreaking may follow the Sunday service or may be scheduled at another time.*
  - 3. The people may gather at the current place of worship and move in procession to the new site. The procession is begun as the minister says:*

**P** Let us go forth in peace,

**C** in the name of the Lord.

- 4. A hymn is sung as the congregation moves in procession, or at the site of the groundbreaking when there is no procession.*

5. *The minister addresses the congregation at the site:*

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ: We have come together to seek God's blessing as we set apart this ground for the building of a church.

6. *One or more lessons from the Bible are read. A brief address may follow:*

7. *The prayer is said.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You fill the entire world with your presence; your name is to be hal-  
lowed through all the earth.

Bless all those who have worked or contributed to provide this site which today we set apart for the building of a church.

*The minister may trace the sign of the cross in the earth at the approximate site of the altar.*

May this be a place where your glory dwells and where your way is revealed in Word and Sacrament. May your gracious blessing descend like the dew from heaven upon this place and upon all who shall gather here to worship you.

You have given us joy in a work begun in your name; may we soon celebrate your presence in the house of your Church, and, in the time to come, praise you forever in our eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (510)

**G** Amen

8. *One or more psalms may be sung or said.*

9. *The ministers, other officials, and members of the congregation may each turn three spadefuls of earth as the minister says:*

**P** With faith in Jesus Christ this work is begun and this ground is broken in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*10. After the ground is broken, the prayers are said.*

**C** Our Father in heaven.

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**C** 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, forever and ever. Amen

**P** O Lord our God, in you every good work has its beginning. Grant that what we have undertaken this day to the glory of your name may be successfully completed to the good of all your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <511>

**C** Amen

*11. The service concludes:*

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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▶ *It is not desirable to schedule groundbreaking during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*

### PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICE

▶ *The outline of the new building may be indicated with stakes, white lime, or cord.*

### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

4. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - “Built on a rock the Church shall stand,” hymn 365
  - “Christ is made the sure foundation,” hymn 367
  - “Glories of your name are spoken,” hymn 358
  - “How blessed is this place, O Lord,” hymn 186
  - “I love your kingdom, Lord,” hymn 368
  - “Lift ev’ry voice and sing,” hymn 562
  - “Open now thy gates of beauty,” hymn 250
  - “The Church’s one foundation,” hymn 369
  - “With the Lord begin your task,” hymn 444
6. ▶ One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - Exodus 3:1–6
  - Luke 6:47–49
  - 1 Corinthians 3:10–14
  - Ephesians 2:19–22
  - Hebrews 11:8–10
7. ▶ Cords may be stretched diagonally across the space, forming the Greek letter X (chi), the symbol both of the cross and of the name of Christ.
8. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate psalm may be used.
  - Psalm 24
  - Psalm 42
  - Psalm 87
  - Psalm 100
  - Psalm 118



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## LAYING OF A CORNERSTONE

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- 1. Groundbreaking, laying of a cornerstone, and dedication of the completed edifice together constitute the dedication of a church building.*
- 2. Laying of a Cornerstone may follow the Sunday service or may be scheduled at another time.*
- 3. The people may gather at the current place of worship and move in procession to the new site. The procession is begun as the minister says:*

**P** Let us go forth in peace,

**C** in the name of the Lord.

- 4. A hymn is sung as the congregation moves in procession, or at the site of the cornerstone when there is no procession.*
- 5. At the site of the cornerstone, the minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** Sisters and brothers in Christ: We have come together today to seek God's blessing as we lay this cornerstone.

- 6. A psalm is sung or said.*
- 7. One or more lessons are read. A brief address may follow.*
- 8. The minister says:*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** Blessed be the name of the Lord,

**C** from this time forth and forevermore.

**P** The stone which the builders rejected

**C** has become the cornerstone.

*9. The minister may read the list of items to be included in the cornerstone.*

*10. The Nicene Creed is said as the cornerstone is being sealed.*

**C** We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven;  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen

*11. The prayer is said.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have stretched out the heavens like a curtain; you have gathered the seas; and you have established the dry land, the mountains and the plains. We praise your holy name, for you have built us, your living stones, into a spiritual house of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. Be with us now and bless us as we lay this cornerstone to your glory and honor. By your Spirit and grace enable us to serve as your holy priesthood. Accept our praise and thanksgiving through your Son, Jesus Christ our High Priest. All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. <512>

**C** Amen

*12. The stone is set in place as the minister says:*

**P** In thanksgiving to God we lay this stone, on which a house for the Church will rise, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

*13. The service concludes:*

**P** Praise the Lord. The foundation of the house has been laid.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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▶ *It is not desirable to schedule the laying of a cornerstone during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*

### PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICE

▶ *Appropriate items for inclusion in the cornerstone may be: a copy of the congregation's charter, a list of charter members, a Bible, a copy of The Book of Concord, a copy of the book of worship, a current membership list, a copy of the church newsletter/paper, a list of congregational officers and building committee members. Each item may be mentioned to the congregation as it is placed in the stone.*

### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

4. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - “Built on a rock the Church shall stand,” hymn 365
  - “Christ is made the sure foundation,” hymn 367
  - “Glories of your name are spoken,” hymn 358
  - “Great God, a blessing from your throne,” hymn 185
  - “How blessed is this place, O Lord,” hymn 186
  - “I love your kingdom, Lord,” hymn 368
  - “Lift ev'ry voice and sing,” hymn 562
  - “Open now thy gates of beauty,” hymn 250
  - “The Church's one foundation,” hymn 369
6. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate psalm may be used.
  - Psalm 24
  - Psalm 42
  - Psalm 87
  - Psalm 100
  - Psalm 118
7. ▶ One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - Exodus 3:1-6
  - Joshua 4:1-7
  - Luke 6:47-49
  - 1 Corinthians 3:10-14
  - Ephesians 2:19-22
  - Hebrews 11:8-10



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## DEDICATION

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*1. Groundbreaking, laying of a cornerstone, and dedication of the completed edifice together constitute the dedication of a church building.*

*2. This order is used preceding the liturgy for Holy Communion.*

*3. The people may move in procession to the new church building. The procession is begun as the minister says:*

**P** Let us go forth in peace,

**G** in the name of the Lord.

*4. A hymn is sung as the congregation moves in procession, or when the ministers and people have assembled before the closed door of the church.*

*5. When all have assembled outside the door of the church:*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G** And also with you.

**A** Brothers and sisters: We have come together to dedicate this church for the worship of almighty God and for the building up of the body of Christ. From this day forward let it be a place for the gathering of the people of God, a place for proclaiming the Gospel through Word and Sacrament, a place for bringing life and hope to us and to this community.

**P** Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (220)

**C** Amen

*6. The minister receives the keys to the building from the builder; the minister hands the keys to a representative of the congregation who unlocks and opens the door. The minister says:*

**P** Peace be to this house,

**C** and to all who enter here.

*7. The psalm is sung or said as the ministers and people enter the church building.*

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, \*

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup> Now our feet are standing \*

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built as a city \*

that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup> to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, \*

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> For there are the thrones of judgment, \*

the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*

“May they prosper who love you.

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls \*

and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup> For my brethren and companions' sake, \*

I pray for your prosperity.

<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*

I will seek to do you good.” (Ps. 122)

*8. The minister goes to the font:*

**P** All your works praise you, O Lord,

**C** and your faithful servants bless you.

*The minister lays his/her hand on the font:*

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. You have made water for us a sign of rebirth, and by it we share in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. In joyful obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that new life may be given to all those who are baptized in this font which today we set apart.

To you, O God, be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.      <513>

**C** Amen

*9. The minister goes to the pulpit and lays his/her hand on it:*

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have revealed your love for your creation in your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspired by him, we seek to hold fast to the truth and to know your purposes. Purify the lips of those who speak here, and grant us grace to hear your love in all that is proclaimed from this pulpit which today we set apart; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.      <514>

**C** Amen

*10. The minister goes to the altar and lays his/her hand on it or traces the five crosses customarily inscribed on the altar:*

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You nourish your people with the heavenly bread in Jesus Christ. Bless and sanctify all who receive his body and blood at this altar which today we set apart. Give them grace to live in faith and love throughout their lives, until at last we all behold you face to face at the heavenly altar where your saints and angels praise you forever; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.      <515>

**C** Amen

11. *The minister returns to stand in the midst of the people:*

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. The heavens and the earth cannot contain you, yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts. We are the temple of your presence, and this building is the house of your Church. Accept us and this place to which we come to share with others the covenant you make through Holy Baptism, to praise your name, to receive your forgiveness, to hear your Word, and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and illumine your people. And now, O God, visit us with your mercy and blessing as we dedicate this house to your glory and honor and to the service of all people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (516)

**G** Amen

12. *A hymn is sung as the ministers go to their places.*

13. *The service continues with the Prayer of the Day (8).*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule dedication during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*
- ▶ *The order for the dedication of a church building may be modified to serve as a blessing of a remodeled or reclaimed church building. The extent of the remodeling will indicate which sections of the order will be used.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

3. ▶ The congregation gathers outside the new building, or, having gathered at another site, it may move in procession to the new building.
7. ▶ The ministers and people enter the church building. They may be preceded by processional cross, torches, banners. The pastor carries the altar service book; the procession should also include representatives of the people carrying the Bible and sacramental vessels.
  - ▶ As the procession enters the worship space, the Bible, sacramental vessels, and other worship appointments are set in their proper places.

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BUILDING

8. ▶ The pastor(s) of the congregation, and a crucifer and torchbearers if desired, accompany the presiding minister to the font. The same persons will go to the pulpit <9>, the altar <10>, and to a place in the midst of the congregation <11>.

## ALTERNATE ORDER FOR DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BUILDING

*The order for the dedication of a church building may be integrated into the liturgy for Holy Communion as follows.*

*The numbers in parentheses () correspond to the numbered rubrics in the Holy Communion. The numbers in angle brackets <> correspond to the numbered rubrics in Dedication (of a church building).*

- <3> Procession
- <4> Hymn
- <5> Greeting
- <6> Opening of the doors
- <7> Psalm 122
- <8> Dedication of the font
- Hymn of Praise (7)
- Salutation and Prayer of the Day (8)
- <9> Dedication of the pulpit
- First Lesson, Psalm, Second Lesson (9–13)
- Verse (14)
- Holy Gospel (15–16)
- Sermon (18)
- Hymn of the Day (19)
- Creed (20)
- The Prayers and the Peace (22–23)
- <10> Dedication of the altar
- Offering and Offertory (24–27)
- The Great Thanksgiving (28–33)
- Lord's Prayer
- The Communion (34–38)
- Post-Communion Canticle and Prayer (39–40)
- <11> Concluding dedication prayer
- Benediction (42)

## PROPERs

▶ *When the dedication of a church building is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the proper for the dedication of a church building are used.*

▶ *When the dedication of a church building is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for the dedication of a church building is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.*

▶ *When the dedication of a church building is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.*

### *Prayer of the Day*

Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain: We give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use will make it holy; and we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with your joy and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (148)

### *Psalms and Lessons*

Psalm 84

*The Lord God is both sun and shield* (v. 10)

1 Kings 8:22-30

1 Peter 2:1-9

John 10:22-30

### *Hymn of the Day*

"Built on a rock the Church shall stand," hymn 365

"Christ is made the sure foundation," hymn 367

"Glories of your name are spoken," hymn 358

"How blessed is this place, O Lord," hymn 186

"I love your kingdom, Lord," hymn 368

"Lift ev'ry voice and sing," hymn 562

"Only-begotten, Word of God eternal," hymn 375

"Open now thy gates of beauty," hymn 250

"The Church of Christ, in ev'ry age," hymn 433

"The Church's one foundation," hymn 369

### *Verse*

Alleluia. I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. Alleluia. (2 Chron. 7:16)

*Or, during Lent the Verse may be "Return to the Lord."*

### *Offertory*

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers!

For my brethren and my companions' sake

I will say, "Peace be within you!"

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good. (Ps. 122:1, 7-9)

DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BUILDING

*Preface*

It is indeed right and salutary  
that we should at all times and in all places  
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our great high priest,  
in whom we are built up as living stones of a holy temple,  
that we might offer before you  
the sacrifice of thanksgiving.  
And so, with the Church on earth  
and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Color:* red



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## DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN OR OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

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*1. This dedication appropriately precedes the liturgy for Holy Communion.*

### *Sit*

*2. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to set apart *this* name of instrument to his glory. God has given us the gift of music, and to him we sound our praise.

*3. A brief statement regarding the instrument, its builder, and its significance for the congregation may follow.*

*4. A psalm is sung or said.*

*5. A lesson is read.*

### *Stand*

*6. The prayer is said.*

**P** Sing with joy to God our strength;

**C** and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

**P** Raise a song and sound the timbrel,

**C** the merry harp, and the lyre.

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have made the whole earth after your glory; all your creatures praise you. We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory.

You alone do great wonders, and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth. All living things give you praise. You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children, to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song. In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints. Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song.

Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate *this* name of instrument to your praise and glory. Enrich the lives of your people through *it*, and grant us faith to hear your gracious purpose in *it*. By your Holy Spirit, let *this* name of instrument enliven the proclamation of your Word to the building up of your Church, to the glory of your name, and to the good of all your people; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, through all ages of ages. <517>

**C** Amen

*7. When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Entrance Hymn (4).*

*8. When there is no Communion, a hymn is sung, and the service concludes as follows:*

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, before whose throne trumpets sound, and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb: Accept *this* name of instrument for the worship of your Church, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <518>

**C** Amen

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C** Amen

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this dedication during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*
- ▶ *The instrument is not used in this service until the dedication is completed.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ This dedication may precede any of the daily prayer services, a recital, or a concert.
4. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate psalm may be used.
  - Psalm 47
  - Psalm 96
  - Psalm 98
  - Psalm 117
  - Psalm 150

*They sing to the tambourine and lyre, and rejoice to the sound of the pipes.* (Job 21:12)
5. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - 2 Chronicles 29:25-30
  - Ephesians 5:18b-20 (Be filled. . .)
  - Revelation 5:(6-10) 11-14
- 7/8. ▶ The full musical resources of the congregation should be utilized for the hymn. It is appropriately preceded by an instrumental prelude.
  - ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
    - “All creatures of our God and King,” hymn 527
    - “Earth and all stars!” hymn 558
    - “From all that dwell below the skies,” hymn 550
    - “In thee is gladness,” hymn 552
    - “Let all things now living,” hymn 557
    - “Let us with a gladsome mind,” hymn 521
    - “My soul, now praise your maker!” hymn 519
    - “Now thank we all our God,” hymn 533 or 534
    - “Oh, praise the Lord, my soul!” hymn 538
    - “Oh, that I had a thousand voices,” hymn 560
    - “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!” hymn 543
    - “Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!” hymn 553
    - “When in our music God is glorified,” hymn 555



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## DEDICATION OF WORSHIP FURNISHINGS

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1. *The dedication of worship furnishings is set within the liturgy for Holy Communion. This prayer, with the appropriate petition, is said following the presentation of the gifts (25) and prior to the offertory prayer (26).*
2. *The worship furnishing may be brought forward with the gifts, or, where that is not possible, the minister may say the prayer from the location of the furnishing being dedicated.*
3. *Prayers for the dedication of a baptismal font and an altar are included in the order for Dedication (of a church building), page 168.*
4. *When circumstances suggest a longer form of dedication, the appropriate petition below may replace the alternatives <8> in the General Order of Blessing, page 184.*

### **Stand**

5. *The prayer is said.*

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.

*(Cross/crucifix)* Accept this *cross/crucifix* which we offer in thanksgiving; may this sign of your Son's triumph draw us to him who leads us with his banner of salvation.

*(Candles/candlesticks/lamps)* Accept these *candles/candlesticks/lamps* which we offer in thanksgiving; may they be to us a sign of Christ, the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

(*Paten chalice*) Accept this *paten/chalice* which we offer in thanksgiving; may all who receive the heavenly *food and drink* be sustained by your grace and power.

(*Paraments*) Accept these paraments which we offer in thanksgiving; may they adorn this house, show us the beauty of holiness, and so proclaim the glory of your majesty.

(*Funeral Pall*) Accept this pall which we offer in thanksgiving; may it be a reminder that in Baptism we have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ, that we may know that those who have departed this earthly life are received into the arms of your mercy.

(*Window*) Accept this window which we offer in thanksgiving; as the light which shines through it is transformed into still greater splendor, so may our lives show the beauty of your manifold gifts of grace.

(*Oil*) Accept this oil which we offer in thanksgiving; may those who look to you for health and salvation be filled with the power of your Holy Spirit and become radiant with the goodness of life which has its source in you.

(*General*) Accept this \_\_\_\_\_ which we offer in thanksgiving; may it serve to increase our vision of your glory, to remind us of your goodness, and to support our calling to worship you in spirit and truth.

(*General*) Accept this \_\_\_\_\_ which we offer in thanksgiving; may those who use it do so in reverence and love, giving honor and glory to your holy name.

*The prayer concludes:*

**P** Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen

6. *The service continues with the offertory prayer (26).*



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## DEDICATION OF A FACILITY FOR CHURCH USE

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*1. This order may be used for the dedication of a camp, retreat center, gymnasium, parish hall, school, resource center, hospital, retirement home, youth center, or a similar church facility.*

***Stand***

*2. A hymn may be sung.*

**P** Sisters and brothers in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as with thankfulness we have come together to dedicate this

---

***Sit***

*3. A psalm or canticle may follow.*

*4. A lesson is read.*

***Stand***

*5. A hymn may be sung.*

6. *The prayer is said.*

**P** All your works praise you, O Lord,

**C** and your faithful servants bless you.

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. Your gifts are many, and in wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate this \_\_\_\_\_ to your praise and honor. Give us joy in all your works, and grant that this \_\_\_\_\_ may always be a place where your will is done and your name is glorified; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (519)

**C** Amen

7. *When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Entrance Hymn (4).*

8. *When there is no Communion, other appropriate prayers may be said, and the service concludes as follows:*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C** Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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▶ *When it is appropriate to schedule a congregational celebration of Holy Communion at the site of the dedication, the dedication precedes the Entrance Hymn. The psalm (3) and the hymn (5) are then omitted.*

▶ *Where appropriate the congregation may move in procession from the place of worship to the site of the dedication; the benediction is omitted. The hymn (2) is sung during the procession.*

▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this dedication during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*



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## DEDICATION OF A CEMETERY

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*1. If the cemetery is located near the place of worship, this order may be used following the liturgy for Holy Communion, with the people moving in procession to the site during the singing of a psalm or hymn.*

*2. When the congregation has assembled at the site, the minister says:*

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to set apart this *cemetery/mausoleum* to the glory of God.

*3. One or more lessons are read. An address may follow:*

4. *A hymn is sung.*

5. *The prayers are said.*

**P** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

**C** **abides under the shadow of the Almighty.**

**P** He shall cover you with his pinions, and you shall find refuge under his wings;

**C** **his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**

**P** He shall give his angels charge over you,

**C** **to keep you in all your ways.**

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. Your days are without number; a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past. You are the Lord of the past, the present, and the future; you hold eternity in the palm of your hand.

We remember with thanksgiving all the saints and witnesses to your goodness who have gone before us, [St. John the Baptist; Mary, mother of our Lord; apostles and martyrs; evangelists and teachers; and all those] who by their lives have testified to the love of God. Give us grace to follow them in faith as your beloved children, maturing into the likeness of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose death and burial you have sanctified the graves of all who sleep in you.

Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this *cemetery/mausoleum*. As you raised up your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the firstfruits of those who sleep, so also by your Spirit make us to be partakers of that new life which you have promised to those who believe; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (520)

**C** **Amen**

6. *The service concludes:*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C** **Amen**

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ This dedication may be used alone as a brief service at the site. Prior to the service a cross may be erected at the site; the ministers and people may assemble at the cross with processional torches and banners.
3. ▶ One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - Genesis 23:1-20
  - Romans 6:3-5
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51-57
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - John 14:1-6
  - John 19:38-42
4. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - "Children of the heav'nly Father," hymn 474
  - "For all the saints who from their labors rest," hymn 174
  - "God loved the world so that he gave," hymn 292
  - "Guide me ever, great Redeemer," hymn 343
  - "Jesus Christ, my sure defense," hymn 340
  - "Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!" hymn 133
  - "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim," hymn 377
  - "My faith looks up to thee," hymn 479
  - "O God, our help in ages past," hymn 320
  - "O Lord, now let your servant," hymn 339
  - "The King of love my shepherd is," hymn 456
  - "The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want," hymn 451
  - "We know that Christ is raised and dies no more," hymn 189
  - "Who is this host arrayed in white," hymn 314



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## GENERAL ORDER OF BLESSING

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- 1. Care should be exercised to make certain that God's blessing may properly be asked upon the object, place, or event under consideration.*
  - 2. This order of blessing may be augmented with hymns, the Lord's Prayer or other prayers, and a procession.*
  - 3. When the congregation has assembled at the place of blessing:*

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to *bless/dedicate* this \_\_\_\_\_ to the glory of God.

- 4. A psalm or canticle may follow.*
- 5. One or more lessons from the Bible may be read.*
- 6. A hymn may be sung.*

7. *The prayers are said.*

**P** All your works praise you, O Lord,

**C** and your faithful servants bless you.

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen.

You stretched out the heavens like a curtain; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and building up. You blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, mother of our Lord; Peter, James, John, and all the apostles; and all the saints and witnesses in your Church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved. <521>

8. *One of the following or another appropriate prayer is said.*

Be with us now and bless us as we *set apart/dedicate* this \_\_\_\_\_ to your glory and praise. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. <522>

OR

Be with us now and bless the fruits of those who labor *in/at* \_\_\_\_\_. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. <523>

**C** Amen

9. *The service concludes:*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the **†** Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C** Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

4. **▶** One of the following or another appropriate psalm or canticle may be used.
  - Psalm 8
  - Psalm 65
  - Psalm 66
  - Psalm 104
  - Psalm 136
  - Psalm 145
  - “All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord,” canticle 18
  - “O Ruler of the universe, Lord God,” canticle 21
  - “You are God; we praise you,” canticle 3
5. **▶** One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - Deuteronomy 26:1–11 (general, growing things)
  - Job 38:1–11, 16–18 (seed and soil; fishing and industry)
  - Matthew 13:24–30 (36–43) (growing things)
  - Mark 4:1–9, 13–20 (growing things)
  - Luke 5:1–6a (fishing, industry)
  - Romans 11:33—12:5 (general)
  - 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 (growing things, general)
  - 1 Timothy 6:7–10, 17–19 (general)
6. **▶** One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - “All creatures of our God and King,” hymn 527
  - “All who love and serve your city,” hymn 436
  - “Earth and all stars!” hymn 558
  - “Eternal Father, strong to save,” hymn 467
  - “Father eternal, ruler of creation,” hymn 413
  - “For the beauty of the earth,” hymn 561
  - “For the fruit of all creation,” hymn 563
  - “God, whose giving knows no ending,” hymn 408
  - “I bind unto myself today,” hymn 188
  - “Joyful, joyful we adore thee,” hymn 551
  - “Let all things now living,” hymn 557
  - “Now thank we all our God,” hymn 533 or 534
  - “Praise and thanksgiving,” hymn 409
  - “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!” hymn 543
  - “We plow the fields and scatter,” hymn 362



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## BLESSING OF A DWELLING

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1. *The blessing may be set in the context of a social gathering.*
  2. *It is desirable that the leadership roles be shared by two or more persons. Family members, friends, or a pastor may be invited to read the lessons in each of the rooms.*
  3. *When all have assembled:*

**L** Peace to this house and to all who enter here.

**L** *A reading from Proverbs:* By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Prov. 24:3-4)

4. *A candle is lighted.*

**L** *A reading from St. Matthew:* "You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

(Matt. 5:14-16)

**L** Let us pray.

O God, as this candle gives light to this home, so enable *those* who  *dwell* here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (524)

**R** Amen

5. *One or more of the following may be used.*

*Entrance* \_\_\_\_\_

**L** *A reading from the Psalms:* The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. (Ps. 121:8)

**L** Let us pray.

O God, protect and guide *those* who  *live* here,  *their* going out and  *their* coming in; and let  *them* share the hospitality of this home with all who visit, that those who enter here may know your love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (525)

**R** Amen

*Living room/family room* \_\_\_\_\_

**L** *A reading from St. John:* "I give you a new commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples." (John 13:34-35)

**L** Let us pray.

**L** O God, give your blessing to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (526)

**OR** **L** O God, be present with those who come here for fellowship and recreation, that they may be renewed and refreshed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(527)

**R** Amen

*Study or library*

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**L** *A reading from Proverbs:* Give instruction to the wise and they will be still wiser; teach the righteous and they will increase in learning. (Prov. 9:9)

**L** Let us pray.

O God, you are the teacher who leads us to all truth. Grant that *those who study and learn* may use knowledge in accordance with your will, to bring peace and healing to all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <528>

**R** Amen

*Kitchen*

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**L** *A reading from Joel:* "I will send you corn, and new wine, and oil, and you shall have your fill. Rejoice and be glad in the Lord your God." (Joel 2:19a, 23a)

**L** Let us pray.

O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing upon *those who work* in this kitchen, and make us all ever thankful for our daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <529>

**R** Amen

*Dining room*

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**L** *A reading from the Psalms:* The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. (Ps. 145:16)

**L** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <530>

**R** Amen

**Bedroom(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**L** *A reading from the Psalms:* I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8)

**L** Let us pray.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. <531>

**A** Amen

**Guest room** \_\_\_\_\_

**L** *A reading from Romans:* Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Rom. 15:7)

**L** Let us pray.

O God, refresh all who visit here, that they may know friendship and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <532>

**A** Amen

*4. When the procession has returned to the living room, the blessing is concluded:*

**L** *A reading from Isaiah:* The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. (Isa. 32:17-18)

*5. One or more of the following prayers are said.*

**L** Let us pray.

**L** O Lord God, your gifts are many, and in wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. We ask you to bless *those* who *live* in this place. Visit with your love and gladness all who come and go, and preserve us all in peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. <533>

**A** Amen

OR

☩ O God, we pray that you will bless this home and *those* who *live* here with your gracious presence, that your love may be *their* inspiration, your wisdom *their* guide, your truth *their* light, and your peace *their* benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord.      <534>

☒ Amen

OR

☩ O heavenly Father, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named: Be present in this home, that all who live here, having genuine affection for each other, may find here a haven of blessing and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.      <535>

☒ Amen

*The prayers conclude:*

☩ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**All** 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, forever and ever. Amen

**L** The Lord watch over *our/your* going out and *our/your* coming in, from this time forth forever.

 Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

5. ▶ A procession from room to room may be led by the bearer of the candle and may be accompanied by instruments such as bells, tambourines, and finger cymbals.



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## ORDINATION

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1. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*
  2. *The bishop presides at services in which he/she participates. When unable to be present, the bishop authorizes an ordained representative to ordain the candidate.*

### ***Stand***

3. *The Hymn of the Day is sung.*
4. *The ordinand(s) is presented to the presiding minister and to the congregation:*

I present for ordination to the holy ministry of Word and Sacrament \_\_\_\_\_ full name(s) \_\_\_\_\_, who *has* been prepared, examined, and

certified for this ministry and who *has* been called by the Church to the office of \_\_\_\_\_  
pastor\_\_\_\_\_.

## **G** Thanks be to God.

### *Sit*

5. *The presenter(s) steps aside. The minister addresses the ordinand(s):*

**P** According to apostolic usage you are now to be set apart to the office of Word and Sacrament in the one holy catholic Church by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ says:* “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20:21-23)

*And again:* “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

(Matt. 28:18-20)

*St. Paul writes:* I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

6. *The minister questions the ordinand(s):*

**P** Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this congregation, I ask: Will you assume this office, believing that the Church’s call is God’s call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** The Church in which you are to be ordained confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and are the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures. Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**R** Amen

### *Stand*

*7. The prayers are said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

**A** For the holy catholic Church, that it may be filled with truth and love and by your grace be found without fault at the last day: Lord, in your mercy,

**R** hear our prayer.

**A** For all members of the Church, that they may serve you in true and godly lives: Lord, in your mercy,

**R** hear our prayer.

**A** For \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name(s)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, our *bishop(s)*, and for all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name(s)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, chosen to be a *pastor(s)* in the Church, that *he/she* may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, serve your people, build up your Church, and glorify your name: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For the peace of the Church, that our divisions may be overcome and that we may serve the world as one people in one Lord Jesus Christ: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and understanding may grow among nations and peoples: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*Other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** For the glorious company of all the saints, those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you. That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

8. *The ordinand(s) may kneel.*

9. *“Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,” hymn 472 or 473, is sung.*

10. *The minister begins the thanksgiving.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father, we bless you for your infinite love in Christ our Lord, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. We thank you that by his death your Son has overcome death and, having been raised by your mighty power, has ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. We praise you that Christ has poured out his gifts abundantly on the Church, making some apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers, to equip your people for their work of ministry for building up the body of Christ. (536)

11. *The minister lays both hands on the head of the ordinand(s). Other clergy may impose their right hands.*

**P** Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup> and fill *him/her* with the gifts of grace [for the ministry of Word and Sacrament].

*Following the laying on of hands the ordinand(s) remains kneeling.*

**P** Bless *his/her* proclamation of your Word and administration of your Sacraments, O Lord, so that your Church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service. Make *him/her* a faithful *pastor(s)*, patient *teacher(s)*, wise *counselor(s)*. Grant that in all things *he/she* may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. (537)

**A** Amen

*Sit*

12. *The newly ordained may remain kneeling. A stole is placed over his/her shoulders as the minister says:*

**P** Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and walk in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

(Matt. 11:28–30)

13. *The newly ordained stands; the minister addresses him/her:*

**P** “Strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith.” (1 Tim. 6:11–12)

“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the Church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

“Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory.” (1 Peter 5:2–4)

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” (1 Cor. 4:1–2)

**P** Care for God’s people, bear their burdens and do not betray their confidence. So discipline *yourself* in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

14. *The newly ordained may kneel for the blessing:*

**P** The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C Amen**

*Stand*

*15. The minister and newly ordained turn to face the congregation.*

**P** Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole Church, receive \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name(s)</sup> as a messenger(s) of Jesus Christ sent to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him/her as a servant(s) of Christ?

**G** We will.

**P** Will you pray for him/her, help and honor him/her for his/her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**G** We will.

**P** Let it be acclaimed that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name(s)</sup> is ordained a minister(s) in the Church of Christ. He/She has Christ's authority to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, serving God's people.

**G** Amen. Thanks be to God.

*The congregation may offer acclamation with applause.*

*16. The peace is shared.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** And also with you.

*The ministers, the newly ordained, his/her sponsor and family, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

*17. All return to their places.*

*Sit*

*18. The service continues with the Offering (24).*

*19. The newly ordained may assist in the Holy Communion.*

## INSTALLATION AT ORDINATION

*In those exceptional circumstances where the bishop authorizes ordination of a candidate and his/her installation to office at the same service, the following is inserted in the order for Ordination prior to the Peace <16>.*

20. *The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** Having been authorized by the Church to install \_\_\_\_\_ full name \_\_\_\_\_, our co-worker in the Gospel, as \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_, I now ask for certification of this *call/appointment*.

21. *A representative of the church council board agency comes forward and addresses the minister:*

We, of \_\_\_\_\_, after prayerful deliberation, have elected/appointed \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_. I present *him/her* and this letter certifying the call.

22. *The minister addresses the pastor being installed:*

**P** Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of this congregation, do you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

I do, and I ask God to help me.

**P** The office of \_\_\_\_\_ is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

23. *One of the following may be used.*

*The presiding minister escorts the newly installed pastor to the font, where a representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

*They proceed to the pulpit, where a representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

## ORDINATION

*They proceed to the altar, where a representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to lead worship and preside at the Holy Communion.

## OR

*The minister presents to the newly installed pastor a baptismal shell, a Bible, and a chalice and paten.*

**P** Receive these signs of your calling to serve the Lord and his people in the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

24. *The Ordination service continues with the peace <16>.*

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

- ▶ *Authorization procedures for an ordination are determined by the constitution of the church body.*
- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICE

- ▶ *The ordinand(s) should be vested in an alb or a surplice with cassock. Until presented, the ordinand(s) is seated with the congregation, perhaps in the first pew. If the ordinand(s) enters in the procession, he/she enters the pew as the procession passes it.*
- ▶ *If there is no communion rail, a kneeling desk may be provided for the convenience of the ordinand(s).*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

2. ▶ While it is desirable that one person preside over the entire service, circumstances may suggest that the parish pastor preside at the Holy Communion.
4. ▶ At the close of the hymn the ordinand(s) is escorted by the presenter(s) to a place in front of the presiding minister, who stands before the altar.
  - ▶ When the ordination takes place in the ordinand's home congregation, the presenter may be an officer of that congregation or an official of the district/synod.

- ▶ When several persons are ordained in a district/synod convention, it is desirable that each ordinand have a sponsoring pastor who may also serve as presenter.
  - ▶ The words of presentation may be altered to fit the circumstances of the authorization and the call. At a district/synod convention, the secretary of the district/synod may present all ordinands.
  - ▶ In an announcement, in a bulletin notice, or in the sermon, those assembled should be made aware that in the ordination service they speak for the whole Church.
5. ▶ If more than one pastor participates in the service, the second paragraph of this section may be said by one, the third paragraph by another.
  6. ▶ When several persons are ordained, each answers in turn.
  7. ▶ It is appropriate to use only the Christian names, the name given in Baptism, of the bishop(s) and other pastors named in the prayers.
    - ▶ Intercessions may be included for the spouse/family of the ordinand(s).
    - ▶ Other intercessions formulated by those who have been involved in the life of the ordinand(s) may be included in the prayers.
  11. ▶ The presiding minister lays both hands on the ordinand's head. The service book is held by an assisting minister. Other clergy may lay their right hands on the ordinand's head. If the number of participating clergy is large, a few should function on behalf of all.
    - ▶ As is customary in the services of the Church, only the Christian name(s) of the ordinand(s), the name given in Baptism, should be used.
    - ▶ The laying on of hands may continue through the prayer which begins, "Bless *his/her* proclamation. . . ." When several persons are ordained at the same service, the prayer, "Bless *his/her* proclamation . . ." continues after all have received the laying on of hands.
    - ▶ The congregation may be asked to be seated if a large number of persons is ordained.
    - ▶ When several persons are ordained, each sponsor may lay his/her hand on the head of the ordinand he/she sponsors.
  12. ▶ When several persons are ordained, the respective sponsors may have the stoles with them.
    - ▶ Where local custom indicates that another symbol of ministry

## ORDINATION

(e.g., the Bible) be given, the presenter or assisting minister may hand the item to the newly ordained as the presiding minister says:

**P.** Receive this \_\_\_\_\_ as a sign of your calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

13. ▶ When several persons are ordained at the same service, the address continues after all have received stoles.
  - ▶ If more than one pastor participates in the service, the second, third, and fourth readings may be read by the participating pastors.
14. ▶ Where local custom indicates a spoken blessing of the ordinand(s) by others, such precedes the blessing by the presiding minister.
16. ▶ When ordination and installation occur at the same service, the installation takes place prior to the peace.
  - ▶ The newly ordained may be greeted by an embrace or a handshake.
19. ▶ It is not appropriate for the newly ordained to assume the role of presiding minister.
23. ▶ A hymn may be sung as the newly installed pastor is escorted to the font, pulpit, and altar.

## PROPERS

- ▶ *When ordination is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the propers for ordination are used.*
- ▶ *When ordination is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for ordination is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.*
- ▶ *When ordination is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.*

### *Prayer of the Day*

Almighty and merciful God, you built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the holy ministry so that the apostolic and prophetic Word might be heard throughout the ages. Grant that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name(s)</sup>, now to be ordained, may exercise *his/her* ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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***Psalms and Lessons***

Psalm 15	Psalm 95	Psalm 113
Psalm 16	Psalm 96	Psalm 121
Psalm 84	Psalm 99	Psalm 122
Psalm 91	Psalm 103	Psalm 133

*I love you, O Lord my strength* (Ps. 18:1a)

*How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.* (Ps. 84:1)

Or, an appropriate phrase or verse from the selected psalm may be used.

Exodus 3:13–15	Isaiah 6:1–8	Jeremiah 23:25–28a (. . . faithfully.)
Numbers 6:22–27	Isaiah 40:1–11	Ezekiel 3:16–21
Numbers 11:16–17, 24–25b (. . . they prophesied.)	Isaiah 42:5–9	
	Isaiah 52:7–10	
	Jeremiah 23:1–5	
Acts 20:28–35	2 Corinthians 4:1–7 (8–12)	1 Timothy 3:1–7
Romans 10:13–17	2 Corinthians 5:11–21	1 Timothy 4:14–16
Romans 12:4–8	Ephesians 4:4–16	2 Timothy 4:1–5
		1 Peter 5:2–4
Matthew 9:1–8	Mark 10:42–45	John 10:7–18
Matthew 9:35–38	Luke 10:1–12, 16–20	John 13:(3–11) 12–17, 20
Matthew 16:13–19	Luke 24:44–49a	John 17:6–19
Mark 4:1–9	(. . . upon you.)	John 21:15–17

***Hymn of the Day***

“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,” hymn 163

“To God the Holy Spirit let us pray,” hymn 317

***Verse***

*The verse for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; The Conversion of St. Paul; St. Bartholomew, Apostle; Holy Cross Day; St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist; or Reformation Day may be used.*

*Or, during Lent the Verse may be Matthew 28:19–20 or Luke 4:18–19.*

***Offertory***

*The Offertory for St. Andrew, Apostle; St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; or Reformation Day may be used.*

*“What shall I render to the Lord” is also appropriate.*

***Preface:*** Apostles

***Post-Communion Prayer***

**A** We thank you, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Spirit. As you have again raised up among us *a faithful servant(s)* for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, grant that we, with \_\_\_\_\_, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <539>

***Color:*** red



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## COMMISSIONING OF MISSIONARIES

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1. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*
2. *The presiding minister is designated according to the polity of the church body and calling agency.*

### **Stand**

3. *The Hymn of the Day is sung as the candidates gather before the congregation.*
4. *The minister addresses the congregation, giving a brief description of the assignment for which the candidates are being commissioned.*

**P** I have been authorized to commission \_\_\_\_\_ names \_\_\_\_\_, who have accepted the call/appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ church/board/agency \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ church \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as missionaries with/under \_\_\_\_\_

### **Sit**

5. *As a brief lesson, one or more of the following are read:*

*A reading from Romans:* Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your faith suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it for teaching. Let the preachers deliver sermons, the almsgivers give freely, the officials be diligent, and those who do works of mercy do them cheerfully. (Rom. 12:4-8)

*A reading from First Peter:* Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:8-11)

*A reading from St. Matthew:* Jesus called *the disciples* to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:25-28)

*A reading from Acts:* While *the congregational leaders at Antioch* were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)

#### 6. *The minister addresses the candidates:*

**P** Will you accept this commission and carry it out in accordance with the Holy Scriptures?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you endeavor in all things to conduct yourselves as is fitting for ambassadors and servants of Jesus Christ?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be faithful, understanding, and loving to the people among whom you will live and work?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you serve under the assignment and jurisdiction of the church to which you are sent?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C** Amen

*Stand*

7. *The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** And you, people of God, will you support *these messengers* of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you pray for *them*, help and honor *them* for *their* work's sake, and in all things strive to live in peace and unity in Christ?

**W** We will.

8. *The candidates may kneel.*

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you sent your Son into our world to proclaim your kingdom and, by his death and resurrection, to reconcile all people according to your gracious plan.

**C** We bless you and praise your name forever.

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord Jesus Christ, for you preached good news to the poor, proclaimed liberty to the captives, healed the sick, and set free the oppressed.

**C** We bless you and praise your name forever.

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord, Holy Spirit, for you sent forth your apostles to proclaim the good news of salvation and filled them with your power.

**C** We bless you and praise your name forever.

9. *The minister blesses the candidates:*

**P** Bless *these* your *servants*, O Lord, in the work you have called *them* to do, so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, *they* may show your love to all people and glorify your name.

**C** Amen

10. *The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the whole Church (especially the church to which the missionaries are assigned), the nations, those in need, the parish, special concerns.*

*Prayers are also included for the missionaries and their families, all missionaries, all Christians in their vocation, the calling agency, its mission.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**G** hear our prayer.

OR

**A** Let us pray to the Lord.  
**G** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** Amen

11. *The peace is shared.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** And also with you.

*The ministers, the missionaries, their families, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

12. *All return to their places.*

**Sit**

13. *The service continues with the Offering (24).*

14. *Those newly commissioned may assist in the Holy Communion.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*
- ▶ *When appropriate, members of the missionaries' family and/or friends may serve as assisting ministers.*

### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ When the commissioning is set in Service of the Word, it follows the Offering (14). Service of the Word concludes with the Lord's Prayer, the New Testament Canticle (16), and the Benediction. A hymn may follow.
2. ▶ While it is desirable that one person preside over the entire service, circumstances may suggest that the parish pastor preside at the Holy Communion.
4. ▶ The announcement of authorization to commission may be modified to fit specific situations.
7. ▶ In an announcement, in a bulletin notice, or in the sermon, those assembled should be made aware that in the commissioning service they speak for the whole Church.
9. ▶ The presiding minister may lay his/her right hand on the head of each candidate as the blessing is said.

### PROPERS

- ▶ *When commissioning is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the propers for commissioning are used.*
- ▶ *When commissioning is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for commissioning is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.*
- ▶ *When commissioning is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.*

#### *Prayer of the Day*

God of grace and might, we praise you for your servants,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, to whom you have given gifts to make the  
names  
 good news known. Raise up, we pray, in every country, heralds  
 and evangelists of your kingdom, so that the world may know  
 the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. (139)

*Psalms and Lessons*

Psalm 48

*I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem.* (Isa. 62:6)

Isaiah 62:1-7

Romans 10:11-17

Luke 24:44-53

*Hymn of the Day*

"The Church of Christ, in ev'ry age," hymn 433

"God, whose almighty word," hymn 400

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun," hymn 530

"Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim," hymn 377

"O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling," hymn 397

*Verse*

Alleluia. For the word of the cross is the power of God to us who are being saved. Alleluia. (1 Cor. 1:18)

*Or, during Lent the Verse may be Galatians 6:14 or "Return to the Lord."**Offertory*

And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. (Eph. 4:11-13)

*Preface:* Apostles*Color:* of the season



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## SETTING APART OF A DEACONESS

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- 1. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*
  - 2. The presiding minister is designated according to the polity of the diaconal community to which the candidate belongs.*

***Stand***

- 3. The Hymn of the Day is sung.*
- 4. The candidate is presented to the presiding minister and to the congregation by the head of the diaconal community:*

I present for setting apart to the office of deaconess \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_,  
who has been prepared and approved by \_\_\_\_\_ church body \_\_\_\_\_.

**☐ Thanks be to God.**

***Sit***

5. *The head of the diaconal community steps aside, and the minister addresses the candidate:*

**P** The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ anointed with his Spirit Miriam and Deborah, Stephen and Philip, Phoebe and Priscilla, calling them to faithful service. The apostle Paul, recognizing the diversity of gifts within the Church, said: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.”

(1 Cor. 12:4-7)

Those who have been called to the diaconate assist in the Church’s mission to proclaim the Gospel. They serve the needy, care for the sick, comfort the distressed, and through words and actions bring God’s love to all people.

6. *The minister questions the candidate:*

**P** Will you assume this ministry, and as a servant of God perform the work of a deaconess in the Church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** The Church in which you will serve confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and are the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures. Will you serve in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you witness in word and deed, and by your own example encourage God’s people in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C** Amen

*Stand*

*7. The prayers are said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

For the holy catholic Church, that it may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For all members of the Church, that they may serve you in true and godly lives: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name(s)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, our *bishop(s)*, and for all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For pastors, that they may faithfully fulfill the duties of their ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your name: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, chosen to be a deaconess in your Church, that, sustained and encouraged by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, she may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For the Church, that in faithful witness it may proclaim the Gospel and in humble love serve the poor: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** For the nations of the world and their leaders, that they may work for justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** For the just and proper use of your creation, that the world may be freed from poverty and famine: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** For the glorious company of all the saints, those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you. That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

8. *A hymn may be sung.*

9. *The candidate may kneel. The minister begins the thanksgiving.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant. He showed us that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling this your servant to this ministry. <540>

10. *The minister lays both hands on the head of the candidate:*

**P** Heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_, whom you have called to be a deaconess in your Church.

## SETTING APART OF A DEACONESS

*Following the laying on of hands, the deaconess remains kneeling.*

**P** Bless her service, that she may worthily accomplish the ministry committed to her. Let her life and teaching so reflect your grace that many may come to know you and love you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (541)

**C** Amen

**P** The office of deaconess is committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

*11. The deaconess stands.*

*12. The head of the diaconal community gives a cross to the deaconess as the minister says:*

**P** Receive and wear this cross as a sign of your calling to serve the Lord and his people. Confess your faith in the risen Christ, and bear in your heart the love of him who died on the cross for you.

*13. When customary a verse of Scripture, selected for the deaconess, is read by the head of the diaconal community:*

*14. The minister and deaconess turn to face the congregation.*

**P** Will you receive \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, who is set apart to the office of deaconess to serve God's people?

**C** We will.

**P** Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C** We will.

*15. The deaconess may kneel for the blessing:*

**P** The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen

16. *The peace is shared.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The ministers, the deaconess, her family, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you

Peace be with you.

17. *All return to their places.*

*Sit*

18. *The service continues with the Offering (24).*

19. *The deaconess may assist in the Holy Communion.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*
- ▶ *The following days are especially appropriate for the setting apart of a deaconess: January 27 (Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe), February*

25 (*Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess*), April 29 (*Catherine of Siena, teacher*), August 10 (*Lawrence, deacon, martyr*), August 13 (*Flornce Nightingale and Clara Maass, renewers of society*), October 4 (*Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*), December 26 (*St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr*).

▶ *If men are certified for the diaconal communities, the language of this order is to be modified accordingly.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

2. ▶ While it is desirable that one person preside over the entire service, circumstances may suggest that the parish pastor preside at the Holy Communion.
4. ▶ At the close of the hymn, the candidate for setting apart is escorted by her presenter to a place in front of the presiding minister, who stands before the altar.
7. ▶ It is appropriate to use only the Christian names, the name given in Baptism, of the bishop(s) and other pastors named in the prayer.
  - ▶ Other intercessions formulated by those who have been involved in the life of the candidate may be included in the prayers.
14. ▶ In an announcement, in a bulletin notice, or in the sermon, those assembled should be made aware that in the service for setting apart a deaconess they speak for the whole Church.
15. ▶ The following fourth-century prayer may be said instead of the blessing.

☐ Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, creator of man and woman: You anointed with the Spirit Miriam and Deborah and Hannah and Huldah, you chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of your only Son, and you set apart women for service in your holy temple. Bless this your servant who has been set apart to the office and work of deaconess. Protect her, and grant that in singleness of purpose and with a willing mind she may accomplish the service committed to her to the praise of Christ, to whom be glory with you and the Holy Spirit forever. <542>

**PROPERS**

- ▶ *When the setting apart of a deaconess is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the propers for the setting apart of a deaconess are used.*
- ▶ *When the setting apart of a deaconess is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for the setting apart of a deaconess is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.*
- ▶ *When the setting apart of a deaconess is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.*

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, through the ages you have called women to the diaconate in the Church. Let your blessing rest now on all who answer that call. Grant them understanding of the Gospel, sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ, that many people will be served and your name be glorified; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (196)

**Psalms and Lessons**

Psalm 20	Psalm 67	
<i>We will call upon the name of the Lord our God.</i> (Ps. 20:7)		
<i>Let all the peoples praise you.</i> (Ps. 67:3)		
Ruth 1:1–19a	Micah 6:6–8	
Romans 12:1–6	1 Corinthians 13:1–7	Philippians 2:5–13
1 Corinthians 1:3–9	Galatians 5:14, 22–25	1 Peter 4:8–11
Matthew 20:20–28	John 13:12–17	
Matthew 25:31–40	John 15:1–8	

**Hymn of the Day**

- “Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,” hymn 472 or 473
- “Lord, whose love in humble service,” hymn 423

**Verse**

Alleluia. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Alleluia. (Matt. 5:16)  
*Or, during Lent the Verse may be Galatians 6:14 or “Return to the Lord.”*

**Offertory**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. (Matt. 5:6–9)

**Preface:** Apostles

**Color:** of the season



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## INSTALLATION OF A BISHOP

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- 1. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*
- 2. At the installation of a district/synod bishop, the presiding minister is normally the bishop of the church or of another district/synod. At the installation of a bishop of the church, the presiding minister is the retiring bishop or, where that is not possible, someone designated by the church.*

### ***Stand***

- 3. The Hymn of the Day is sung.*
- 4. The secretary of the church/district/synod presents the bishop-elect to the presiding minister:*

I present \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected and called by the Church, for installation into the office of bishop of \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Sit***

5. *The secretary steps aside. The minister addresses the bishop-elect:*

**P** *Our Lord Jesus Christ says:* “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20:21-23)

*And again:* “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

*Hear also the words of the apostles:* “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the Church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

“Try hard to show yourself worthy of God’s approval, as a laborer who need not be ashamed; be straightforward in your proclamation of the truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

“Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.” (2 Tim. 1:13-14)

6. *The minister questions the bishop-elect:*

**P** To you is being given the care of the pastors and congregations of this *church/district/synod*. I ask you in the presence of God and of this assembly: Will you assume the office of bishop of \_\_\_\_\_?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be faithful in your office? Will you discharge your duties in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, and in harmony with the constitution of this *church/district/synod*?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you guide, encourage, and support the pastors and the congregations of this *church/district/synod* in their ministries?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C** Amen

### *Stand*

#### *7. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** And you, people of God, representatives of this *church/district/synod*, will you receive *him/her* as a servant of God and a shepherd in Christ's Church?

**C** We will.

**P** Will you pray for *him/her*, help and honor *him/her* for *his/her* work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C** We will.

#### *8. The minister addresses the bishop-elect:*

**P** The office of bishop is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

9. *The newly installed bishop may kneel for the blessing:*

**P** The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory forever and ever.

**G** Amen

10. *The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the bishop, the unity of the Church, all ministries in the Church, all Christians in their vocation, the Church, and the communities it serves.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

OR

**A** Let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** Amen

11. *The bishop remains kneeling.*

**P** Remember to rekindle the gift of God that is within you. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control. Amen

12. *When a pectoral cross is given, the minister places it around the bishop's neck.*

**P** Receive this cross, as a sign of your calling to serve the Lord and his people, and as an emblem of the office to which you have been elected.

## INSTALLATION OF A BISHOP

13. *The bishop stands, and the minister presents him/her to the people.*

*The congregation may offer acclamation with applause.*

14. *The peace is shared, with the bishop assuming the role of presiding minister.*

☩ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☩ **And also with you.**

*The ministers, the bishop's family, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

☩ Peace be with you.

15. *All return to their places.*

**Sit**

16. *The service continues with the Offering (24).*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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- ▶ *This service is intended for the installation of a bishop/president.*
- ▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

9. ▶ The presiding minister may lay his/her right hand on the head of the bishop.

## PROPERS

- ▶ *When installation is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the propers for installation are used.*
- ▶ *When installation is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for installation is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.*
- ▶ *When installation is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.*

***Prayer of the Day***

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your Word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <543>

***Psalms and Lessons***

Psalm 16	Psalm 99	Psalm 121
Psalm 84	Psalm 103	Psalm 122
Psalm 91	Psalm 113	

*I love you, O Lord my strength.* (Ps. 18:1a)

*How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.* (Ps. 84:1)

Or, an appropriate phrase or verse from the selected psalm may be used.

Exodus 3:13-15	Isaiah 42:5-9	Jeremiah 23:25-28a
Numbers 6:22-27	Isaiah 52:7-10	(. . . faithfully.)
Isaiah 40:6-11	Jeremiah 23:1-5	
Acts 20:28-35	2 Corinthians 4:1-7	2 Timothy 4:1-5
Romans 10:13-17	(8-12)	1 Peter 5:2-4
Romans 12:4-8	1 Timothy 4:14-16	
Matthew 9:1-8	Mark 10:42-45	John 10:7-18
Mark 4:1-9	Luke 10:1-12, 16-20	John 13:(3-11) 12-17, 20

***Hymn of the Day***

“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,” hymn 163  
 “Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,” hymn 472 or 473  
 “To God the Holy Spirit let us pray,” hymn 317

***Verse***

*The Verse for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; The Conversion of St. Paul; St. Bartholomew, Apostle; Holy Cross Day; St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist; or Reformation Day may be used.*

*Or, during Lent the Verse may be Matthew 28:19-20 or Luke 4:18-19.*

***Offertory***

*The Offertory for St. Andrew, Apostle; St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; or St. John, Apostle and Evangelist may be used.*

*“What shall I render to the Lord” is also appropriate.*

***Preface:*** Apostles

***Color:*** red



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## INSTALLATION OF A PASTOR

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1. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*
2. *The bishop, or someone designated by the bishop, presides at the service through the installation rite. After the installation, the newly installed pastor assumes the role of presiding minister.*

### ***Stand***

3. *The Hymn of the Day is sung.*
4. *The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** Having been authorized by the Church to install \_\_\_\_\_ full name \_\_\_\_\_, our co-worker in the Gospel, as \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_, I now ask for certification of this *call/appointment*.

5. *A representative of the church council/board/agency comes forward with the pastor being installed and addresses the presiding minister:*

We, of \_\_\_\_\_, after prayerful deliberation, have *elected/appointed* \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_. I present *him/her* for installation. [This letter certifies the call.]

### ***Sit***

6. *The minister addresses the pastor being installed:*

**P** *Our Lord Jesus Christ says:* “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20:21-23)

*And again:* “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

(Matt. 28:18-20)

*Hear the words addressed to Timothy:* Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Tim. 4:12-16)

7. *The minister questions the pastor being installed:*

**P** Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of this congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you love, serve, and pray for God’s people? Will you nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, leading them by your own example in the use of the means of grace, in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C** Amen

*Stand*

*8. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** And you, people of God, will you receive this messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard *him/her* as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

**C** We will.

**P** Will you pray for *him/her*, help and honor *him/her* for *his/her* work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C** We will.

*9. The minister addresses the pastor being installed:*

**P** The office of \_\_\_\_\_ is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*10. The newly installed pastor may kneel for the blessing:*

**P** The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen

*The pastor stands.*

11. *The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish, the pastor, the pastor's family, the bishop and all ministers in the Church, all Christians in their vocation, and the community served by the parish.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

OR

**A** Let us pray to the Lord.

**G** hear our prayer.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** Amen

*Sit*

12. *One of the following may be used.*

*The presiding minister escorts the pastor to the font, where a representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

*They proceed to the pulpit, where a representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

*They proceed to the altar, where a representative of the congregation says:*

You have been called to be among us to lead worship and preside at the Holy Communion.

OR

*The minister presents to the pastor a baptismal shell, a Bible, and a chalice and paten.*

**P** Receive these signs of your calling to serve the Lord and his people in the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

*13. The minister and a representative of the congregation/board/agency welcome the pastor. The congregation may offer acclamation with applause.*

**Stand**

*14. The peace is shared, with the pastor assuming the role of presiding minister.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R** And also with you.

*The ministers and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

*15. All return to their places.*

**Sit**

*16. The service continues with the Offering (24).*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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▶ *It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.*

▶ *Neighboring congregations may be invited to participate in the service.*

▶ *The pastor to be installed should be vested. Until presented, he/she may be seated with the congregation or near the altar.*

▶ *If the pastor-elect had resigned or had been removed from the clergy roster and is now being reinstated, the installation order is modified as follows:*

*Following the Hymn of the Day <3> and prior to the announcement of authorization and certification <4>, the minister says:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, having been ordained a pastor in the Church of Jesus Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ church body \_\_\_\_\_, has been examined and approved by \_\_\_\_\_ church body \_\_\_\_\_ to resume the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

*Following the address <6> and prior to the first question <7>, the minister questions the one being installed:*

**P** Before almighty God and in the presence of this congregation, I ask you: Will you affirm that the Lord has called you to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and will you resume the duties of this office?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

▶ *Where the church recognizes the ordination by another denomination of a pastor-elect who is beginning ministry in the Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran installation may include announcement of his/her examination and certification, and his/her allegiance to the Lutheran Confessions. The installation order is modified as follows:*

*Following the Hymn of the Day <3> and prior to the announcement of authorization and certification <4>, the minister says:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, having been ordained a pastor in the Church of Jesus Christ, has been examined and approved by \_\_\_\_\_ synod/district \_\_\_\_\_ for service in the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the \_\_\_\_\_ church body \_\_\_\_\_.

*Following the address <6> and prior to the first question <7>, the minister questions the one being installed:*

**P** The Church in which you are to minister confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and are the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures. Is this your confession?

**R** Yes.

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

4. ▶ A description of "position" may include not only title, but also the name of the congregation/institution/agency to which the person has been called.
5. ▶ The letter which the representative presents is not the pastor's letter of call. It is certification of the pastor's election to receive the call.
10. ▶ The presiding minister may lay his/her right hand on the head of the newly installed pastor.
12. ▶ The presentation of the symbols is appropriate only where the ministry is directly one of Word and Sacrament.
  - ▶ A hymn may be sung as the newly installed pastor is escorted to the font, pulpit, and altar.
  - ▶ The presiding minister may present the newly installed pastor with the baptismal shell. If a baptismal shell is not used in the congregation, it is sufficient to pause at the font while the accompanying words are said.
  - ▶ The presiding minister may present the pulpit Bible to the newly installed pastor. It is then returned to its place.
  - ▶ The chalice and paten may be brought from the credence for presentation to the newly installed pastor. They are then placed on the altar in readiness for the Offertory.
14. ▶ For the remainder of the Holy Communion, the installing pastor may serve as assisting minister.

## PROPERS

- ▶ *When installation is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the propers for installation are used.*
- ▶ *When installation is set within the chief service of the congregation*

on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for installation is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.

▶ When installation is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.

### *Prayer of the Day*

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your Word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <543>

### *Psalms and Lessons*

Psalm 16	Psalm 99	Psalm 121
Psalm 84	Psalm 103	Psalm 122
Psalm 91	Psalm 113	

*I love you, O Lord my strength* (Ps. 18:1a)

*How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.* (Ps. 84:1)

*Or, an appropriate phrase or verse from the selected psalm may be used.*

Exodus 3:13–15	Isaiah 42:5–9	Jeremiah 23:25–28a
Numbers 6:22–27	Isaiah 52:7–10	(. . . faithfully.)
Isaiah 40:6–11	Jeremiah 23:1–5	
Acts 20:28–35	2 Corinthians	2 Timothy 4:1–5
Romans 10:13–17	4:1–7 (8–12)	1 Peter 5:2–4
Romans 12:4–8	1 Timothy 4:14–16	
Matthew 9:1–8	Mark 10:42–45	John 10:7–18
Mark 4:1–9	Luke 10:1–12, 16–20	John 13:(3–11) 12–17, 20

### *Hymn of the Day*

“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,” hymn 163

“Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,” hymn 472 or 473

“To God the Holy Spirit let us pray,” hymn 317

### *Verse*

*The Verse for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; The Conversion of St. Paul; St. Bartholomew, Apostle; Holy Cross Day, St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist; or Reformation Day may be used.*

*Or, during Lent the Verse may be Matthew 28:19–20 or Luke 4:18–19.*

### *Offertory*

*The Offertory for St. Andrew, Apostle; St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; or St. John, Apostle and Evangelist may be used.*

“What shall I render to the Lord” is also appropriate.

**Preface:** Apostles

**Color:** of the season



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## INSTALLATION TO A REGIONAL OR CHURCHWIDE OFFICE

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1. *This order is appropriate for installing those whose election or appointment to regional or churchwide office does not constitute a call or a major occupational commitment.*

2. *When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*

### **Stand**

3. *The Hymn of the Day is sung.*

### **Sit**

4. *The leader announces the name of the person and the office to which he/she has been elected/appointed. The person to be installed comes forward. The leader addresses the congregation:*

☐ *St. Paul says:* Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your faith suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it for teaching. Let the preachers deliver sermons, the almsgivers give freely, the officials be diligent, and those who do works of mercy do them cheerfully. (Rom. 12:4-8)

5. *The leader may describe the duties of office. The leader continues:*

☐ Will you assume the office to which you have been *elected/appointed*, and will you endeavor to discharge its duties faithfully,

to the glory of Christ our Lord and in service to his holy Church?

**☒** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**L** And you, people of God, will you support and pray for \_\_\_\_\_<sub>name</sub> in this work?

**C** We will.

**L** The office of \_\_\_\_\_ is committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

**L** Let us pray.

Gracious Father, you call your people to service and give them varied tasks in the world and in your Church. Grant \_\_\_\_\_<sub>name</sub> grace and strength, that *he/she* may serve you faithfully to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

<544>

**C** Amen

*6. The leader addresses the newly installed:*

**L** The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen

*7. All return to their places.*

**Stand**

*8. When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Prayers (22).*

*9. When this order is used as a separate service, additional prayers may be said. The service then concludes with the blessing.*

**L** The Lord almighty bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in his peace.

**C** Amen

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ The order for Installation of Elected Parish Officers, page 132, is used for the installation of officers within the congregation.
  - ▶ The order for Installation of a Lay Professional Leader, page 136, is used for full-time lay church workers.
2. ▶ This order may be used preceding Service of the Word, Evening Prayer, Responsive Prayer 1 or 2, or Prayer at the Close of the Day.



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## OPENING OF A CONVENTION

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- 1. When used with the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Benediction (42). When used apart from the Holy Communion, this order is used following a hymn of invocation of the Holy Spirit.*
  - 2. The leader is normally the bishop or the presiding officer of the convention.*

### *Stand*

- L** As there are many members in one body,
- C** so we, though many, are one body in Christ.
- L** Where two or three are gathered together in my name,
- C** there am I in the midst of them.
- L** I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, being humble and gentle, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- C** Let us pursue justice and peace, for mutual upbuilding.

OPENING OF A CONVENTION

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray.

Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by your Spirit, may have a right judgment in all things and evermore rejoice in his holy counsel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (202)

**C** Amen

**L** I declare this convention to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

3. *A hymn may be sung.*

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## CLOSING OF A CONVENTION

- 1. When used with the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Benediction (42).*
- 2. The leader is normally the bishop or the presiding officer of the convention.*

### *Stand*

- 3. A hymn may be sung.*

**L** You will be my witnesses

**C** **to the ends of the earth.**

**L** I chose you and appointed you

**C** **to bear fruit which abides.**

**L** Lo, I will be with you always,

**C** **to the end of time.**

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (220)

**C** Amen

**L** Lord God our Father, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel, make our ways safe and our home-comings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with your Son and the Holy Spirit, God forever. (269)

**C** Amen

**L** I now declare this convention closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

**L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



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## INDUCTION OF A CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL TEACHER

- 1. This order is appropriate where church body polity provides that teachers may be called as well as contracted to teach in a Christian day school by the congregation(s).*
- 2. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon (18). The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.*

***Stand***

- 3. The Hymn of the Day is sung.*

4. *A representative of the church council/board/agency comes forward and addresses the presiding minister:*

After prayerful deliberation, we of \_\_\_\_\_ certify that \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed to work as \_\_\_\_\_ position \_\_\_\_\_.

5. *The teacher to be inducted is presented to the presiding minister by the representative who has announced the appointment.*

**Sit**

6. *The minister addresses the teacher:*

**P** Our Lord, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You stand among us as one called to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

7. *As a brief lesson, one or more of the following are read.*

*A reading from Romans:* Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your faith suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it for teaching. Let the preachers deliver sermons, the almsgivers give freely, the officials be diligent, and those who do works of mercy do them cheerfully. (Rom. 12:4-8)

*A reading from St. Matthew:* Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:13-14)

8. *The minister questions the teacher:*

**P** Will you assume this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the Gospel of God with a godly life?

**R** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C** Amen

*9. The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** I now declare \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ a teacher of \_\_\_\_\_ name of school \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

*10. The teacher may kneel.*

**P** Let us pray.

O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your Church. By your Holy Spirit give all teachers insight into your Word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (198)

**C** Amen

*11. The minister blesses the teacher:*

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide, bless, and keep you, that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called.

**C** Amen

*Stand*

12. *The prayers are said.*

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayers are included for the teacher; the school, its students and teachers; all ministries in the Church; and all Christians in their vocation.*

*The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

OR

**A** Let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

*Stand*

13. *The peace is shared.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The ministers, the teacher, and the congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

14. *All return to their places.*

*Sit*

15. *The service continues with the Offering (24).*



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## OPENING OF A SCHOOL YEAR

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*1. This order is appropriate for the opening of the academic year in Christian day schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries.*

***Stand***

*2. A hymn may be sung.*

*3. The appropriate dialog is read.*

---

Great are the deeds of the Lord!

**They are studied by all who delight in them.**

His work is full of majesty and splendor,  
**and his righteousness endures forever.**

He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;  
**the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
**those who act accordingly have a good understanding.**  
**His praise endures forever.**

---

OR

Come, children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

**Teach me, O Lord, your ways.**

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**Teach me, O Lord, your ways.**

I will glory in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and rejoice.

**Teach me, O Lord, your ways.**

---

*Sit*

4. *One or more lessons from the Bible are read. An address may follow.*

*Stand*

5. *The prayers are said.*

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And also with you.

☐ Let us pray.

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Help us to study diligently and to grow in all that is good. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (545)

☑ Amen

☑ Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

\*

OR

☑ 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, forever and ever. Amen

6. *A hymn may be sung.*

7. *The leader says:*

L. We begin this \_\_\_\_\_ school year \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ When used with another service, the Opening of a School Year follows the benediction.
2. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - “Joyful, joyful we adore thee,” hymn 551
  - “O God of youth, whose Spirit in our hearts is stirring,” hymn 510
  - “Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above,” hymn 548
  - “With the Lord begin your task,” hymn 444
  - “You are the way; through you alone,” hymn 464
4. ▶ One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - Deuteronomy 6:4–9
  - Isaiah 55:1–11
  - Matthew 11:25–30
  - Matthew 19:13–15
  - Luke 8:4–15
  - Luke 10:38–42
  - Romans 12:4–12 (13–21)
  - 1 Corinthians 2:6–10, 13–16
  - Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–16
  - ▶ Other lessons may be selected from the Daily Lectionary, *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, page 97, or from the readings appointed for the previous Sunday.
  - ▶ Faculty and students may serve as lectors.
6. ▶ A hymn may be selected from the list at note 2.



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## CLOSING OF A SCHOOL YEAR

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*1. This order is appropriate for the closing of the academic year in Christian day schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries.*

***Stand***

*2. A hymn may be sung.*

*3. The appropriate dialog is read.*

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
**there is no limit to his wisdom.**

We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks,  
**calling upon your name  
and declaring all your wonderful deeds.**

We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,  
**and the wonderful works he has done.**

---

OR

Those who know your name, O Lord,  
will put their trust in you.

**O Lord, watch over us.**

You never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

**O Lord, watch over us.**

Sing praise to the Lord;  
proclaim to the peoples the things he has done.

**O Lord, watch over us.**

*Sit*

4. *One or more lessons from the Bible may be read.*

*Stand*

5. *The prayers are said.*

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**L** Let us pray.

**L** Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (251)

OR

**L** Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (220)

**C** **Amen**

**C** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

OR

**C** 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, forever and ever. Amen

6. *A hymn may be sung.*

7. *The leader says:*

**L** We close this \_\_\_\_\_ school year \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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### THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

1. ▶ When used with another service, the Closing of a School Year follows the benediction.
2. ▶ One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
  - “God, who stretched the spangled heavens,” hymn 463
  - “Lead on, O King eternal!” hymn 495
  - “Let all things now living,” hymn 557
  - “Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word,” hymn 230
  - “Now thank we all our God,” hymn 533 or 534
  - “On what has now been sown,” hymn 261
4. ▶ One or more of the following or another appropriate lesson may be read.
  - Joshua 1:9 (Be strong . . . )
  - Psalm 91
  - Proverbs 3:1-7
  - Proverbs 4:13-18
  - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
  - Matthew 5:14-16
  - Luke 10:25-27
  - John 17:18-23
  - Ephesians 6:10-18
  - Philippians 2:1-11
  - Philippians 4:4-9
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, 28
  - 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (4:1-5)

▶ Other lessons may be selected from the Daily Lectionary, *Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition*, page 97, or from the readings appointed for the previous Sunday.

▶ Faculty and students may serve as lectors.
6. ▶ A hymn may be selected from the list at note 2.



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## ORGANIZATION OF A CONGREGATION

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*1. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Hymn of the Day (19).*

***Sit***

*2. Members may be received.*

*3. A representative of the congregation may make a brief statement regarding the origin and history of the congregation.*

***Stand***

4. *The Creed may be said. The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if a rite with a creed is used for the reception of members (2).*

### *Nicene Creed*

**☐ We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

OR

*Apostles' Creed* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 into hell.\*  
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.

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. Amen

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

5. *The minister addresses the congregation:*

**P** You have declared your faith in the triune God, who has established the holy catholic Church as the body of Christ and the instrument to accomplish his saving grace for all people. As an expression of your common faith and purpose, is it now your intention to join together in a Christian congregation to be known as \_\_\_\_\_ name of congregation \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ church body \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**C** Yes, by the grace of God.

**P** Will you strive to do the work of the kingdom in the bond of unity and love, both in the life of this congregation and in the work of the whole Church?

**C** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** Will you abide by the constitution of the \_\_\_\_\_ church body \_\_\_\_\_, as a member congregation of the \_\_\_\_\_ synod/district \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**C** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** Will you accept the rights and privileges of membership in this church, participating fully in its deliberations and its ministry?

**C** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** Upon these, your promises, I hereby declare that \_\_\_\_\_  
name of congregation is a duly organized and constituted congregation of the \_\_\_\_\_  
church body in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty God, grant us, your servants, the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Show us new ways to serve you and our neighbor. Make us worthy to bear the sign of the cross in the world, and bring us at last into your kingdom of glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen <546>

6. *The service continues with the Prayers (22).*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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► *In church bodies in which congregations are organized prior to affiliation with the church body/synod/district, the language of this service is to be modified accordingly.*



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## RECEPTION OF A CONGREGATION

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- 1. The reception of a congregation into a district/synod normally takes place at a meeting of the district/synod.*
- 2. It is appropriate that the bishop preside.*
- 3. The bishop may comment on the history of the congregation, and then he/she calls for the documents:*

**P** name of congregation has made application for membership in the church body. I now ask for a copy of the congregation's statement of intent and a copy of its constitution.

- 4. The representative of the congregation hands the documents to the bishop, who asks:*

**P** Are you, the people of God of name of congregation, willing to join with us in work and witness, living under the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in accordance with the constitution of the church body ?

Yes, by the help of God.

**P** On behalf of the church body, we receive name of congregation as a member congregation of the district/synod.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your people serve you in many ways. We thank you for these brothers and sisters who join in our work and witness. Unite us in mission and praise, that with one voice we may glorify you both in our witness and in our worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (547)

Amen



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## CLOSING OF A CONGREGATION

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- 1. This order is used when a congregation ceases its existence and vacates its church building.*
- 2. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the post-communion canticle (39).*
- 3. The bishop, or a representative of the bishop, presides at this service.*

### **Stand**

- 4. The following post-communion prayer is said.*

### **A** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life, as you have refreshed those before us who have received your Word and Holy Sacraments in this place. Turn our sorrow over the closing of this congregation into joy over new opportunities for life and ministry in other congregations. In your mercy, strengthen us and your whole Church in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. <548>

### **C** Amen

- 5. The secretary or another representative of the congregation hands the congregation's records and documents to the presiding minister or to another authorized recipient and says:*

These records symbolize the joys and sorrows of the people of God in this place. Receive and preserve them so that the ministry of this congregation may be remembered.

6. *The minister addresses the congregation:*

☐ With thanks to God for the work accomplished here, I declare this congregation to be closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the witness of its people continue undiminished, empowered by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church.

☐ **Amen**

7. *Silence for reflection.*

8. *The minister blesses the people.*

☐ Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

OR

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and ✠ give you peace.

☐ **Amen**

9. *The people may prepare to move in procession from the building, taking the worship furnishings and sacramental vessels.*

*At the cross:*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

*At the candles:*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

*At the altar service book:*

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

(Ps. 22:27)

*At the baptismal shell, bowl, ewer:*

We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:4)

*At the paten and chalice:*

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:26)

*At the Bible:*

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. (Isa. 40:8)

*10. The minister addresses the people:*

**P.** You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Peter 2:9)

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*11. A hymn is sung, during which the worship furnishings and sacramental vessels may be carried in procession. The people may follow.*

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

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► *The closing of a congregation is an occasion which is often accompanied by grief, trauma, and nostalgia. It is also an occasion to proclaim new opportunities for life and mission. The service should be planned to encompass all of these possibilities.*

► *If an oral historical review of the congregation's life is desired, it may occur before the Entrance Hymn (4), before the lessons (9), or at another appropriate time.*

## THE SERVICE IN DETAIL

3. ▶ While it is desirable that one person preside over the entire service, circumstances may suggest that the parish pastor preside at the Holy Communion.
4. ▶ When there is no Communion, the first sentence of the prayer is omitted. The prayer then begins: "Almighty God, turn our sorrow. . ."
5. ▶ Care should be taken that the congregation's records are delivered to the archives of the church body or to a place designated by the archivist. When the congregation is being closed in order to merge or join with another, the proper recipient of the records might be an authorized member of the other congregation. In that case, copies should be made for the archives of the church body.
9. ▶ The removal of these worship furnishings and sacramental vessels during the hymn symbolizes the end of the particular ministry in this place. At the same time, however, the biblical words spoken here emphasize the ongoing mission of the Church. Representatives of the congregation may say the words and carry the furnishings and vessels.
10. ▶ The people are here identified with the continuing ministry which has just been announced. They are dismissed in this context.
11. ▶ In this service a hymn of praise, thanksgiving, or witness provides an appropriate accompaniment to the action. When the congregation is closing in order to unite with another and if the distance allows, the hymn may continue on to the new place, there to become an entrance hymn.

One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.

"Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go," hymn 505

"Have no fear, little flock," hymn 476

"Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim," hymn 377

"Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!" hymn 553

## PROPERS

▶ *When the closing of a congregation is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the propers for the closing of a congregation are used.*

▶ *When the closing of a congregation is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are used. The Prayer of the Day for the closing of a congregation is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.*

► *When the closing of a congregation is scheduled as a part of a special service (apart from the chief service of the congregation), the propers listed below are always used.*

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and merciful God, you have nourished and sustained your people in this place through your Word and Holy Sacraments. Continue to be present among us, that we might serve you, love our neighbors, and spread the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (549)

### **Psalms and Lessons**

Psalm 13	Psalm 46	Psalm 103
Psalm 16	Psalm 80	Psalm 121
Psalm 42	Psalm 90	Psalm 137:1-6

*The Lord of hosts is with us.* (Ps. 46:4)

2 Samuel 7:18-29	Isaiah 66:1-2
Isaiah 43:1-7 (8-13)	Jeremiah 29:1-7
Acts 17:16-34	1 Peter 2:4-10
Ephesians 2:11-22	Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27
Matthew 6:25-34	Luke 9:57-62
Mark 10:23-31	John 15:1-11

### **Hymn of the Day**

“A mighty fortress is our God,” hymn 228 or 229  
 “My hope is built on nothing less,” hymn 293 or 294

### **Verse**

Alleluia. There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all. Alleluia. (Eph. 4:4-6)

*Or, during Lent the Verse may be Revelation 22:13 or “Return to the Lord.”*

### **Offertory**

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience; and above all put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Col. 3:12-15)

**Preface:** Holy Baptism or All Saints

**Color:** of the season



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## GUIDELINES FOR RINGING CHURCH BELLS

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*Church bells are used primarily to call people to worship and to announce the beginning of a service. The bells also ring out to express joy, to announce death, to remind people of the obligation to pray, and to encourage the absent to join in the prayers of the Church. Through the centuries, certain customs have developed regarding the use of church bells.*

### ***A single bell***

A single bell may be rung:

1. on the eve of all Sundays and principal festivals (seven times) to anticipate the celebration of the coming day
2. at early morning on all Sundays and principal festivals (seven times) to announce the arrival of the day
3. one-half hour before and one-quarter hour before each service (seven times) to call the faithful to worship
4. at the hour of each service (seven times, a pause, then three single notes) to announce the immediate beginning of worship

5. on weekdays (excluding principal festivals) at early morning, noon, and evening (three times, a pause, then seven times) to remind the community of the responsibility for daily prayer
6. at a marriage
  - a. when the marriage service begins (seven times)
  - b. as the bridal party leaves the church
7. at death
  - a. at intervals of three to seven seconds to announce the death of a member of the congregation (the “passing bell”)
  - b. as the funeral cortege approaches the church and as the body is carried into the church
  - c. as the body is carried from the church
8. throughout the Lord’s Prayer at all services (except in Holy Week) to invite those in the community to join in praying the Lord’s Prayer
9. throughout the singing of “Glory to God in the highest” in the Vigil of Easter to sound the Church’s joy at the resurrection

### *A peal*

A peal usually consists of three bells—a small bell (the prayer bell, or the Our Father bell), a medium bell, and a large bell (the Domina, or the tolling bell). Sometimes a peal consists of five bells.

The peal of all the bells (plenum) is rung until the largest bell has rung seven times:

1. on the eve of all Sundays and principal festivals to anticipate the celebration of the coming day
2. at early morning on all Sundays and principal festivals to announce the arrival of the day
3. at a marriage
  - a. when the marriage service begins
  - b. as the bridal party leaves the church
4. throughout the singing of “Glory to God in the highest” in the Vigil of Easter to sound the Church’s joy at the resurrection

One-half hour before each service on all Sundays and principal festivals, the smallest bell is rung (seven times). One-quarter hour before each service on all Sundays and principal festivals, the smallest and medium bells are rung (seven times).

At the hour of each service on all Sundays and principal festivals, the peal is rung, then a pause, then the largest bell is rung three times.

On weekdays (excluding principal festivals) at early morning, noon, and evening, the smallest bell is rung (three times, a pause, then seven times) to remind the community of the responsibility for daily prayer.

On Fridays (except Good Friday when all the bells are silent) the largest bell may be tolled (seven times) at 3:00 p.m. to remind the community of the death of Christ.

Throughout the Lord's Prayer at all services (except in Holy Week), the smallest bell is rung to invite those in the community to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

The largest bell is tolled to announce a death, as the funeral cortege approaches the church, as the body is carried into the church, and as the body is carried from the church.

*All the bells are silent from the beginning of the Maundy Thursday Liturgy until the "Glory to God in the highest" at the Vigil of Easter (or the Hymn of Praise at the first service of Easter). This absence of bell ringing reminds the community of the Passion and death of Christ and serves to heighten the joy at the resurrection.*



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## PRAYERS OF THE DAY

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### SUNDAYS AND PRINCIPAL FESTIVALS

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#### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (1)

A. Matthew 24:37-44  
or Matthew 21:1-11

B. Mark 13:33-37  
or Mark 11:1-10

C. Luke 21:25-36  
or Luke 19:28-40

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (2)

A. Matthew 3:1-12

B. Mark 1:1-8

C. Luke 3:1-6

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and forever. (3)

OR

## PRAYERS OF THE DAY

Lord, hear our prayers and come to us, bringing light into the darkness of our hearts; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (4)

A. Matthew 11:2-11      B. John 1:6-8, 19-28      C. Luke 3:7-18

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. (5)

A. Matthew 1:18-25      B. Luke 1:26-38      C. Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

### *Christmas Day*

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (6)

### *OR*

Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (7)

A, B, C.

1. Luke 2:1-20      2. John 1:1-14      3. Luke 2:1-20

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (8)

A. Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23      B. Luke 2:25-40      C. Luke 2:41-52

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith

shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (9)

A. B. C. John 1:1-18

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

*January 6*

Lord God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (10)

A. B. C. Matthew 2:1-12

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (11)

A. Matthew 3:13-17

B. Mark 1:4-11

C. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Lord God, you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son. As he brought gladness and healing to his people, grant us these same gifts and lead us also to perfect faith in him, Jesus Christ our Lord. (12)

A. John 1:29-41

B. John 1:43-51

C. John 2:1-11

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (13)

A. Matthew 4:12-23

B. Mark 1:14-20

C. Luke 4:14-21

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. (14)

A. Matthew 5:1-12

B. Mark 1:21-28

C. Luke 4:21-32

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (15)

A. Matthew 5:13-20

B. Mark 1:29-39

C. Luke 5:1-11

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Lord God, mercifully receive the prayers of your people. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (16)

A. Matthew 5:20-37

B. Mark 1:40-45

C. Luke 6:17-26

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Lord God, we ask you to keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that all who lean on the hope of your promises may gain strength from the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (17)

*OR*

God of compassion, keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son, who prayed even for his enemies; in our words and deeds help us to be like him through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord. (18)

A. Matthew 5:38-48

B. Mark 2:1-12

C. Luke 6:27-38

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of heaven and earth: Hear our prayer and give us your peace now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (19)

A. Matthew 6:24-34

B. Mark 2:18-22

C. Luke 6:39-49

**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD***Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the transfiguration of your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the king in all his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (20)

*OR*

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us with the king heirs of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (21)

A. Matthew 17:1-9

B. Mark 9:2-9

C. Luke 9:28-36

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (22)

A, B, C. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (24)

*OR*

Lord God, our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (25)

A. Matthew 4:1-11

B. Mark 1:12-15

C. Luke 4:1-13

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (26)

*OR*

God our Father, your Son once welcomed an outcast woman because of her faith. Give us faith like hers, that we also may trust only in your love for us and may accept one another as we have been accepted by you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (27)

A. John 4:5-26 (27-30,  
39-42)

B. Mark 8:31-38

C. Luke 13:31-35

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (28)

A. John 9:1-41

B. John 2:13-22

C. Luke 13:1-9

or John 9:13-17,  
34-39

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (29)

A. Matthew 20:17-28

B. John 3:14-21

C. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (30)

A. John 11:1-53  
or John 11:47-53

B. John 12:20-33

C. Luke 20:9-19

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

*Palm Sunday*

Almighty God, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our flesh upon him and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we may share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (31)

A. Matthew 26:1-27:66  
or Matthew 27:11-54

B. Mark 14:1-15:47  
or Mark 15:1-39

C. Luke 22:1-23:56  
or Luke 23:1-49

**MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (34)

A, B, C. John 12:1-11

**TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service, and that we may not fail or deny you in the hour of trial. (35)

A, B, C. John 12:20-36

**WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of men and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (36)

A, B, C. Matthew 26:14-25

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them. By your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (37)

*OR*

Lord God, in a wonderful Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (38)

A. John 13:1-17, 34

B. Mark 14:12-26

C. Luke 22:7-20

## GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. (39)

*OR*

Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. (40)

A, B, C. John 18:1-19:42 or John 19:17-30

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

*Easter Day*

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (62)

*OR*

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened for us the gate of everlasting life. Give us your continual help; put good desires into our minds and bring them to full effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (63)

A. John 20:1-9 (10-18)  
or Matthew 28:1-10

B. Mark 16:1-8  
or John 20:1-9  
(10-18)

C. Luke 24:1-11  
or John 20:1-9  
(10-18)

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

### *Easter Evening*

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (64)

A, B, C. Luke 24:13-49

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (65)

A, B, C. John 20:19-31

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (66)

A. Luke 24:13-35

B. Luke 24:36-49

C. John 21:1-14

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (67)

*OR*

Almighty God, you show the light of your truth to those in darkness, to lead them into the way of righteousness. Give strength to all who are joined in the family of the Church, so that they will resolutely reject what erodes their faith and firmly follow what faith requires; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (68)

A. John 10:1-10

B. John 10:11-18

C. John 10:22-30

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (69)

A. John 14:1-12

B. John 15:1-8

C. John 13:31-35

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (70)

A. John 14:15-21

B. John 15:9-17

C. John 14:23-29

## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Almighty God, your only Son was taken up into heaven and in power intercedes for us. May we also come into your presence and live forever in your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (71)

A, B, C. Luke 24:44-53

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty and eternal God, your Son our Savior is with you in eternal glory. Give us faith to see that, true to his promise, he is among us still, and will be with us to the end of time; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (72)

*OR*

God, our creator and redeemer, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Make all Christians one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and concord we may carry to the world the message of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (73)

A. John 17:1-11

B. John 17:11b-19

C. John 17:20-26

## VIGIL OF PENTECOST

Almighty and ever-living God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending your Holy Spirit to unite the races and nations on earth and thus to proclaim your glory. Look upon your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and heal the divisions of word and tongue, that with one voice and one song we may praise your name in joy and thanksgiving; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (74)

A, B, C. John 7:37-39a (. . . were to receive)

## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (75)

*OR*

God our creator, earth has many languages, but your Gospel announces your love to all nations in one heavenly speech. Make us messengers of the good news that, through the power of your Spirit, everyone everywhere may unite in one song of praise; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (76)

A. John 20:19-23

B. John 7:37-39a

C. John 15:26-27;

(. . . were to receive)

16:4b-11

## THE HOLY TRINITY

### *First Sunday after Pentecost*

Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever. (77)

### OR

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given us grace, by the confession of the true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and, in the power of your divine majesty, to worship the unity. Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see your eternal glory, one God, now and forever. (78)

A. Matthew 28:16-20

B. John 3:1-17

C. John 16:12-15

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lord God of all nations, you have revealed your will to your people and promised your help to us all. Help us to hear and to do what you command, that the darkness may be overcome by the power of your light; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (79)

A. Matthew 7:(15-20)  
21-29

B. Mark 2:23-28

C. Luke 7:1-10

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O God, the strength of those who hope in you: Be present and hear our prayers; and, because in the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you in will and deed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (80)

A. Matthew 9:9-13

B. Mark 3:20-35

C. Luke 7:11-17

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God, our maker and redeemer, you have made us a new company of priests to bear witness to the Gospel. Enable us to be faithful to our calling to make known your promises to all the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (81)

A. Matthew 9:35-10:8

B. Mark 4:26-34

C. Luke 7:36-50

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (82)

A. Matthew 10:24-33

B. Mark 4:35-41

C. Luke 9:18-24

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(83)

A. Matthew 10:34-42

B. Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43

C. Luke 9:51-62

*or* Mark 5:24b-34**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

God of glory, Father of love, peace comes from you alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in your promises of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (84)

A. Matthew 11:25-30

B. Mark 6:1-6

C. Luke 10:1-12,  
16 (17-20)**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (85)

*OR*

Lord God, use our lives to touch the world with your love. Stir us, by your Spirit, to be neighbor to those in need, serving them with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (86)

A. Matthew 13:1-9 (18-23)

B. Mark 6:7-13

C. Luke 10:25-37

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Pour out upon us, O Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right, that we, who cannot even exist without you, may have the strength to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (87)

*OR*

O God, you see how busy we are with many things. Turn us to listen to your teachings and lead us to choose the one thing which will not be taken from us, Jesus Christ our Lord. (88)

A. Matthew 13:24-30  
(36-43)

B. Mark 6:30-34

C. Luke 10:38-42

### TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (89)

A. Matthew 13:44-52

B. John 6:1-15

C. Luke 11:1-13

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Give us this bread, that he may live in us and we in him, Jesus Christ our Lord. (90)

*OR*

Almighty God, judge of us all, you have placed in our hands the wealth we call our own. Give us such wisdom by your Spirit that our possessions may not be a curse in our lives, but an instrument for blessing; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (91)

A. Matthew 14:13-21

B. John 6:24-35

C. Luke 12:13-21

### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (92)

A. Matthew 14:22-33

B. John 6:41-51

C. Luke 12:32-40

### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (93)

A. Matthew 15:21-28

B. John 6:51-58

C. Luke 12:49-53

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. (94)

A. Matthew 16:13–20

B. John 6:60–69

C. Luke 13:22–30

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (95)

A. Matthew 16:21–26

B. Mark 7:1–8, 14–15,

C. Luke 14:1, 7–14

21–23

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (96)

A. Matthew 18:15–20

B. Mark 7:31–37

C. Luke 14:25–33

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (97)

A. Matthew 18:21–35

B. Mark 8:27–35

C. Luke 15:1–10

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (98)

A. Matthew 20:1–16

B. Mark 9:30–37

C. Luke 16:1–13

## **NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (99)

A. Matthew 21:28-32

B. Mark 9:38-50

C. Luke 16:19-31

## **TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord. (100)

A. Matthew 21:33-43

B. Mark 10:2-16

C. Luke 17:1-10

## **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (101)

A. Matthew 22:1-10  
(11-14)

B. Mark 10:17-27  
(28-30)

C. Luke 17:11-19

## **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (102)

A. Matthew 22:15-21

B. Mark 10:35-45

C. Luke 18:1-8a  
(. . . vindicate them speedily)

## **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (103)

A. Matthew 22:34-40  
(41-46)

B. Mark 10:46-52

C. Luke 18:9-14

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (104)

A. Matthew 25:1-13

B. Mark 12:28-34 (35-37)

C. Luke 19:1-10

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people to seek more eagerly the help you offer, that, at the last, they may enjoy the fruit of salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ. (105)

A. Matthew 25:14-30

B. Mark 12:41-44

C. Luke 20:27-38

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (106)

A. Matthew 23:1-12

B. Mark 13:1-13

C. Luke 21:5-19

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Almighty and ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it ceases to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and let us see the signs of your final will and purpose; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (107)

A. Matthew 24:1-14

B. Mark 13:24-31

C. Luke 19:11-27

**CHRIST THE KING***Last Sunday after Pentecost*

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (108)

A. Matthew 25:31-46

B. John 18:33-37

C. Luke 23:35-43

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## LESSER FESTIVALS

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### ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE

*November 30*

Almighty God, as the apostle Andrew readily obeyed the call of Christ and followed him without delay, grant that we, called by your holy Word, may in glad obedience offer ourselves to your service; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(109)

A, B, C. John 1:35-42

### ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE

*December 21*

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us that perfect faith which overcomes all doubts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(110)

A, B, C. John 14:1-7

### ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR

*December 26*

Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(111)

A, B, C. Matthew 23:34-39

### ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

*December 27*

Merciful Lord, let the brightness of your light shine on your Church, so that all of us, instructed by the teachings of John, your apostle and evangelist, may walk in the light of your truth and attain eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(112)

A, B, C. John 21:20-25

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS***December 28*

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims, and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (113)

A, B, C. Matthew 2:13-18

**THE NAME OF JESUS***January 1*

Eternal Father, you gave your Son the name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (114)

A, B, C. Luke 2:21

**THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER***January 18*

Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter to confess Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the living God. Keep your Church firm on the rock of this faith, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (115)

A, B, C. Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL***January 25*

Lord God, through the preaching of your apostle Paul, you established one Church from among the nations. As we celebrate his conversion, we pray that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (116)

A, B, C. Luke 21:10-19

## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

*February 2*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to see with our own eyes him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (117)

A, B, C. Luke 2:22-40

## ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

*February 24*

Almighty God, you chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (118)

A, B, C. Luke 6:12-16

## THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

*March 25*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we, who have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, announced by an angel, may by his cross and Passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (119)

A, B, C. Luke 1:26-38

## ST. MARK, EVANGELIST

*April 25*

Almighty God, you have enriched your Church with Mark's proclamation of the Gospel. Give us grace to believe firmly in the good news of salvation and to walk daily in accord with it; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (120)

A, B, C. Mark 1:1-15

**ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, APOSTLES***May 1*

Almighty God, to know you is to have eternal life. Grant us to know your Son as the way, the truth, and the life; and guide our footsteps along the way of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(121)

A, B, C. John 14:8-14

**THE VISITATION***May 31*

Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor and the lowly and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(122)

A, B, C. Luke 1:39-47

**ST. BARNABAS, APOSTLE***June 11*

Grant, almighty God, that we may follow the example of your faithful servant Barnabas, who, seeking not his own renown but the well-being of your Church, gave generously of his life and substance for the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(123)

A, B, C. Matthew 10:7-16

**THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST***June 24*

Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(124)

A, B, C. Luke 1:57-67 (68-80)

## **ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, APOSTLES**

*June 29*

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdom: Grant that your Church, instructed by their teaching and example, and knit together in unity by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, which is Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (125)

A, B, C. Mark 8:27-35

## **ST. MARY MAGDALENE**

*July 22*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection. Heal us now in body and mind, and call us to serve you in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (126)

A, B, C. John 20:1-2, 11-18

## **ST. JAMES THE ELDER, APOSTLE**

*July 25*

O gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the name of Jesus Christ. Pour<sup>r</sup> out upon the leaders of your Church that spirit of self-denying service which is the true mark of authority among your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (127)

A, B, C. Mark 10:35-45

## **MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD**

*August 15*

Almighty God, you chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of your only Son. Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (128)

A, B, C. Luke 1:46-55

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE***August 24*

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (129)

A, B, C. John 1:43-51

**HOLY CROSS DAY***September 14*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we who glory in his death for our salvation may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (130)

A, B, C. John 12:20-33

**ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST***September 21*

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised collector of taxes to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (131)

A, B, C. Matthew 9:9-13

**ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS***September 29*

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (132)

A, B, C. Luke 10:17-20

## **ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST**

*October 18*

Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke the physician to reveal in his Gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your Church the same love and power to heal, to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (133)

A, B, C. Luke 1:1-4; 24:44 (Then *Jesus* said. . .)-53

## **ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE, APOSTLES**

*October 28*

O God, we thank you for the glorious company of the apostles and, especially on this day, for Simon and Jude. We pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (134)

A, B, C. John 14:21-27

## **REFORMATION DAY**

*October 31*

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (135)

A, B, C. John 8:31-36

## **ALL SAINTS' DAY**

*November 1*

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord: Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (136)

A, B, C. Matthew 5:1-12



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## PRAYERS DURING THE TIME OF SEPARATION OR DIVORCE

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*As a pastor ministers to those going through separation or divorce, certain sections of Psalms, Lessons, and Prayers, page 48, may be read or adapted: Anxiety; Apprehension, Fear; Guilt; Loneliness; Impending Death or Irreversible Illness; Anger, Bitterness, Self-Pity, Turmoil.*

*Circumstances may indicate that Individual Confession and Forgiveness, page 45, or Corporate Confession and Forgiveness, Lutheran Book of Worship: Ministers Edition, page 318 [193], is appropriate.*

### **FOR THE INDIVIDUAL(S)**

God of compassion and grace, in your steadfast love accompany \_\_\_\_\_  
name(s)\_\_\_\_\_. As you ever work to restore and renew your  
people, overcome bitterness with your joy, hatred with your love,  
brokenness with your life; and give us hope through the death  
and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <550>

### **FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AS PARENTS**

Loving God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, help \_\_\_\_\_  
names\_\_\_\_\_  
understand that parenthood remains a link between husband and  
wife, even though they separate. Guide them by your gracious  
mercy, that in the love of each parent the *children* may know the  
joy of family; through our Lord Jesus Christ. <551>

## FOR THE CHILDREN

God of all grace, give to \_\_\_\_\_ names of children the gift of compassion and understanding as *they grow* in knowledge of *themselves*, of *their* family, and of the world, that *they* may leave behind any feelings of anger and guilt and self-pity, and become the *people* you want *them* to be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (552)

## FOR THE FAMILIES

Hear us, good Lord, as we intercede for the families of this couple. Help them by your grace to be understanding and supportive. Banish anger and bitterness; nourish forgiveness and reconciliation. Open their ears to hear the truth within the words spoken by others; open their eyes to see the reality beneath another's appearance; and make the mutual affection of families a sign of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (553)

## OTHER PRAYERS

O God, by whom your people are guided in judgment: Enable us in all our doubts and uncertainties to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (554)

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (555)

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (167)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all

nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (177)

O God, the Lord of all, your Son commanded us to love our enemies and to pray for them. Lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and enable us to stand before you, reconciled through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (180)

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing except losing you, and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Protect us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds in this mortal life may hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (204)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
 where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is discord, union;  
 where there is doubt, faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is darkness, light;  
 where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek  
 to be consoled as to console;  
 to be understood as to understand;  
 to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and  
 it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. (213)



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## PRAYERS FOR OTHER OCCASIONS

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### CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by your Spirit, may have a right judgment in all things and evermore rejoice in his holy counsel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (202)

Loving God, in Holy Baptism you have gathered us together across all human divisions, and have reconciled us to yourself in one body through the cross. Strengthen us now by your presence, that our thoughts and actions may be rooted and grounded in your love for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <556>

Almighty God, you have called us to labor in your vineyard, and without you we can do nothing. Grant us your gracious presence at this meeting, that what we do will build up your whole Church. Let your Holy Spirit govern and direct us, that we may consult together peacefully, pleasing you with all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <557>

Lord, where two or three gather in your name, you promised to be with them and share their fellowship. Look down upon your family gathered in your name, and graciously pour out your blessing upon us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. (412)

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Grant that the people of this parish may be joined together as a holy temple, a place where you dwell. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that, guided by your Word and strengthened by your Sacraments, we may plan and do things which will be for the good of your Church and the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (558)

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (220)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you provide for the work of your Church through the different gifts of the members of this *committee/task force/group*. Help us to recognize and act upon every opportunity for service. Guide our diversity by your one Spirit, that everything we think, say, and do may be for the common good of your Church; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (559)

Almighty God, all that we possess is from your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor you with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ our Lord. (183)

O God, increase the faith and energy of your Church to desire and work for the salvation of all people, that they might be freed from sin and that hope be renewed in many hearts, to the increase of the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (190)

Lord God of our salvation, it is your will that all people might come to you through your Son Jesus Christ. Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection. We pray in his name. (192)

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be with your servants who make art and music for your people, that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty; and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. (197)

O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your Church. By your Holy Spirit give all teachers insight into your Word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (198)

Lord God, your Son came among us to serve and not to be served, and to give his life for the world. Lead us by his love to serve all those to whom the world offers no comfort and little help. Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (141)

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Lord Jesus, you sent your followers to teach all nations, and you promised to be present with us always. Guide our teaching and our learning, so that all we do may contribute to the building up of your body, the Church. <560>

We give you thanks, almighty God, that in many ways and through many people your Holy Spirit gathers us into your Church. Be present with us now that, discovering the length and breadth and height and depth of your love for us, we may be filled with the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <561>

## WEDDING RECEPTIONS

Loving God, your Son used the joy of the marriage feast as a sign of the joy of your kingdom. Be present with us now to bless our feasting and celebration, and bring us finally to the joy of celebrating with you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <562>

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have created joy and gladness, bride and bridegroom, mirth and exultation, pleasure and delight, peace and fellowship. As you have blessed us today, so bring us at last to celebrate with you the marriage feast of the Lamb. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, giver of love and salvation and joy. (563)

### THOSE LEAVING (Students, Military Personnel)

Gracious God, you have united us all in one body. We give you thanks for \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_. As *he/she* leaves now to \_\_\_\_\_ take up \_\_\_\_\_ life as a student; serve his, her country \_\_\_\_\_, surround *him/her* with your love and protection. Comfort all of us with the knowledge that in you we are joined together, and bring us at last to the fullness of joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (564)

### THOSE RETURNING

Lord God, heavenly Father, you preserve our going out and our coming in all the days of our lives. We give you thanks that \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ has returned to us. Bless our life together in this community, and give us your grace, that we may discover and appreciate what is new in each other and rejoice in what is familiar; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (565)

### TIME OF CONFLICT, CRISIS, DISASTER

We pray to you, almighty God, in this time of \_\_\_\_\_. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. (566)

Lord, graciously hear us, for we seek you alone. Calm our bodies and minds with the peace which passes understanding, and make us radiant with joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (312)

Lord Jesus, you have overcome the world, and all power and authority is yours. When evil seems to triumph, give us courage and faith, and help us never to forget that you are with us to the end of time. To you be glory now and forever. (338)

## EXPECTANT PARENTS

Almighty God, your wisdom abounds in the glory of creation and is beyond our understanding. Your love for us and all creatures is as gentle as a father's and as tender as a mother's. We give you thanks for creating new life. Our hearts are filled with joy and expectation. We proclaim your greatness and ask your sustaining care for name(s) of parent(s) that all of us may grow in wisdom and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (567)

## BIRTH OF A CHILD

God our creator, we give you thanks for a new life begun among us in the gift of baby's name. Give name(s) of parent(s) wisdom and patience, that *they* may always cherish this child as your gift. As you will be pleased to receive *him/her* as your child by the washing of Holy Baptism, so grant us grace to welcome *him/her* as an heir of your kingdom and a member of the body of Christ; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. (568)

## ADOPTION OF A CHILD

Merciful God, because of your love for us in Jesus Christ we have become brothers and sisters, sons and daughters in your family, the Church. We thank you for the love which welcomes child's name into this household. Having blessed name(s) of parent(s) with this child, give *them* the joy of caring for *him/her*, and increase our joy as members of your family in Jesus Christ our Lord. (569)

Father of the fatherless, you give your children a home in which to dwell; and like a loving mother you gather us into your household. We give you thanks for the child who has come to bless this *family* and for the *parents* who *have* taken this child to be *their* own. By the power of your Holy Spirit, fill name(s) of parent(s) with trust, understanding, and affection; and,

through this child in our midst, enable us better to know the mystery that we are all your children by adoption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (570)

## RETIREMENT

Eternal God, you continually call your people to new tasks and set before them new opportunities. We give you thanks for your servant, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, and for *his/her* years of service. By your Spirit prosper those deeds done according to your will and so continue *his/her* work even as *he/she* retires from it. Grant that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ may be open to the new opportunities which you now permit *him/her* to enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (571)

## RETIREMENT OF A PASTOR

Eternal God, we give you thanks for your servant, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, and for *his/her* ministry in your Church. Give *him/her* the grace to remain faithful in your service now and evermore; and grant that those deeds begun in your name may, by the power of your Holy Spirit, grow and flourish; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (572)

## ANNIVERSARY OF A DEATH

With reverence and affection we remember before you, O everlasting God, all our departed friends and relatives, especially \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward you, that hereafter we may enter into your presence and be numbered with those who serve you and look upon your face in glory everlasting, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (235)

God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you. Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. (285)





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\*Good News Bible, Today's English Version (TEV); Jerusalem Bible (JB); *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW); New English Bible (NEB); New International Version (NIV); New King James Version (NKJV); Revised Standard Version (RSV).

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