



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ATTENTION:

- Bishop-elect
- Installation Planning Committee
- Worship Planners

WORSHIP CONTENT

A companion to the article “Planning Worship for the Installation of a Bishop”

The installation of a bishop takes place in the context of a service of Holy Communion. Texts and music from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are commended for use when planning this service. If other resources are to be used, additional time for the liturgical review process should be built into the planning schedule. Consultation with the ELCA worship staff is encouraged.

A copy of “Installation of a Bishop,” the authorized rite for the installation of a bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is included in this planning packet and is available on the web (<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Synods>, *Synod Assembly tab*). The liturgical color is red.

While worship planning for the installation may begin prior to the election of a new bishop, the bishop-elect should be consulted and involved in as much decision-making about the installation as possible.

Worship leaders

The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be the presiding minister for the worship service (through the rite of installation) and may serve as preacher. The bishop-elect may desire to include family members, special guests, or representatives from the synod in other leadership roles. Whoever is selected to participate should be up to the task, capable of leading with grace and confidence. For instance, the role of principal assisting minister is critical. In a service like this it is important to have a gifted lay leader as assisting minister. Everyone invited to participate in the leadership—from musicians to assisting minister, from lectors to acolytes—should be rehearsed in their responsibilities.

Readings from scripture

Planning begins with the Word of God. The potential readings (propers) are listed in the notes included with the rite for the installation of a bishop. If the presiding bishop is the preacher, please consult with the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the selection of texts.

Liturgical texts

Evangelical Lutheran Worship provides many textual options for the service of Holy Communion. When making selections, attend to the Scripture readings as well as to circumstances or emphases within the synod. When crafting the prayers of intercession, strive to be both concise and focused.

Music

After the readings and the liturgical texts have been determined, select music (hymns, songs, and other musical components) to support the whole of worship. It is tempting to do too much within the service itself. If lots of musicians from the synod are eager to participate,

consider expanding the pre-service music and providing music at a reception or banquet following the worship.

Ritual movement

Plan for processions and other movement within the worship (including the flow during the distribution of the meal). Clarity and simplicity are virtues. Carefully explain and rehearse all aspects of the worship that involve leaders moving within the service. (See “Planning Worship for the Installation of a Bishop” in the planning packet.)

After the installation

Mail one copy of the printed worship folder to:

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A summary of your planning experience, your perspective on how things went in the worship itself, and any suggestions for how we might better assist planning committees in the future is welcome and encouraged.