

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Commissioning for Mission

INTRODUCTION

Commissioning for Mission is appropriately set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the commissioning rite.

This order is appropriate for sending forth those who have been designated by this church to serve in global or domestic mission work. The presiding bishop, or the bishop of the synod that is sending forth those commissioned for this work or in which those commissioned are appointed to serve, or an ordained minister designated by the bishop, presides at Commissioning for Mission.

PRESENTATION

The assembly is seated. Those being commissioned gather with the presiding minister before the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly, giving a brief description of the assignment for which those presented are being commissioned.

I have been authorized to commission *name/s*,
who have accepted the *call/appointment* as *position/s*
to *name of geographical area / name of church / other description*.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

One or more of the following scripture passages are addressed to those being commissioned.

A reading from Mark: Jesus said, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." *Mark 10:42-45*

A reading from Acts: While the congregational leaders at Antioch were worshiping 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)*

A reading from Romans: As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. *(Romans 12:4-8)*

A reading from First Peter: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God

may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. (*1 Peter 4:10-11*)

The presiding minister questions those being commissioned.

In the presence of this assembly will you accept this commission and commit yourselves to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you endeavor in all things to conduct *yourselves* as is fitting for an ambassador and servant of Jesus Christ?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be faithful, understanding, and loving as you accompany the people among whom you will live and work?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

For those who will serve in another church body:

Will you serve under the assignment and jurisdiction of the church to which you are sent?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

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

The assembly responds:

Amen.

The assembly stands.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

will you support *these messengers* of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all 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?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

PRAYER

Those being commissioned may kneel. The presiding minister prays one or more of the following prayers, as appropriate to the form/s of service, or other prayers.

Let us pray.

General

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called *name/s* to this ministry. Grant *her/him/them* joy and a spirit of bold trust, that *her/his/their* work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Mission development

God the sower, you send your people out to plant the message of the gospel, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, your word does not return empty. Strengthen and bless *name/s* as they seek to gather people into communities of faith and service, nourished by your word and sacraments, growing in faith, and testifying to your love in word and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Evangelization

O God, you sent our Savior Jesus to call all people to faith. First to the house of Israel and then to all the world, your word was preached and your love proclaimed in deed. Strengthen and bless *name/s* in the ministry of witness and service, that *she/he/they* may boldly proclaim the good news of salvation and reconciliation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Global mission

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you send to witness in word and deed among the nations. Bless *name/s* in the work you have called *her/him/them* to do, so that *she/he/they* may faithfully accompany those among whom *she/he/they are* sent, show your love to all people, and glorify your name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Health care

Merciful God, as your beloved Son brought health and strength to the sick and afflicted, so you have called *name/s* to offer aid to the suffering. Make *her/him/them* wise in using knowledge and skill, diligent in ministering to those in need, and compassionate in all service. In the midst of suffering and death make *her/him/them* a faithful witness to the hope of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Leadership in Christian education or youth ministry

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 *name/s*. Fill *her/him/them* with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that *she/he/they* may with gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Teaching

O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your church. By your Holy Spirit you have called *name/s* to the ministry of witness and service in teaching. Give *her/him/them* and all teachers insight into your word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth in every circumstance; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Administration

O God, we remember with thanksgiving the orderliness of your creation and preservation of life. Bless and accept the ministry of *name/s* in the stewardship of the resources entrusted to your church: its people and their talents, its wisdom and energy from your Spirit, and its wealth from your goodness. Remind us that we are accountable to you in all things great and small; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Counseling

O God, you sent our Savior Jesus to care for the troubled and to bind up the broken-hearted. Christ's healing touch was a sign of your presence with your people and a beacon of the heavenly realm to come. Strengthen and bless the ministry and counsel of *name/s*, who *speak* the word of consolation to the troubled and *guide* the restless spirit to find peace in Christ; in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

Addressing the newly commissioned, the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God guide, bless, and keep you, that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been commissioned. **Amen.**

The newly commissioned stand/s.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for the newly commissioned, the churches, regions, and communities into which they are sent, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.

NOTES OF SERVICE

When scheduling this order, the rhythms and emphases of the church year should be taken into account. For example, because of their solemn character, the days from the Sunday of the Passion through Easter Day are best avoided as days for such a service.

In circumstances where the order of commissioning for mission is combined with the order for ordination, consecration of deaconesses and diaconal ministers, or commissioning of associates in ministry, appropriate elements from this order may be included in one of the other orders.

If the work of mission is part of a call to an existing congregation, one of the orders of installation is appropriately used instead of this order.

Until presented, those being commissioned may be seated with the assembly.

At the presentation, the announcement of authorization to commission may be modified to fit specific situations.

The complete name of those being commissioned is used at the presentation. At other places in the service, the first or given name (without surname) is appropriate.

Those who are commissioned may serve as ministers of communion in the service, following the commissioning.

At the blessing, the presiding minister may lay one hand on the head of each person being commissioned.

PROPER

When commissioning for mission is set within the primary service of a congregation on a Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are normally used. The prayer of the day for commissioning for mission may be said following the prayer of the day appointed for the Sunday or festival.

When commissioning for mission is scheduled as a part of a special service, apart from the primary service of a congregation, propers may be selected from those listed below.

Prayer of the Day

God of grace and glory, we praise you for your servant/s, *name/s*, to whom you have given gifts to make the good news known in word and deed. Raise up in every land heralds of your gospel and ministers of healing and hope, so that the world may know the immeasurable riches of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 62:1-7 or Isaiah 49:1-6: *A light to the nations*

Psalm 48: *Your praise, O God, reaches to the ends of the earth. (Ps. 48:10)*

Romans 10:11-17: *How are they to proclaim unless they are sent?*

Luke 24:44-53: *Witnesses to the crucified and risen Christ*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,*
who brings good news, who announces salvation. *Alleluia.* (Isa. 52:7)

Or, during Lent:

May I never boast of anything*
except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Gal. 6:14)

Other gospel acclamation texts that may be used:

John, Apostle and Evangelist; Conversion of Paul; Holy Cross Day; Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist; Reformation Day; Lent 3, year B; Lent 5, year C.

Hymn of the Day

401: Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
434: Jesus Shall Reign
530: Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather
538: The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
576: We All Are One in Mission
579: Lord, You Give the Great Commission
650: In Christ There Is No East or West
660: Lift High the Cross
668: O Zion, Haste
729: The Church of Christ, in Every Age
878: Soli Deo Gloria

Preface Apostles

Color of the season or of the day

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #.