



Installation of a Pastor

Installation of a Pastor 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 installation rite.

This order is appropriate for installing a pastor who has been previously ordained. The bishop, or a minister of word and sacrament designated by the bishop, normally presides at the installation of a pastor.

Presentation

The assembly stands. The pastor being installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

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.

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation,
we, of name of calling/employing body,
have called full name to serve as a minister of word and sacrament
in the position of position.

I present name and this letter certifying the call.

The representative gives the presiding minister the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted.

The representative moves aside, and the assembly is seated.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

A reading from John: Jesus said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (*John 20:21-23*)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, “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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (*1 Timothy 4:12-16*)

The presiding minister addresses questions to the minister of word and sacrament.

Name, in the presence of this assembly
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility,
in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

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

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures
and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God’s care,
will you love, serve, and pray for God’s people,
nourish them with the word and sacraments,
and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world,
that God’s love may be known in all that you do?

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 receive name as a messenger of Jesus Christ

sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard name as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for name?

Will you help and honor name in carrying out this ministry?

In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

Name, the office of position is now committed to you

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessing

The newly installed pastor may kneel as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

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,
make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,
working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight;
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The pastor stands. The following procession to the places of the word and sacraments may be used.

The presiding minister escorts the pastor to the place of baptism. 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 place of the word. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

They proceed to the place of the meal. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.

People of God, I present to you [Pastor] name, your position.

Let us welcome name in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for the newly installed pastor, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

When scheduling an installation service, 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.

A congregation that has more than one primary weekly service may consider combining its services for the installation. Otherwise, installation may take place at one of the services, and an appropriate announcement may be made at the other services.

Neighboring congregations and ministers may be invited to participate in the service.

The pastor to be installed is appropriately vested in alb and stole. If the pastor will preside at the meal of holy communion, a chasuble may also be worn. Until presented, the pastor may be seated with the assembly.

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

If the pastor 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 and prior to the presentation, the presiding minister says:

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 and prior to the first question, the presiding minister questions the one being installed.

Before almighty God and in the presence of this congregation, I ask you: Will you affirm that God has called you to the ministry of word and sacrament, and will you resume the duties of this office?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Where this church body recognizes the ordination by another denomination of a pastor who is beginning ministry in the Lutheran church, the first Lutheran installation may include announcement of the pastor's examination and certification, and the pastor's allegiance to the Lutheran confessions. The installation order is modified as follows.

Following the hymn of the day and prior to the presentation, the presiding minister says:

Name, having been ordained a pastor in the church of Jesus Christ, has been examined and approved by name of synod for service in the ministry of word and sacrament in church body.

Following the address and prior to the first question, the presiding minister questions the one being installed.

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?

Response: Yes.

Presentation

A description of “position” may include not only title, but also the name of the congregation, institution, or agency to which the person has been called.

The letter the representative presents is not the letter of call. It is certification of the pastor’s acceptance of the call that has been received.

Blessing

The presiding minister may lay one hand on the head of the pastor while saying the blessing.

The procession to the places of baptism, the word, and the meal is appropriate only where the ministry is directly one of word and sacrament. When using this form, a hymn may be sung during the procession. At the place of baptism, 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 place while the accompanying words are said. At the place of the word, the presiding minister may present the Bible or lectionary book used in worship to the newly installed pastor. It is then returned to its place. At the place of the meal, the chalice and the paten may be brought for presentation to the newly installed pastor. They are then placed on the altar/table.

As an option to the form of the presentation in the rite, the following may take place. The symbols of word and sacrament ministry may be handed to the pastor by the presiding minister or by representatives of the congregation, held briefly, and handed back to be returned to their places or placed on the altar/table. The presiding minister may say these or similar words:

Receive these signs of your calling to serve God and the people of God in the ministry of word and sacrament.

Beginning at the peace, the newly installed pastor may assume the role of presiding minister. The installing minister may serve as a communion minister. Or, the installing minister may preside for the entire service.

PROPER S

When installation is set within the primary service of the congregation on a Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are normally used. The prayer of the day for installation may be 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 primary service of the congregation, propers may be selected from those listed below.

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 Savior and Lord.⁸⁷¹

Readings and Psalms

Exodus 3:1-12 *God calls Moses*

Numbers 6:22-27 *The Aaronic blessing*

Isaiah 40:1-11 *The word of our God will stand forever*

Isaiah 42:5-9 *I have called you; I have taken you by the hand*

Isaiah 52:7-10 *The messenger who brings good news*

Jeremiah 23:1-6 *God will raise up faithful shepherds*

Jeremiah 23:23-29 *Speak God’s word faithfully*

Psalms 16 *In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)*

Psalms 84 *My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. (Ps. 84:2)*

Psalms 91 *You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust. (Ps. 91:2)*

Psalms 95 *We are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

Psalms 96 *Declare the glory of the LORD among the nations. (Ps. 96:3)*

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Psalm 99 *Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God. (Ps. 99:5)*
Psalm 103 *The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (Ps. 103:4)*
Psalm 113 *Let the name of the LORD be blessed from this time forth forevermore. (Ps. 113:2)*
Psalm 121 *My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)*
Psalm 122 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)*
Psalm 133 *How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*

Acts 20:28-35 *Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock*
Romans 10:13-17 *Faith comes from what is heard*
Romans 12:4-8 *Gifts that differ according to the grace given to us*
2 Corinthians 4:1-7 [8-12] *Treasure in clay jars*
2 Timothy 4:1-5 *Carry out your ministry fully*
1 Peter 5:1-4 *Tend the flock of God that is in your charge*

Matthew 9:1-8 *God gives authority to forgive*
Mark 4:1-9 *Parable of the sower*
Mark 10:35-45 *The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve*
Luke 10:1-12, 16-20 *Sending of the seventy*
John 10:7-18 *The good shepherd*
John 13:[3-11] 12-17, 20 *Whoever receives one whom I send receives me*
John 17:6-19 *I have sent them into the world*
John 20:19-23 *Receive the Holy Spirit*
John 21:15-17 *Feed my sheep*

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.

Hymns

395 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission
743 Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray
878 Soli Deo Gloria

Preface Apostles

Color of the season or of the day