



# Invitation to Extended Service in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

*This order is for use only in the case of an ordained minister of word and sacrament of a church with which this church has established a relationship of full communion. The availability of an ordained minister of word and sacrament to serve in a congregation of this church for an extended period is dependent upon the invitation of this church issued by the appropriate synodical bishop.*

*The order is properly 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.*

*The bishop, or an minister of word and sacrament designated by the bishop, presides at the service through the invitation rite. At the greeting of peace, the newly invited minister of word and sacrament may assume the role of presiding minister. Or, the bishop may preside throughout the service.*

## Presentation

*The assembly stands. The minister of word and sacrament who is being invited to extended service and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

*When the bishop is presiding:*

Dear people of God, the name of synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has authorized full name, our co-worker in the gospel, for extended service in the ministry of word and sacrament in name of congregation. Ordained as a title in name of church body, her/his church has endorsed this ministry of extended service. As your bishop, and in accordance with the policies established by this church, I have affirmed this invitation.

*OR, when the bishop's designee is presiding:*

Dear people of God, the name of synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has authorized full name, our co-worker in the gospel, for extended service in the ministry of word and sacrament in name of congregation. Ordained as a title in name of church body, her/his church has endorsed this ministry of extended service. Bishop name, in accordance with the policies established by this church, has affirmed this invitation.

*A representative of the congregation addresses the presiding minister.*

After prayerful deliberation,  
we, of name of congregation,  
welcome this invitation to full name  
to serve as minister of word and sacrament in this congregation.  
This letter attests to our willingness.

*The representative gives the presiding minister the letter attesting to the welcome.*

*The representative moves aside, and the assembly is seated.*

## Address and Questions

*The presiding minister addresses the one being invited to extended service.*

*When the bishop is presiding:*

Under the grace of God, a relationship of full communion has been established between the church body in which you serve and this church body. In recognition of that relationship, as bishop of the name of synod, I am authorized by this church to invite you to serve for this extended period of service as a minister of word and sacrament in name of congregation.

*OR, when the bishop's designee is presiding:*

Under the grace of God, a relationship of full communion has been established between the church body in which you serve and this church body. In recognition of that relationship, Bishop name of the name of

*synod* has authorized me to invite you to serve for this extended period of service as a minister of word and sacrament in name of congregation.

*The presiding minister continues:*

*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 questions the one being invited to extended service.*

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 in a manner consistent with the Confession of Faith  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Will you carry out this ministry  
in a manner consistent with the constitutions of this church body?

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

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

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 by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?  
Will you regard *her/him* 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 *her/him*,  
help and honor *her/him* for *her/his* work's sake,  
and in all things 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 one being invited to extended service.*  
I now invite you to take up the ministry of word and sacrament in this place.

*Response:* After prayer and careful consideration,  
I willingly accept this invitation to serve as minister of word and sacrament  
in this place and among these people.  
I ask God's help, this synod's encouragement,  
and the prayers of all the people of this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*  
I announce to you that this ministry is authorized  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## **Blessing**

*The newly invited minister 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 newly invited minister stands.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.*  
People of God, I present to you name, your position.  
Let us welcome *her/him* 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 minister of word and sacrament, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.*

## NOTES ON THE 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.

Neighboring congregations, especially those reflecting the full communion relationships of this church, may be invited to participate in the service.

The minister being invited to extended service may be vested. Until presented, she/he may be seated with the assembly.

The language in this service presumes that the invitation to extended service is to a ministry in a congregation. If the invitation is not to a congregation, but to some other recognized ministry of this church, the language should be adapted accordingly.

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

### Presentation

When a representative appointed by the bishop presides at the invitation, the newly invited minister of word and sacrament may preside at the holy communion following her/his invitation.

When the presiding minister is a representative appointed by the bishop, the alternative language in the second version of the presentation is used.

"Extended service" refers only to the circumstances specifically identified in the polity and agreements established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its full-communion partners.

The letter presented by the representative of the congregation/institution/agency should be approved by the congregation council or the appropriate governing body of the employing organization.

A representative of the church body in which the one being invited to extended service is rostered may be asked to present this ordained minister of word and sacrament for service, using these or similar words:

As *name's* supervisor in *name of church body*, I attest that *she/he* has our permission and support to undertake this ministry in this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### Address and Questions

When the presiding minister is a representative appointed by the bishop, the alternative language in the second version of the address is used.

### Blessing

Following the blessing, a procession to the places of the word and sacraments, or a presentation of symbols of ministry, as provided in the order for the Installation of a Pastor, may be used as appropriate.

## PROPER S

When Invitation to Extended Service is set within the primary service of the congregation on a Sunday or festival, the proper s for that Sunday or festival are normally used. The prayer of the day for Invitation to Extended Service may be said following the prayer of the day appointed for the Sunday or festival.

When Invitation to Extended Service is scheduled as a part of a special service, apart from the primary service of the congregation, proper s 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.<sup>871</sup>

### **Readings and Psalms**

Genesis 12:1-3 *Abram called and blessed by God*

Genesis 18:1-8 *Hospitality to the travelers*

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

Psalms 103 *The Lord crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (Ps. 103:4)*

Acts 16:1-5 *Timothy accompanies Paul*

Acts 16:6-10 *Paul called in a vision to come to Macedonia*

Romans 1:8-13 *Mutually encouraged by each other's faith*

Matthew 22:34-46 *The great commandments*

Matthew 25:31-46 *As you did it to the least, you did it to me*

### **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  
526 God Is Here!  
551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve  
576 We All Are One in Mission  
579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission  
650 In Christ There Is No East or West  
654 The Church's One Foundation  
680, 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter  
818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You  
878 Soli Deo Gloria

**Preface** of the season or of the day

**Color** of the season or of the day