

Shepherds of the Church of God

Ordination and Installation Services

For Those to be Ordained

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in Your divine providence You have appointed various orders in Your Church: Give Your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for Your people; and so fill them with the truth of Your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before You, to the glory of Your great Name and for the benefit of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Pastor's Prayer

O Lord, my God, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof; yet You have called Your servant to stand in Your house, and to serve at Your altar. To You and to Your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of Your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of Your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what You would have me do. Make me an instrument of Your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer Your Holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth Your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry. In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of Your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into Your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

For the Church

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above, that Your Word, as becomes it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Ordination *Lutheran Service Book: Agenda*, pp. 155 ff.

1. Ordination is recognition by the Church that a candidate is prepared, examined, and called to this divinely instituted office. AC XIV (Tappert, 26): “It is taught among us that nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the Church without a regular call.”
2. In ordination the Holy Spirit is invoked on behalf of the ordinand to bless and equip him for the work of the holy ministry.
3. Scripture verses are read that speak to the Office of the Holy Ministry in terms of institution and responsibilities, as well as the promises by which God sustains those who faithfully serve Him as pastors in His Church.
4. Vows to confessional fidelity and accountability for the discharge of the office are made in the presence of God. The solemn, indeed, eschatological character of these sacred promises is evident as the candidate makes these vows before the Lord God to whom he “must give account now and at the Last Day.” Doctrine and practice are held together in these vows.
5. The Lord’s mandate from John 20 (:21-23): “ ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘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.’” The presiding minister lays his hands on the head of the candidate, indicative of the Lord’s own blessing. Other pastors may lay their hands on the head of the ordinand, speaking a blessing from the Word of God and also giving recognition for the Church at large of the ordination.
6. A red stole as an insignia of office is placed upon the shoulders of the newly ordained.

Martin Chemnitz (1522-86), who systematized Lutheran theology in the generation after Luther, said that the rite of ordination is five-fold:

- (1) Ordination is a public testimony by which the call of God is openly declared to be approved by the church;
- (2) through ordination the ministry is committed formally to the ordinand;
- (3) through the ordinand’s solemn vow, the one who has been called “becomes obligated to the church in the sight of God to render the faithfulness in ministry that the Lord requires”;
- (4) through ordination “the church is reminded that it is to recognize that this pastor has divine authority to teach”; and
- (5) in ordination the whole church prays earnestly to “commit to God” the ministry of the one who is called, expecting that God will accompany this ministry.

Questions and Implications

1. **Whose service is it?**
2. **Who is in charge of the service (its planning, etc.)?**
3. **Where is the service to be held?**
 - General rule:
 - Exceptions?
 - Permission
 - See **Farewell and Godspeed to a Candidate for Ordination**, *LSB Agenda*, pp. 157 ff.
4. **When should the service be held?**
 - Vacation
 - Schedule of church, family
 - Fellow, area pastors
5. **What kind of service?**
 - Ordination preferably takes place in the Divine Service, before the Prayer of the Church.
 - Why?
 - Exceptions?
5. **Who is involved?**
 - “Ordinator” (President/Bishop, Vice-President, Circuit Counselor/Visitor)
 - Presiding Minister (Beginning of service until the ordination)
 - Preacher
 - Lectors
 - Musicians (organist, choir, instrumentalists)
 - Acolytes
 - Crucifer
 - Concerns for honorarium, travel expenses, housing

6. **Before-the-day Decisions**

- Order of service
- Service folder
- Permissions for use of liturgy and hymns
- Invitations
 - Family and friends
 - Local/area clergy
- Scripture passages, *LSB Agenda*, pp. 162–165
- Stole (chasuble)
- Alb/cassock & surplice
- 3-ring Binder

7. **Before-service Considerations**

- Seating for clergy and for candidate
- Lou Holtz' rule of liturgy: Don't accept mediocrity--Do what's right.
 - Practice
 - Prayers for the Service (see LCMS/Commission on Worship for "Let Us Pray")
www.lcms.org/ca/worship/letuspray
 - Liturgy
 - Visiting clergy/ A word of blessing from the Scriptures, a laying on of hands

8. **Reception/fellowship**

Who organizes it?

Who supplies it?

Where is it to be held?

9. **Thank-you Notes**

Family

Servants of the Word (Preacher, ordinator, musicians, etc.)

Professors

Congregation (home and assigned)

Divine Service

Service of Preparation (from the back of the church with congregation facing the processional cross)

Invocation
Confession of Sin
Absolution

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn (procession)
Kyrie (spoken, or choir setting)
Hymn of Praise (*Glory to God in the Highest; This Is the Feast* [usually only during Easter season or end of church year])
Salutation and Collect of the Day
Old Testament Reading
Psalm or Gradual (Choir, congregation, or anthem)
Epistle Reading
Verse (Choir, congregation)
Holy Gospel
Hymn of the Day (may be sung after the sermon)
Sermon
Nicene Creed

Rite of Ordination (*Agenda* pp. 161 ff.)

Presentation of the Candidate
Veni, Spiritus (*Agenda*, p. 161) Spoken or chanted by the “ordinator” or by choir or cantor
Hymn (*LSB* 498 or 499) “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” (Stanza 1 by attending clergy)
Salutation and Collect (*Agenda*, pp. 161-162)
The Litany (*LSB* p. 288) may be prayed at this time
Readings—What Holy Scripture says concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry (*Agenda*, pp. 162-165)
Vows (*Agenda*, pp. 165-166)
Ordination (*Agenda*, p. 166-167)
Laying on of Hands (*Agenda*, p. 167)
Our Father
Vesting (Stole, chasuble)
Reception of the Newly Ordained (*Agenda*, p. 167)
Prayer (*Agenda*, p. 168)
[Installation (*Agenda*, pp. 169-170)
Blessing
Hymn (*LSB* 768) “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” or Anthem by choir/soloist
Prayer of the Church (Newly ordained presiding)

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgy (*LSB*, pp. ____)
Distribution and Hymns
Benediction
Hymn (Recession)

Evening Prayer (LSB, pp. 243 ff)

Service of Light

Procession of Light
Joyous Light of Glory (LSB, p. 244)
Thanksgiving for Light (LSB, p. 245)

Psalmody

Psalm 141 (Let My Prayer Rise before You as Incense), pp. 245-247
Psalm of the Day (Congregation with/without choir)
(Additional Psalm or Anthem by Choir)

Hymn

Scripture Reading (one or two readings)

Sermon

Canticle (Magnificat, LSB, p. 248)

Rite of Ordination (Agenda pp. 161 ff.)

Presentation of the Candidate
Veni, Spiritus (Agenda, p. 161) Spoken or chanted by the “ordinator” or by choir or cantor
Hymn (LSB 498 or 499) “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” (Stanza 1 by attending clergy)
Salutation and Collect (Agenda, pp. 161-162)
Readings—What Holy Scripture says concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry (Agenda, pp. 162-165)
Vows (Agenda, pp. 165-166)
Ordination (Agenda, p. 166-167)
Laying on of Hands (Agenda, p. 167)
Our Father
Vesting (Stole, chasuble)
Reception of the Newly Ordained (Agenda, p. 167)
Prayer (Agenda, p. 168)
[Installation (Agenda, pp. 169-170)
Blessing
Hymn (LSB 768) “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” or Anthem by choir/soloist

Litany, LSB, pp. 249 ff. (Newly Ordained presiding)

Collect of the Day
Collect for Peace

Blessing

Hymn (Recession)

Vespers, *LSB* pp. 229 ff.

Processional Hymn

Opening Versicles and Responses, *LSB*. 229

Psalmody

One or more psalms. One of the psalms may be a choir anthem

Scripture Readings (One or two, with possible choral anthem or hymn in between)

Responsory, *LSB* p. 230

Office Hymn

Sermon

Canticle (Magnificat, *LSB*, p. 231)

Rite of Ordination (*Agenda* pp. 161 ff.)

Presentation of the Candidate

Veni, Spiritus (*Agenda*, p. 161) Spoken or chanted by the “ordinator” or by choir or cantor

Hymn (*LSB* 498 or 499) “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” (Stanza 1 by attending clergy)

Salutation and Collect (*Agenda*, pp. 161-162)

The Litany (*LSB* p. 288) may be prayed at this time

Readings—What Holy Scripture says concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry (*Agenda*, pp. 162-165)

Vows (*Agenda*, pp. 165-166)

Ordination (*Agenda*, p. 166-167)

Laying on of Hands (*Agenda*, p. 167)

Our Father

Vesting (Stole, chasuble)

Reception of the Newly Ordained (*Agenda*, p. 167)

Prayer (*Agenda*, p. 168)

[Installation (*Agenda*, pp. 169-170)

Blessing

Hymn (*LSB* 768) “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” or Anthem by choir/soloist

Prayer of the Church (Newly ordained presiding)

Benedicamus and Blessing

Hymn (Recession)

Propers for Ordination and Installation (*LSB Agenda*, pp. 200-202)

Additional Possibilities

Psalmody

Psalm 15	Psalm 103
Psalm 16	Psalm 113
Psalm 91	Psalm 121
Psalm 95	Psalm 122
Psalm 99	Psalm 133

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 3:13-15
Numbers 6:22-27
Jeremiah 23:1-5
Jeremiah 23:25-28a
Ezekiel 3:16-21

Epistle Reading

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:1-8
Mark 4:1-9
Mark 10:42-45
John 13:(3-11), 12-17, 20

Hymns

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart (*LSB* 708)
O Day Full of Grace (*LSB* 503)
Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide (*LSB* 585)
Now Thank We All Our God (*LSB* 895)

Further Resources

Neuhaus, Richard John, *Freedom for Ministry: A Critical Affirmation of the Church and Its Mission* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1979) A second edition is now available.

Willimon, William H. *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000)

Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002)