

L: Will you preach and teach the Word of God, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church?

P: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: Will you graciously care for the people of God through Word and Sacrament, and preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ, discipling God's people so that they may grow in faith and spiritual maturity and proclaim God's love to the world?

P: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: Will you devote yourself to prayer, study, and Christian collegiality as part of your own spiritual disciplines, modeling a life of faith for others and setting an example for those you serve?

P: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: May the Almighty God, the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit who has given you the will to do these things, gracious give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: Amen.

Response of the People of God

Congregation stands to be addressed.

L: People of God, will you receive this messenger of Jesus Christ who has been sent by God to serve among you, under the authority of the Word of God?

C: We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

L: Will you pray for your new pastor, look to *him/her* for leadership and spiritual guidance, partner with *him/her* in the work entrusted to this congregation?

C: We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

L: As people of this congregation, will you seek to live as brothers and sisters in Christ, striving to serve side-by-side for the good of God's Kingdom?

C: We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

Commendation

The worship leader addresses the pastor being installed.

L: The office of position is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Blessing

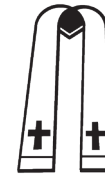
The newly installed pastor may kneel at the altar for a blessing.

L: Gracious God, you have called name to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place amongst these faithful disciples. Grant that *he/she* would diligently perform the duties of *his/her* office. We trust that you who began a good work in name will bring it to completion in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The service continues with the Creed and the Prayers of the Church.

Installation of a Pastor



The order for the installation of a called pastor customarily fits within the Service of Holy Communion. The installation rite follows the hymn after the sermon, just prior to the Creed. The rite is usually led by a representative of the broader church (which may be a bishop, dean, district coordinator, or colleague of the ministerium), according to the polity of the denominational body.

Presentation of the Pastor

L: In the Book of Ephesians, Scripture tells us that God: "gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:11-16)

L: As a representative of the Church, and of your fellow workers in the body of Christ, I now ask for certification of the call.

A representative of the congregation stands with the called pastor for presentation.

R: After prayerful consideration, we, the people of name of calling/employing body, have called full name to serve among us as position, and welcome *him/her* as a co-worker with us in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. [This letter certifies the call.]

The congregational representative may be seated. The leader addresses the pastor:

Address and Examination

L: Saint Paul writes, "Therefore, if any are in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

L: Pastor _____, as you stand before this congregation, will you commit yourself to service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ — in this place and among these people — trusting that your call comes from the Holy Spirit?

P: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.