



Installation of a Deacon

Installation of a Deacon 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 deacon who has been previously set apart for the ministry of word and service by ordination (or, if prior to August 2019, by another entrance rite). The bishop of the synod in which the person is called to serve, or a minister of word and sacrament designated by the bishop, normally presides at the installation of a deacon.

Presentation

The assembly stands. The deacon 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 service
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 service.

Our Lord, who came among us as a servant,
calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor.
You come among us as one called and set apart for the ministry of word and service,
a gift from God to inspire us to love and service to Christ.

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. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
(Mark 10:42-43, 45)

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 addresses questions to the minister of word and 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 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 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 witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed,
pray for God’s people,
seek to grow in love for those you serve,

strive for excellence in your skills,
and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

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 into this ministry
as one called and sent to serve all people in Christ's name?

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 service.

Name, the ministry of position is now committed to you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The minister of word and service may kneel. The presiding minister prays one or more of the following prayers, which are examples given for several areas of service in which the deacon may serve. Other prayers may be adapted or developed for other areas of service, as appropriate.

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 to this ministry. Grant to your servant joy and a spirit of bold trust, that this work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, 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. Fill your servant with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that name 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 to the ministry of witness and service in teaching. Give your servant 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.

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 in the ministry of witness and service, that your servant may boldly proclaim the good news of salvation and reconciliation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Church music and the arts

O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Strengthen and bless your servant name, who, through your gift of *music / the arts*, seeks to enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven; 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 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.

Health care

Merciful God, as your beloved Son brought health and strength to the sick and afflicted, so you have called name to offer aid to the suffering. Make your servant 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 name a faithful witness to the hope of the resurrection; 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, who speaks the word of consolation to the troubled and guides the restless spirit to find peace in Christ; in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Blessing

The newly installed deacon 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 deacon stands. A representative of the ministry where the deacon will serve may present the deacon with a symbol of the ministry to be exercised.

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

People of God, I present to you [Deacon] 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 deacon, 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, especially those serving in the ministry of word and service, may be invited to participate in the service.

The deacon may be vested in an alb, a symbol of being clothed with Christ in baptism, and in a deacon's stole. Until presented, the one being installed may be seated with the assembly.

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

If the deacon had resigned or had been removed from the 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 *set apart as/ ordained* a deacon in the church of Jesus Christ by *church body*, has been examined and approved by *church body* to resume the ministry of word and service.

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 service, 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 or setting apart by another denomination of a deacon who is beginning ministry in the Lutheran church, the first Lutheran installation may include announcement of the deacon's examination and certification, and the deacon'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 *set apart as/ ordained* a deacon in the church of Jesus Christ, has been examined and approved by *name of synod* for service in the ministry of word and service 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 acceptance of the call by the minister of word and service.

Blessing

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

If a symbol of ministry is presented, it appropriately reflects the form of service that will be a primary responsibility of the minister of word and service in the called position. For example, a Bible may be given to one who will teach; the church's worship book to a church musician; the church's pastoral care book to one who will serve in a ministry of care, and so forth.

The deacon may participate in the liturgy in the assisting minister's role. The assisting minister's responsibility recalls the role that the deacon historically carried out in the liturgy. The assisting minister may proclaim the gospel, receive the offering, set the table, lead the offering prayer, distribute the bread or cup, and lead the prayer after communion and the dismissal.

PROPER

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

O God, through the ages you have called women and men to the ministry of word and service in the church. Let your blessing rest now on all who answer that call. Grant them understanding of the gospel, sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ, that many people will be served and your name be glorified; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Readings and Psalms

Isaiah 12:2-6 *God is my salvation; sing for joy*

Isaiah 43:8-13 *You are my witnesses, my servant whom I have chosen*

Jeremiah 1:4-9 *The call of Jeremiah*

Amos 5:14-15, 24 *Let justice roll down like waters*

Micah 6:6-8 *Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God*

Psalms 20 *We rely on the name of the Lord our God. (Ps. 20:7)*

Psalms 40:1-11 *I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)*

Psalms 67 *Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)*

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

Psalms 150 *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. (Ps. 150:6)*

Romans 12:1-8 *Gifts that differ according to the grace given to us*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *God will strengthen you; God is faithful*

1 Corinthians 12:4-13 *Varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit*

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 *Nothing gained without love*

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 *By God's mercy we are engaged in ministry*

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 *The love of Christ urges us on*

Galatians 5:14, 22-25 *The fruit of the Spirit*

Ephesians 4:1-16 *Each of us given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift*

Philippians 2:5-13 *God is at work in you*

Colossians 3:12-17 *Love binds everything together in perfect harmony*

Hebrews 6:10-12 *The full assurance of hope*

1 Peter 4:8-11 *Serve with the strength God supplies*

Matthew 5:1-11 *The Beatitudes*

Matthew 20:20-28 *The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve*

Matthew 25:31-40 *As you did it to one of the least, you did it to me*

Luke 12:35-38 *Blessed are those whom the master serves*

Luke 22:24-30 *I am among you as one who serves*

John 13:12-17 *Wash one another's feet*

John 15:1-8 *I am the vine, you are the branches*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Let your light shine¹ before others,*

that they may see your good works and give glory to your Fa-¹ther in heaven. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 5:16)

Or, during Lent:

May I never boast of¹ anything*

except the cross of our Lord¹ 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; The Holy Trinity; Lectionary 16, year A.

Hymns

358	Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
401	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
551	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
576	We All Are One in Mission
579	Lord, You Give the Great Commission
708	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
712	Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
743	Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray
845	Voices Raised to You We Offer
878	Soli Deo Gloria

Preface Apostles

Color of the season or of the day