



# Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

*Because all of its baptized members share in Christ's ministry of love and service, the church equips and supports them for their ministries in the world. Within this context of ministry, the church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries.*

*Within the people of God and for the sake of the gospel ministry entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament. In the service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, the church entrusts this office to those who have accepted the church's call and sends them into this ministry.*

*Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament is properly set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and the hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the ordination rite.*

*The bishop of the synod in which candidate/s have accepted calls normally presides at the ordination of the candidate/s.*

## Presentation

*The assembly stands. Candidate/s for ordination gather with presenters and participating ministers before the assembly. Each candidate is presented to the presiding minister and to the assembly.*

I present for ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament full name, who has been prepared, examined, and approved for this ministry and who has been called by the church to this ministry through name of calling body.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The presenter/s move aside, and the assembly is seated.*

## Address and Questions

*The presiding minister addresses the candidate/s.*

All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation. According to apostolic usage you are now to be entrusted with the office of word and sacrament in the one holy catholic church by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

*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 Corinthians:* I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

*The presiding minister addresses questions to the candidate/s.*

Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this assembly, I ask:

Will you assume this office, believing that the church's call is God's call to the ministry of word and sacrament?

*Each candidate responds:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

The church in which you are to be ordained  
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.

Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures  
and these creeds and confessions?

*Each candidate responds:* 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?

Will you 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?

*Each candidate responds:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world through word and deed,  
that God's love may be known in all that you do?

*Each candidate responds:* 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The assembly stands for the prayers of intercession.*

*The prayers are prepared locally for the occasion. The following prayers may serve as a model.*

*An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer with these or similar words.*

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,

let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

For the holy catholic church,

that, filled with your love,

it may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness:

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all members of the church,

that they may serve you in true and godly lives:

God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For *name/s*, called to the ministry of word and sacrament in the church,  
that, sustained by your Holy Spirit,  
*they* may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of bold trust,  
serve your people, build up your church, and glorify your name:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all ministers of word and sacrament;  
for all ministers of word and service;  
for *name/s*, our *bishop/s*;  
that, together with all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people,  
they may support one another in serving Christ:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the church,  
that our divisions may be overcome,  
so that, united in Christ, we may serve the world  
and bear witness to the good news:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the church,  
that in faithful witness it may proclaim the gospel  
and in humble love serve all in need:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders,  
that they may work for justice  
and promote the dignity and freedom of every person:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the whole creation,  
that everything you have made may fulfill your purpose  
and that we may exercise care for your diverse gifts:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer;  
for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger;  
that they may be relieved and protected:

God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be included.*

For the glorious company of all the saints,  
those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you.  
That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ:  
God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Invocation**

*The candidate/s may kneel. "Creator Spirit, heavenly dove," hymn 577 or 578, is sung.*

## **Thanksgiving**

*The presiding minister leads the assembly in giving thanks.*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
we bless you for your infinite love in Christ our Lord,  
in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins  
according to the riches of his grace.  
We thank you that by his death your Son overcame death,  
and that, raised by your mighty power, he gives us new life.  
We praise you that, having ascended into heaven,  
Christ pours out his gifts abundantly on the church,  
making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,  
to equip your people for their work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.

*The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of each candidate. Other ministers may be invited by the presiding minister to participate.*

*Following a time of silent prayer, the presiding minister continues, praying for each candidate in turn.*

Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon *name*

and fill *name* with the gifts of grace for the ministry of word and sacrament.

Bless your servant's proclamation of your word and administration of your sacraments,

so that your church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service.

Make *name* a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor.

Grant that in all things *name* may serve without reproach,

that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the church;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Giving of a Stole**

*The candidate/s may remain kneeling. A stole is placed over each candidate's shoulders as the presiding minister says:*

Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (*Matthew 11:28-30*)

## **Charge**

*The candidate/s stand. The following scripture passages are addressed to the candidate/s. Additional appropriate scripture passages may be used.*

*Hear the words of the apostles:* Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called. (*1 Timothy 6:11-12*)

*And again:* Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the church of God, obtained with the blood of God's own Son. (*Acts 20:28*)

*And again:* Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not under compulsion but willingly, not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. (*1 Peter 5:2-4*)

*And again:* Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (*1 Corinthians 4:1-2*)

*The presiding minister continues.*

Name/s, care for God's people, bear their burdens,  
and do not betray their confidence.

So discipline *yourselves* in life and teaching that you preserve the truth,  
giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope.

Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people.

Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church.

And be of good courage, for God has called you,  
and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

## **Blessing**

*The presiding minister continues.*

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 assembly stands.*

## **Acclamation by the Assembly**

*The ministers and the candidate/s face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole church,  
receive name/s as messenger/s of Jesus Christ,  
sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard *them* as servant/s of Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for *them*,

help and honor *them* for *their* 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 presents each of the newly ordained to the assembly.*

Let it be acclaimed that name

is a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ.

Name has Christ's authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments,

serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*After all the newly ordained ministers of word and sacrament have been presented, the assembly may offer acclamation with applause.*

## **Peace**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.*

*All return to their places. The assembly is seated. The service continues with the offering.*

## **NOTES ON THE SERVICE**

When scheduling a service of ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament, 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.

The service of ordination may take place in a congregation, or at a synod assembly, or in another setting where an assembly may gather, as deemed appropriate by the bishop.

The bishop of the synod in which candidate/s have accepted calls normally presides at the ordination of the candidate/s. If unable to be present, the bishop authorizes another bishop of this church to preside. It is desirable that one person (the bishop) preside during the service. When the service takes place in a congregation, circumstances may suggest that the congregation's pastor preside at the meal of holy communion; the bishop may resume presiding again at the sending.

Ordination is a service of the whole church, not merely of the local congregation or of the assembly that gathers. Through a note in the worship aid or by another appropriate means, the assembly may be advised that they are speaking on behalf of the whole church when receiving candidates into the ministry of word and sacrament.

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

### **Preparation**

Each candidate is appropriately vested in an alb, a symbol of being clothed with Christ in baptism. Until presented, the candidate/s may be seated with the congregation.

During the service, each candidate may kneel during the thanksgiving. When there is more than one candidate, it may be preferable to provide one centrally located place for kneeling. After each candidate receives the laying on of hands, the candidate moves aside and the next candidate kneels at the same place.

### **Presentation**

At the close of the hymn of the day, the candidate/s and presenter/s come to a place in front of the presiding minister.



Each candidate may be presented by a different presenter, or all candidates may be presented by one presenter. Examples of those who may serve as presenters include a sponsoring pastor; an officer of the congregation in which the ordination takes place; a representative of the synod; a representative of the calling congregation. At a synod assembly, the secretary of the synod may present all candidates.

### **Address and Questions**

After the presiding minister begins the address, other ministers may address the candidate/s with one or more scripture passages, or the presiding minister may say the entire address.

When more than one candidate is ordained, the presiding minister addresses the questions to all the candidates, and each candidate answers in turn.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Within the petition that provides for including the names of bishops, it is appropriate to use the first or given name (without surname) of the presiding bishop and of the bishop of the synod.

Intercessions may be included for the spouse/family of the candidate/s and for any special concerns related to the day.

### **Thanksgiving**

The assembly may be seated if there are many candidates or if the circumstances otherwise suggest.

The bishop presiding at the ordination lays both hands on the candidate's head. To make this possible, an assisting minister holds printed service materials. The bishop may invite other ministers to participate in the laying on of hands, placing one hand on the candidate. They may gather near the candidate during the preceding hymn of invocation. If the number of participating ministers is large, the bishop may select a reasonable number to function on behalf of all.

The laying on of hands is accompanied first by silent prayer. Then the thanksgiving is prayed, and the laying on of hands continues throughout the prayer. It is appropriate to use the first or given name (without surname) of the candidate.

### **Giving of a Stole**

When several persons are ordained, their respective sponsors or presenters may be holding the stoles and may place the stoles over the candidates' shoulders during the presiding minister's address. Alternatively, the presiding minister or another minister may place the stoles.

Where local custom indicates that another symbol of ministry be given (such as a Bible or a chasuble), the presenter or the assisting minister may hand the item to the newly ordained as the following is said:

Receive this \_\_\_\_\_ as a sign of your calling to the ministry of word and sacrament.

### **Charge**

The presiding minister and other ministers may address the candidate/s with the scripture passages, or the presiding minister may say them all.

### **Acclamation**

After the assembly acclaims the candidate/s by responding to the two questions, the declaration beginning "Let it be acclaimed that *name* is a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament . . ." is repeated for each candidate. After all the newly ordained have been presented, the assembly may conclude the acclamation with applause.

### **Peace**

The presiding minister begins the greeting of peace. As the service continues, one who is newly ordained does not normally assume the role of presiding minister but may serve in the distribution of bread or cup at communion.

## PROPER S

When ordination 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 ordination may be said following the prayer of the day appointed for the Sunday or festival.

When ordination 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 and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that name/s, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### Readings and Psalms

Exodus 3:1-12 *God calls Moses*

Numbers 6:22-27 *The Aaronic blessing*

Numbers 11:16-17 *God's spirit on seventy elders of Israel*

Isaiah 6:1-8 *Here am I; send me*

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*

Ezekiel 2:8—3:4 *God calls the prophet Ezekiel*

Psalms 15 *LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

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)*

Psalms 99 *Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God. (Ps. 99:5)*

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

Psalms 113 *Let the name of the LORD be blessed from this time forth forevermore. (Ps. 113:2)*

Psalms 121 *My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)*

Psalms 122 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)*

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

1 Corinthians 1:[18-24] 25—2:5 *Know Jesus Christ, and him crucified*

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 *Servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries*

1 Corinthians 11:17-26 *Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes*

2 Corinthians 4:1-7 [8-12] *Treasure in clay jars*

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 *The love of Christ urges us on*

Ephesians 4:4-16 *Equip the saints for the work of ministry*

1 Timothy 6:11-16 *Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called*

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*

Matthew 9:35-38 *God sends out laborers into the harvest*

Matthew 16:13-23 [24-28] *Proclaim the Messiah, the Son of the living God*

Matthew 28:16-20 *The great commission*  
Mark 1:14-20 *Jesus calls the first disciples*  
Mark 4:1-9 *Parable of the sower*  
Mark 6:30-44 *Jesus teaches and feeds the people*  
Mark 9:33-41 *Whoever wants to be first must be last*  
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*  
Luke 24:44-50 *Witnesses to the crucified and risen Christ*  
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

### **Prayer after Communion**

We thank you, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the communion of the Holy Spirit. As you have again raised up among us *faithful servant/s* for the ministry of word and sacrament, grant that we, with name/s, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Color** Red

## **INSTALLATION AT ORDINATION**

In circumstances where a candidate is ordained and installed at the same service, the following is inserted in the order for Ordination prior to the greeting of peace. See the notes on the service for the Installation of a Pastor for additional helps with this section.

*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 as 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 presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.*

Name, in the presence of this assembly  
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

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

Will you carry out your duties in harmony with the constitutions  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

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

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.**

*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 service continues with the greeting of peace.*