

Installation of a Pastor – as used on the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA

Installation 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 pastor who has been previously ordained. The bishop, or an ordained minister designated by the bishop, presides at the installation of a pastor.

Presentation

The assembly stands. The pastor to be 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 as position.

I present *her/him* 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 pastor being installed.

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 pastor being installed and the assembly.

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.

Assembly:

We promise to join you in living our shared ministry in Christ.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church?
Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Assembly:

We will join you in learning from and living out our faith.

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.

Assembly:

We will join you in loving, serving and praying for all God's people

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.

Assembly:

We live out our many callings as witnesses and followers of Jesus.

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.

A reading from Ephesians: Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (*Ephesians 4:11-15 -NLT*)

People of God,
will you receive name as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent 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 pastor being installed.

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.

Blessing

The newly installed pastor 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 pastor stands. 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.

They proceed to the door of the sanctuary. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to lead us out, to serve the world God loves.

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 newly installed pastor, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.

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