

Ministerial Acts



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Ministerial Acts

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Preface

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.”¹ These pastoral and worship priorities are as critical in our time and culture as they were in Pastor Timothy’s ministry world.

The church has been given the privileged responsibility of entrusting God’s word “to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”² The Ministerial Acts is one way we entrust God’s message to others.

God used words to reveal The Word who became flesh and lived among us.³ We must use clear and correct words in proclaiming God’s person and actions and in leading the church to receive him with prayer and praise.

Also, “[A]n important aspect of this continuity in worship is the form worship and proclamation are given when we publicly confess our faith, administer the sacraments, and conduct the services of the church.”⁴

The Theological Council of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren presents this revision of the Ministerial Acts in response to the church’s call for an expression of the eternal words and acts of God in language and form that communicates to our people.

Reverend Matthew Rogness led this revision by the Theological Council, which was presented to and adopted by the CLB Council of Directors in October, 2013.

The Church of the Lutheran Brethren presents this to the Lord Jesus for the glory of God and the blessing of his people.

Joel R. Egge, President
Church of the Lutheran Brethren
July, 2014

¹ 1 Timothy 4:13

² 2 Timothy 2:2

³ cf. John 1:14

⁴ Robert Overgaard, Sr., *Ministerial Acts, Preface*, Fergus Falls, MN, Faith and Fellowship Publishing, 1993.

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The Creeds of the Christian Church

I. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

II. The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

III. The Athanasian Creed

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coequal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son and so is the Holy Spirit. The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal; yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty and the Holy Spirit is almighty; yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord, so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior, but all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity; and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one; one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Baptism

Baptism of Infants

First Setting

Parents should be encouraged to have their children baptized as soon after birth as possible. Whenever possible, the baptism will take place as a part of the regular church service and will be performed by the pastor. When circumstances warrant, baptism may be administered privately. If the pastor is not available, an elder may officiate. When an emergency exists, any person may officiate.

The local congregation is always the sponsor for the baptized child. However, when parents request it, individual sponsors may also be used. In such cases, the pastor should offer guidelines for selecting the sponsors. As a minimum requirement, the sponsors need to be baptized, believing Christians who will regularly pray for the one being baptized, and who will encourage the child in living the Christian life. The pastor will instruct the sponsors as to their responsibilities.

The service of which the baptism is a part will follow the usual order with the baptism taking place at an appropriate time in the order of worship. A baptismal hymn may be sung at the beginning of the baptismal rite. At the time of baptism the parents will bring the child/children forward to the baptismal font when the pastor invites them to do so. If the pastor desires, he may read the Scripture section before inviting the baptismal party forward. They may come forward prior to the confession of faith. The individual sponsors, if used, will also come forward and stand near the font. Brothers and sisters and grandparents of the child who is to be baptized may also stand near the font.

When there are several children to be baptized, all the parents and sponsors will stand before the font.

The pastor shall say:

Today our congregation is happy to receive _____ in holy baptism. In baptism he/she/they will receive the salvation given by Jesus Christ. In the family of Christ he/she/they will grow in faith, love and obedience to God's will.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about our sin, and the redemption provided by God in Jesus Christ:

Through one person, sin entered the world, and was passed on to all people. Because of sin, death came on everyone. Therefore, all are under the condemnation of sin and fall short of the glory of God. But God sent another person, his Son Jesus Christ, into the world to die for our sin. Through his death he atoned for the sin of the whole world so that those who believe in him are delivered from death, declared righteous and given eternal life. (*from Romans 3:23-5:21*)

Let us hear the command given by our Lord Jesus Christ about baptism:

In Matthew 28:18-20 we read, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Let us now hear how the Lord Jesus Christ invites the little children to come to him:

In Luke 18:15-17 we read, “People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’”

Therefore, with thanksgiving and faith, we bring our children to the Lord in holy baptism. They are born with human sin and guilt, but in baptism they become God’s children, born again by the Holy Spirit. As Jesus said in John 3:5, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.”

If the baptismal party was not invited to come to the font at the beginning of the baptismal service, they may be asked to come forward at this time.

The pastor will say:

The congregation will please rise.

Let us confess the Christian faith into which _____
is/are to be baptized, as it is expressed in the Apostles’ Creed:

The pastor and the congregation will stand and confess the Apostles’ Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The pastor will say:

The congregation will please be seated.

Let us pray.

The pastor may offer a prayer or use the following prayer:

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we give you thanks that in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved Noah and his family. By the cloud and the pillar of fire you led Israel through the waters of the Red Sea, gave them your law, and led them into the land of promise. In the waters of the River Jordan your beloved Son identified himself with us sinners. He reconciled us to himself by his death on the cross. By his death and resurrection he opened the way to joy and freedom and everlasting life. We thank you because the water of baptism with your word is a fountain of grace for us and for this child/these children now to be baptized.

Pour out your Spirit upon _____ who is/are to be baptized so that he/she/they may be given new life and all other benefits of your Son's death and resurrection. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Savior who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

The pastor will ask the parents:

When more than one child is baptized this question is asked for each child, and each child is baptized individually.

Will you have _____ baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and will you raise him/her in the Christian faith?

The parents will answer, yes.

The pastor, with the palm of his hand, will pour water three times on the child's head while saying:

_____, in obedience to the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will dry the child's head with a baptismal towel and then place his hand upon the child's head and say:

May God watch over your going out and your coming in now and forever.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

The pastor will remove his hand from the child's head, and say:

In 1 Peter 1:3-4 we read, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you."

In Romans 6:3-4 we read, "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Let us give thanks and pray.

The pastor will pray and conclude with the congregation joining in praying the Lord's Prayer. The pastor may offer special prayer for all the baptized children of the church.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The pastor will say:

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” *Galatians 3:27*

Go in peace.

After the baptismal participants have been seated, the pastor may speak briefly to the congregation concerning the importance of instructing the children in the Christian faith and praying for them.

Baptism of Infants

Second Setting

The pastor will say:

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the glory of God's creation. In Psalm 8 we read,

“Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.
Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold
against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.”

Psalm 8:1,2

Let us hear what the Scriptures teach about our sin and the redemption provided by God in Jesus Christ:

Through one person, sin entered the world, and was passed on to all people. Because of sin, death came on everyone. Therefore, all are under the condemnation of sin and fall short of the glory of God. But God sent another person, his Son Jesus Christ, into the world to die for our sin. Through his death he atoned for the sin of the whole world so that those who believe in him are delivered from death, declared righteous and given eternal life. (*from Romans 3:23-5:21*)

Let us hear how the Lord Jesus invites the little children to come to him:

“People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” *Luke 18:15-17*

“And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

Therefore, in order that this child/these children, who is/are by nature sinful from the time of conception, may see the kingdom of God, into which our Lord Jesus Christ himself has said that none can enter unless born of water and of the Spirit, we will now, in the name of our Lord Jesus, receive him/her/them through holy baptism into Christ's believing church that he/she/they may have a part in his salvation as he himself promised, when he commanded his disciples to baptize and to teach.

Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

If the baptismal participants were not invited to come to the font at the beginning of the baptismal service, they may be asked to come forward at this time.

The pastor will say:

The congregation will please rise.

Let us confess the Christian faith into which _____
is/are to be baptized, as it is expressed in the Apostles' Creed:

The congregation will stand and with the pastor confess the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The pastor will say:

The congregation will please be seated.

The pastor will then ask the parents:

Will you have this child baptized into this Christian faith?

The parents will answer, yes.

The following additional questions may be asked of the parents:

Will you make every effort to provide a Christian home for _____ and surround him/her with love?

The parents will answer, yes.

Will you give _____ access to the worship and teaching of the church, so that in mature years he/she may come to a mature commitment to Christ as his/her Savior?

The parents will answer, yes.

Will you seek God's guidance and strength to live your lives as good examples for your child's spiritual, mental, and physical development?

The parents will answer, yes.

When there are sponsors, the pastor will ask them:

Will you, _____, pray for _____, use your influence to guide him/her in knowing Christ better, and will you seek God's guidance and strength to live your lives as good examples for him/her?

The sponsors will answer, yes.

The pastor will state the child's name and, with the palm of his hand, pour water three times on the child's head while saying:

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will dry the child's head with a baptismal towel. He may place his hand upon the child's head, and invite the congregation to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” *Galatians 3:27*

Go in peace.

After the baptismal participants have been seated, the pastor may speak briefly to the congregation concerning the importance of instructing the children in the Christian faith and praying for them.

Baptism of Older Children

When an older child is to be baptized, the pastor will counsel with the child and parents concerning their understanding of faith in Jesus Christ and the meaning of baptism.

The pastor will say:

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about our need and the redemption provided by God in Jesus Christ.

Through one person, sin entered the world, and was passed on to all people. Because of sin, death came on everyone. Therefore, all are under the condemnation of sin and fall short of the glory of God. But God sent another person, his Son Jesus Christ, into the world to die for our sin. Through his death he atoned for the sin of the whole world so that those who believe in him are delivered from death, declared righteous and given eternal life. *(from Romans 3:23-5:21)*

Let us hear how the Lord Jesus invites the children to come to him:

“People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” *Luke 18:15-17*

“And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”
Mark 10:16

Therefore, in order that this child/these children, who by nature is/are sinful from the time of conception, may see the kingdom of God, into which our Lord Jesus Christ himself has said that none can enter unless born of water and of the Spirit, we will now, in the name of our Lord Jesus receive him/her/them through holy baptism into Christ's believing church that he/she/they may have a part in his salvation as he himself promised, when he commanded his disciples to baptize and to teach.

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*

Let us confess the Christian faith into which _____ is/are to be baptized, as it is expressed in the Apostles' Creed:

The congregation will stand and confess the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The pastor will say:

The congregation will please be seated.

Addressing the child to be baptized, the pastor will say:

_____, do you love the Lord Jesus as your Savior?

The child will answer, yes.

Do you wish to be baptized into this Christian faith?

The child will answer, yes.

Addressing the parents, the pastor will say:

Will you make every effort to provide encouragement and nurture for your child's spiritual growth both in your home and through the ministries of the church?

The parents will answer, yes.

The pastor will, with the palm of his hand, pour water three times on the child's head while saying:

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will dry the child's head with a baptismal towel. He may place his hand upon the child's head and invite the congregation to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The pastor will place his hand on the child's head and say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” *Galatians 3:27*

Go in peace.

The child and parents return to their seats.

Baptism of Adults

When unbaptized adults request baptism, the pastor will counsel with them concerning their understanding of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ and the meaning of baptism.

The baptism usually is a part of the worship service. At the time of baptism, the pastor and the one to be baptized will come to the baptismal font.

The pastor will say:

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about our need and the redemption provided by God in Jesus Christ:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.” ... “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” *1 Peter 1:3-4, Romans 6:3-4*

_____, you have declared your desire to be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Do you now affirm your desire before this congregation?

The person to be baptized will answer, yes.

The pastor will say:

With the whole Christian church, we rejoice in your desire to be baptized.

Let us hear the command of Jesus to baptize:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

The congregation will please rise.

Let us confess the Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The person to be baptized may now be given the opportunity to tell of the work of God's grace in his/her life.

The pastor will say:

_____, will you be baptized into this Christian faith?

The person to be baptized will answer, yes.

The person to be baptized may kneel. The pastor, with the palm of his hand, will pour or place water three times on the head or forehead of the person to be baptized and will say:

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will dry the head of the person baptized and place his hand on the person's head and lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

With his hand still on the head of the person being baptized, the pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

The pastor will remove his hand. The baptized person, if kneeling, will rise.

The pastor will say:

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” *Galatians 3:27*

Go in peace.

The baptized person will return to his/her seat and the pastor will proceed with the regular order of service.

Emergency Baptism

When a child is seriously ill, the pastor may touch the child's head or another part of the body with his hand or finger, having dipped it in water, and will say:

In accordance with the word of God, I baptize (use the child's name or "you") _____ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's grace that includes this child, and he will commit the child into God's care and keeping. He may also pray the Lord's Prayer and pronounce a benediction.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

If the pastor or an elder is not available, any person may administer baptism.

It is not to be doubted that this child has been baptized if the baptism was done with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Such baptism, whether the child lives or dies, is to be reported to the pastor of the congregation who will ask whether the child was properly baptized with water, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, which is what constitutes a proper Christian baptism. If the baptism has been proper, he will approve it as a true Christian baptism and enter the same in the records of the congregation. If the child continues to live, he or she is to be brought to the church that the pastor may publicly confirm the baptism thus administered under necessity.

Private Baptism

Prior to the baptism, the pastor will counsel with the parents explaining the grace of God in baptism and their responsibility as parents to raise the child in the nurture of the word of God in the home and through the church.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*

"People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

Luke 18:15-17, Mark 10:16

Let us confess the Christian faith into which _____ is to be baptized, as it is expressed in the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The pastor, addressing the parents, will say:

Do you wish to have _____ baptized into this Christian faith?

The parents will answer, yes.

As parents of _____, will you promise to provide him/her with Christian nurture in your home and in the fellowship of a local church?

The parents will answer, yes.

The pastor, with the palm of his hand, will pour water on the child's head three times while saying:

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will dry the child's head. He may place his hand on the child's head and invite those present to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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With his hand still on the head of the person being baptized, the pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” *Galatians 3:27*

Communion

Service of Holy Communion

Whenever it is customary, the Lord's Supper may constitute a separate service. When it occurs in connection with a general worship service, an opportunity may be given for those who do not wish to commune to leave, either during a hymn or during a brief interval. It will be clearly indicated that the Lord's Supper is intended for baptized, repentant believers in Christ.

The pastor, elders or other persons whom they have designated may distribute the elements. The pastor and elders will determine the manner in which the bread and the wine are to be distributed among the communicants:

- 1. When the communicants are kneeling at an altar rail or standing before the communion table or altar, the server will serve each communicant, saying, "This is the body of Jesus Christ given for you," and "This is the blood of Jesus Christ shed for you."*
- 2. When the communicants are seated by prior arrangement in alternate pews, the server will stand before each one and will serve each communicant, saying, "This is the body of Jesus Christ given for you," and "This is the blood of Jesus Christ shed for you."*
- 3. When the communicants are not seated in alternate pews, the elements will be passed from person to person, each saying to the next, "This is the body of Jesus Christ given for you," and "This is the blood of Jesus Christ shed for you."*

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The pastor may say:

Let us listen to the story of our Lord's suffering and death for us as given in the Holy Scriptures.

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

“The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.’

“The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’

“There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’

“But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don't you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’

“Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’

“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” *Luke 23:33-43*

“From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’)” *Matthew 27:45-46*

“Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty.’ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” *John 19:28-30*

The pastor will say:

Let us hear the gracious invitation of our Lord given to us in the Holy Scriptures.

The pastor will read one or more of the following Scriptures:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” *Matthew 11:28*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” *John 3:16-17*

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” *1 John 1:9*

A brief time of silence for self-examination may follow.

The pastor may say:

The congregation will please rise. Let us confess our sin and our need of God’s forgiveness.

The congregation may say:

Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed—by what we have done and what we have left undone. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and ask you, for Christ’s sake, to forgive us for all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of your will, that by your grace we may walk in your ways, to the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.

The pastor will say (if the congregation is not already standing):

The congregation will please rise.

Let us confess the Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles’ Creed: *(The Nicene Creed or Athanasian Creed may be used instead of the Apostles’ Creed.)*

The congregation will say:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The covers on the elements will be removed.

Raising the bread, the pastor will say:

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

Raising the cup, the pastor will say:

“Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ...do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’” *Matthew 26:27-28, 1 Corinthians 11:25*

“Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.” *1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

Communion is now served according to the custom of the congregation.

If communicants come forward to be served at the altar rail, they may partake when they are served.

If communicants are served while seated in the pews, they may partake immediately. Or, if desired, the pastor may announce before the communicants are served that the elements are to be held until all have been served so that they may partake together. In this case, when all have been served, the pastor will lead the congregation by raising the bread and saying, “This is the body of Jesus Christ given for you.” The pastor will raise the wine and say, “This is the blood of Jesus Christ shed for you.”

When all communicants have partaken, the pastor will say:

Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ has now given you his holy body and blood, through which he has made full satisfaction for all your sins. May he strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” *1 Corinthians 11:26*

Let us give thanks to God for his grace to us.

The pastor may offer a prayer or use the following prayer.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Through him you have created all things. He was sent to be our Savior; he took on flesh and lived among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross, putting an end to death by rising to new life.

Lord, grant by your word and the power of your Holy Spirit, that as we have received your body and blood we may be assured once again of the forgiveness of all our sins and be strengthened by your presence.

Father, we humbly receive the benefits of this sacrament, and offer you our spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When the communion glasses need to be collected, a hymn may be sung while the servers gather the glasses, after which the communicants may be given an opportunity to testify and/or offer thanks to God in prayer.

The service will close with the Lord's Prayer followed by the benediction.

The pastor will say:

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The pastor will give a benediction from 2 Corinthians 13 or Hebrews 13:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” *Hebrews 13:20-21*

God’s peace be with you.

The communicants may greet each other with the words, God’s peace.

Private Communion

The private communion service is intended for those who are not able to participate in the church service. Usually the pastor or an elder brings this service to those in need. It is good if others may accompany the pastor or elder to provide a greater sense of the congregation's presence with the person receiving communion. The recipient's spouse or other family members may be invited to participate. Appropriate Scripture passages may be read prior to the service.

The pastor or elder will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.’” *John 6:35, 57-58*

The pastor or elder may pray a prayer of thanksgiving and a prayer for the communicant's special need, or he may use the following prayer.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Through him you have created all things. He was sent to be our Savior; he took on flesh and lived among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross, putting an end to death by rising to new life.

Lord, grant by your word and the power of the Holy Spirit, that as we receive your body and blood we may be assured once again of the forgiveness of all our sins and be strengthened by your presence.

Father, we humbly receive the benefits of this sacrament, and offer you our spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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Raising the bread, the pastor or elder will say:

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

The pastor or elder will give the bread to each communicant, address each by name and say:

_____, this is the body of Jesus Christ given for you.

Raising the cup, the pastor or elder will say:

“Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ...do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’” *Matthew 26:27-28, 1 Corinthians 11:25*

The pastor or elder will give the cup to each communicant, address each by name, and say:

_____, this is the blood of Jesus Christ shed for you.

The pastor or elder will say:

Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ has now given you his holy body and blood, through which he has made full satisfaction for all your sins. May he strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” *1 Corinthians 11:26*

A hymn may be sung.

The pastor or elder will pray for those present, concluding with a benediction from 2 Corinthians 13 or Hebrews 13:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” *Hebrews 13:20-21*

God’s peace be with you.

The communicants may greet each other with the words, God’s peace.

Confirmation

Confirmation instruction helps the congregation fulfill its obligation to teach the faith of the church. It is a time of spiritual opportunity that calls for a high priority of attention from the pastor and the congregation. Confirmation instruction should be recognized as an important means of obeying the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Confirmation instruction is usually a two-year study during the early teen years. The basis for the instruction is the Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism, published by Faith and Fellowship Publishing. In this instruction the pastor assists the students to understand the law and the gospel and how each applies to them.

When candidates for confirmation have completed the required course of study, as prescribed by the congregation and recommended by the denomination, the pastor will schedule the date for the catechization and confirmation service. The catechization may be a part of the worship service. Sometimes the catechization is held separately from the confirmation service. It may include a dinner for the confirmation class members, their parents or guardians and baptismal sponsors. The catechization follows, and anyone who wishes to attend may do so. For the catechization the pastor may select key questions and Bible verses from the Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism for the students to answer.

The confirmation service should be marked by a sense of joy and thankfulness for the heritage of God's word and the privilege of imparting its truth to the young. It should be a celebration. The usual worship service order may be followed for the confirmation service with time allowed for the confirmation ceremony. The pastor may use this opportunity to address the message to the special needs of youth, stressing the importance of the word of God and the life of faith. It is appropriate to stress the importance and place of confirmation in the life of the individual and the congregation.

Following the sermon or catechization, the pastor will call each confirmand by name and give each one a Bible passage. If the class is large, a single passage may be given to the group. The pastor will then take each candidate by the hand, wish him or her God's blessing and present him or her with a Certificate of Christian Knowledge. A pastor, an elder, or some other appropriate person may offer prayer for the class. Someone from the Sunday school may have a part in the service. Bibles or New Testaments may be given to the class members by the congregation or Sunday school as part of the ceremony.

Marriage

Service of Marriage

The following order may be used:

Prelude

Processional

["Who gives this woman to this man in marriage?"]

Invocation/Welcome/Prayer

[Music Selection]

[Scripture Readings]

Wedding Meditation

[Music Selection]

The Vows

The Exchange of Rings

Pronouncement of Marriage

[Unity Candle and/or Music Selection]

Wedding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Postlude

The pastor will counsel those intending to be married about the meaning of Christian marriage. He will make every effort to be sure that they understand the responsibilities of marriage and that they have met the requirements of the civil law.

When there is a request for marriage by persons who have been divorced, the pastor will consult the publication titled, Church of the Lutheran Brethren Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage. The “Preface to the Marriage Ceremony When There Has Been a Divorce,” found on pages E-9, E-11, or E-12, will be used.

As the pastor counsels a couple in preparation for marriage, he should remind them that marriage is an ordinance of the church and that all parts of the service, including the music, are to be in keeping with the spirit of a Christian worship service. The pastor will review each part of the proposed wedding service well in advance of the wedding date.

The wedding service usually begins with prelude and processional music. At the appropriate time the pastor and the wedding party enter and go to their places, as planned. As the processional concludes, the service proceeds as follows.

The pastor may say:

Who gives this woman to this man in marriage?

The father will answer:

Her mother and I do.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

(When required, the preface statement for marriages where one or both parties have been divorced should be used at this point. See pages E-9, E-11, or E-12.)

The pastor will say:

Welcome to the house of God for this joyous celebration of God's gifts of life and love.

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage vows of _____ and _____. Marriage was established by God at creation. It is God's gift to us. Marriage is the union of a man and a woman in oneness of heart, mind and body. It is intended by God for their mutual joy, strength and comfort. Since God has willed that this union will last as long as both will live, it is to be entered into thoughtfully, reverently and respectfully. God, who created us, instituted marriage when he said, "...a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." *Matthew 19:5-6*

The pastor will say:

Let us pray God's blessing upon _____ and _____
as they make their marriage vows.

The pastor may offer a prayer, or the following prayer may be used:

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon _____ and _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. Amen. (*Reprinted from Lutheran Book of Worship, Copyright 1978, by permission of Augsburg Fortress.*)

Music Selection/Scripture Readings

Wedding Meditation

Music Selection

Addressing the groom, the pastor will say:

_____, will you have _____ to be your wife, to live with her according to God's word in the holy relationship of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her and care for her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, will you be faithful to her, as long as you both will live?

The groom will answer, I will.

Addressing the bride, the pastor will say:

_____, will you have _____ to be your husband, to live with him according to God's word in the holy relationship of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him and care for him in sickness and health; and forsaking all others, will you be faithful to him, as long as you both will live?

The bride will answer, I will.

Addressing the bride and groom, the pastor will say:

_____ and _____, join your hands as you make these vows to each other.

The pastor will say and the groom will repeat after him:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and in these I promise to be faithful to you.

The pastor will say and the bride will repeat after him:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and in these I promise to be faithful to you.

The bride and groom will unclasp their hands.

The pastor will receive the rings from the bearer.

Addressing the bride and groom, the pastor will say:

These rings are to be symbols to you and to all others that you have made your marriage vows in the presence of God and these witnesses.

Addressing the groom, the pastor will say:

_____, do you give this ring to _____ as a symbol that you will keep this pledge and perform the vow that you have made?

The groom will say, I do.

The groom will place the ring on the bride's finger.

Addressing the bride, the pastor will say:

_____, as you receive this ring from _____, do you accept his promise to you?

The bride will say, I do.

Addressing the bride, the pastor will say:

_____, do you give this ring to _____ as a symbol that you will keep this pledge and perform the vow that you have made?

The bride will say, I do.

The bride will place the ring on the groom's finger.

Addressing the groom, the pastor will say:

_____, as you receive this ring from _____, do you accept her promise to you?

The groom will say, I do.

The pastor will say:

Join your right hands.

Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

Since _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage and witnessed their vows before God and these witnesses, and have given and pledged their faithfulness to each other, and have declared this by giving and receiving a ring; I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If a unity candle is used, this is the appropriate time for the bride and groom to move to the candle setting and light the unity candle. After lighting the candle, they will return to their place before the pastor.

The pastor will say:

Your marriage is made holy by the word of God and prayer. Let us therefore in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ pray:

The bride and groom may kneel, and the pastor will place his hands on their heads or one hand on their joined hands and offer a prayer after which the Lord's Prayer will be prayed or sung.

The following prayer may be used.

Merciful God and Father, we pray that you will graciously give your blessing to _____ and _____ who have been joined in marriage and who are kneeling/standing in your presence. Fulfill in them your love, that they may be one, as you are one. Look in mercy upon them and all other families. Strengthen them by your power that in good and evil days they may place their confidence in you alone, and so by mutual love and help come to eternal life. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Arise in peace and the Lord be with you.

The bride and groom will rise, and after they turn to face the congregation, the pastor may say:

I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____.

Some may prefer to use the two first names and the surname.

During the recessional, after the wedding party leaves the altar, the pastor may follow or exit through a side door.

**Preface to the Marriage Ceremony When There
Has Been a Divorce**
First Setting

Affirmation of Responsibility
for Lifelong Vows and of Forgiveness in Christ

*This affirmation may be public in the marriage ceremony or in private during pre-marriage counseling with the pastor and the knowledge of the elders.

The pastor will say:

As we begin this celebration in the presence of God, we acknowledge his will that marriage vows should not be broken. These vows are being made in the light of the following three affirmations.

First: We believe that marriage is an institution created by God. According to his word, the relationship of marriage is to be a lifelong commitment.

Do you _____ and do you _____ believe this?

The bride and groom will answer, yes.

The pastor will say:

Second: We acknowledge that it is sin that leads to divorce. Those who have contributed to the breakup of a marriage, either directly or indirectly, are guilty of sin and need to confess this sin to God.

Do you _____ and do you _____ acknowledge this?

The bride and groom will answer, yes.

The pastor will say:

Third: We affirm that there is forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus Christ when we bring our sins to him in repentance.

Do you _____ and do you _____ affirm that the forgiveness for broken vows that comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the only basis on which you make your vows today?

The bride and groom will answer, yes.

The pastor will say:

God declares, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...”

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

In the joy and strength of new life in Christ, let us now continue this celebration.

**Preface to the Marriage Ceremony When There
Has Been a Divorce**
Second Setting

The pastor will say:

As we begin this celebration in the presence of God, we acknowledge his will that marriage vows should not be broken. These vows are made in the light of the following three affirmations:

1. We believe that marriage is an institution created by God. According to the word of God, the relationship of marriage is to be a lifelong commitment.
2. We acknowledge that the destruction of the marriage relationship is a public sin against God and society.
3. We affirm there is forgiveness for all sin in Jesus Christ and that he cleanses everyone who comes to him in repentance and faith.

It is in accordance with these affirmations that we proceed with joy to hear these wedding vows.

**Preface to the Marriage Ceremony When There
Has Been a Divorce**
Third Setting

The pastor will say:

The destruction of a marriage is a violation of God's design and will for people he loves. We affirm that there is forgiveness for all sin in Jesus Christ and that he cleanses everyone who comes to him in repentance and faith. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." *1 John 1:9*

Burial of the Dead

The pastor will preside at the service which will be held in the church whenever possible.

Since local customs vary, the pastor will acquaint himself with these. The pastor is encouraged to use language like “memorial service,” “service of remembrance” or “funeral service” rather than “celebration of life.”

Military honors may be part of the service if the deceased was a veteran. The pastor will discuss procedures in advance with military personnel.

No lodge or similar organization holding views contradictory to the Christian faith will have any part in the service.

The pastor will inquire about the deceased person’s beliefs and those of the family before preparing the service.

The pastor will make himself available to encourage and comfort the family. The pastor may be asked to lead a time of devotions or remembrance at a gathering of family and friends. Some customary times are: At the funeral home after the body has been prepared for burial, immediately prior to the service at the funeral home, or in a room at the church.

The comfort of God’s word will be central in the service of burial. The Scripture lessons and the sermon should reflect this comfort and set forth the meaning of death for believers and unbelievers. Eulogies should not dominate the service.

Two orders are provided for the committal service. The second is more appropriate for use when the deceased was not known to have been a believer.

When the committal service is conducted in the church, the pastor will stand beside the casket and proceed with the committal service as given on pages F-11 or F-15.

When the body is to be cremated, the committal service will be read beside the casket. When the body has already been cremated, the committal service will be read beside the urn holding the ashes. When neither the body nor the ashes are present, there is no committal service.

Funeral Service

The following order may be used.

Prelude and Processional

Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Readings from the Psalms

Prayer

Congregational Hymn or Other Music

Scripture Lessons

Obituary

Remarks from Family or Friends

Congregational Hymn or Other Music

Sermon

Congregational Hymn or Other Music

The Pastoral Prayer

Benediction

Scripture Readings

Psalms

“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” *Psalms 23*

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.” *Psalms 27:1, 4-5*

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

Psalm 46

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” *Psalm 90:1-2*

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” *Psalm 121*

Additional selections from the Psalms:

Psalms 42:1-8

Psalms 118:5, 8-9, 13-17, 19-21

Psalms 130

Old Testament Lessons

“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.’” *Job 1:20-21*

“I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” *Job 19:25-27*

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.’” *Isaiah 25:6-9*

“I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.’ The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.” *Lamentations 3:19-26, 31-33*

Additional Old Testament Lessons:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah 53:11-12

Isaiah 61:1-3

2 Samuel 12:16-23 (in the case of a child’s death)

Epistle Lessons

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 8:31-32, 35-39*

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: ‘Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!’” *Revelation 7:9-12*

Additional New Testament Scriptures:

Romans 8:1-4, 9-11, 18-25

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-20, 51-58

2 Corinthians 5:1-9

Philippians 3:20-21

2 Timothy 4:7-8

1 Peter 1:3-9

1 John 3:1-2

Revelation 21:2-7

Gospel Lessons

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Luke 12:35-40

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

John 5:24-29

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” *John 14:1-3*

Additional Gospel Lessons:

John 6:37-40

John 11:17-27

For Children:

Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14

Mark 10:13-16

Committal Service

First Setting

The pastor, standing at the head of the grave, will say:

Hear the word of God concerning death and resurrection.

The pastor will read one or more of the following Scripture passages:

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.” *John 5:24-26*

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”
John 11:25-26

“But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” *Romans 8:10-11*

“For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.”
Romans 14:7-9

The pastor will say:

“For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 15:53-55, 57

Because God in his almighty providence has chosen to take out of the world the soul of _____, we therefore commit his/her body to the earth from which it is taken, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. *Titus 2:13, Philippians 3:21*

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.” *John 5:28-29*

The pastor will say the following words as he sprinkles sand in the shape of a cross on the casket or places earth or flowers on the casket.

Out of dust you were taken.
Unto dust you will return.
Out of the dust you will rise again.

The pastor will offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the hope of the resurrection, of sympathy for the bereaved, and of intercession for all present. Then pastor and congregation will pray the Lord's Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

The pastor may lead the family and friends in the singing of a hymn.

Committal Service

Second Setting

The pastor will say:

Because God in his almighty providence has chosen to take out of the world the soul of _____, we therefore commit his/her body to its resting place, knowing, as the Scriptures teach, that the end of all flesh is the grave; but our eternal hope is in God.

The pastor will say the following words as he sprinkles sand in the shape of a cross on the casket or places earth or flowers on the casket.

Out of dust you were taken.
Unto dust you will return.
Out of the dust you will rise again.

The pastor will offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the hope of the resurrection, of sympathy for the bereaved, and of intercession for all present. Then pastor and congregation will pray the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Anointing the Sick

Whenever possible, one or more elders will accompany the pastor. If the person is in an intensive care unit, the pastor will discuss his purpose with the medical supervisor. It may be that only one elder may be permitted to enter with the pastor.

When someone who is ill requests an anointing service, or if the family requests it on behalf of someone who is incapable of doing so, the following order may be used.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6-7*

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” *James 5:13-16*

If the sick person can speak, the pastor will ask the following questions. If the person is not able to speak, the pastor will proceed with the anointing.

Addressing the sick person, the pastor will say:

Do you desire to be anointed with oil and prayed for in accordance with this Scripture?

Will you accept God's answer to our prayers?

Are there sins of which you are conscious that should be confessed before we anoint you with oil?

The pastor will give the person to be anointed time to respond. If the person has sins to confess, the pastor will provide opportunity to do so, confidentially if desired, and assure the person of the gracious forgiveness of Christ for all who confess their sin.

The pastor will say:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” *1 John 1:9*

The pastor will then anoint the person with olive oil on the forehead and speak the following words:

_____, we anoint you with oil in accordance with the words of Holy Scripture as recorded by James, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

After anointing with oil, the pastor and elders will lay hands on the sick person and pray for his/her restoration. Care should be exercised so that all understand that the prayers are a request for the will of God to be accomplished. After the prayers are ended, those assembled will pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Reception of New Members

Reception of new members usually takes place at a morning worship service or at a communion service.

At the selected time in the service, the pastor will read the names of the new members and ask them to come forward. They will then stand before him as he reads a passage of God's word, and welcomes, encourages and exhorts them. If the pastor wishes, he may have one or more elders read appropriate Scripture lessons before he speaks to the new members. Suggested passages are: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 2:17-22, Ephesians 4:1-7, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 2:1-5, 1 Peter 4:7-11.

Addressing the congregation, the pastor will say:

Dear Friends: The Scriptures teach us that the church is the household of God, the body of which Christ is the head, and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. As believers in Christ, we are related to each other who are members of his body. Into this holy relationship, the persons before us, who have been accepted by the congregation, come now to be publicly received into membership.

Addressing the new members being received into the congregation, the pastor will say:

Do you, in the presence of this congregation, confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If so, respond by saying, I do.

The new members will say, I do.

Do you promise by God's grace and help, to walk daily in Christian love, to pray for this church's growth in knowledge and holiness, to promote its spiritual life, to support its worship, doctrines and discipline, and to contribute cheerfully to its ministry? If so, respond by saying, I do.

The new members will say, I do.

Addressing the congregation, the pastor will say:

Do you, as members of this congregation and of the body of Christ, promise by God's grace to receive gladly and pray for these new members? If so, respond by saying, I do.

The congregation will say, I do.

Addressing the new members being received into the congregation, the pastor will say:

Dear Friends: We thank God who, by the Holy Spirit, has opened your hearts to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and has led you to unite with this congregation. We receive and welcome you with joy and cordially extend to you the right hand of fellowship in Jesus' name.

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for the new members and the congregation may be offered, after which the pastor and the elders will extend the right hand of fellowship to the new members.

In the testimony and prayer time following holy communion, opportunity to testify may first be given to the new members. At a Sunday morning worship service, the matter of public testimony will be at the discretion of the pastor and elders. Opportunity may be given for such expression later at a communion service or other service.

Ordination, Installation, Commissioning

Ordination of a Pastor

The ordination of a pastor is both a festive and solemn occasion for the pastor and the congregation. The ordination service should reflect the festivity and the solemnity of the occasion. The pastor may be ordained at a Sunday morning worship service, or at a specially arranged service of ordination. Other congregations and pastors may be invited to attend. It is usually led by one of the elders or by the officiant. The officiant is usually a CLB denominational representative. It is customary for the officiant to preach the sermon before the rite of ordination. Participation in the laying on of hands is usually restricted to Lutheran Brethren pastors and elders. Special situations should be discussed with the officiant well in advance of the service.

The ordination portion of the service usually includes the following:

Introductory Comments

Reading of Greetings

Reading of Candidate's Vita

Following this, the officiant will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the office of pastor:

Readings may be taken from the following list: John 21:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Galatians 6:6-10, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 5:1-11. These may be read by elders, other pastors or the officiant.

Addressing the candidate, the officiant will ask each of the following questions. The candidate will respond to each of the questions with the answer, yes.

1. Do you believe that the Bible is the word of God and is therefore the final authoritative guide for faith and conduct?
2. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Do you love God's children?
4. Are you willing, to the extent that God gives grace, to work for the purity, edification, peace and growth of the church of Jesus Christ?
5. As far as you know your heart, are a desire to serve God and a desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ and to grow in him, the motives which have led you to enter the ministry?
6. Do you find that the *Statement of Faith of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren* is in harmony with the word of God?
7. Do you believe, teach and confess this *Statement of Faith*?
8. Do you accept and will you work in harmony with the constitutions of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren and this congregation?

9. As a preacher of the gospel, you are charged with the commission to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. In your preaching and in your administration of the sacraments are you willing to bind yourself, in the words of Martin Luther, to proclaim, “The word alone, faith alone, grace alone, so help me God”?

10. Paul wrote, “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”
Acts 20:28

Will you by the power of God’s grace live a holy life, properly care for your own family, and by faithfulness, diligence and love, do the work of a pastor?

The officiant will say:

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the person who desires to be a pastor:

“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.” *1 Timothy 3:1-7*

I now ask you, _____, before God and this congregation, are you ready to enter this calling?

The candidate will say, yes, by the grace of God.

The candidate will kneel for the laying on of hands and prayer. Several pastors or elders may participate.

The officiant and congregation will pray the Lord's Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The officiant will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

The officiant will ask the newly ordained pastor to rise. Those gathered about him will extend the right hand of fellowship and return to their seats. The officiant may call the wife of the newly ordained pastor to come forward to be recognized and given words of encouragement. The officiant may offer prayer for the pastor's family.

The pastor's wife may be seated and the newly ordained pastor will give a brief response and close the service.

Installation of a Pastor

When an ordained or licensed minister of the gospel assumes the office of pastor in a congregation, the following service of installation will be used. The installation may be part of the morning worship service or it may be scheduled as a separate service. Other congregations and pastors may be invited to attend. The officiant is usually a CLB denominational representative.

The usual order of worship may be followed with the installation taking place just after the sermon (if the officiant preaches) or before the sermon (if the sermon is the newly installed pastor's response).

The pastor's vita may be read.

The pastor to be installed and elders will be called forward.

The officiant will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the office of pastor.

Readings may be taken from the following list: John 21:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Galatians 6:6-10, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 Peter 5:1-11. These may be read by elders, other pastors or the officiant.

Addressing the pastor, the officiant will ask each of the following questions. The pastor will respond to each of the questions with the answer, yes.

1. Do you believe that the Bible is the word of God and is therefore the final authoritative guide for faith and conduct?

2. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?
 3. Do you love God's children?
 4. Are you willing, to the extent that God gives grace, to work for the purity, edification, peace and growth of the church of Jesus Christ?
 5. Do you find that the *Statement of Faith of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren* is in harmony with the word of God?
 6. Do you believe, teach and confess this *Statement of Faith*?
 7. Do you accept and will you work in harmony with the constitutions of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren and this congregation?
 8. As far as you know your heart, are a desire to serve God and a desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ and to grow in him, the motives which have led you to accept this call?
 9. Paul wrote, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."
Acts 20:28
- Will you by the power of God's grace live a holy life, properly care for your own family, and by faithfulness, diligence and love, do the work of a pastor?
10. Do you promise to preach the word and to administer the sacraments as the word of God prescribes, and to do so for the glory of God, the salvation of lost people and the edification of the church, which is the body of Christ?

Addressing the congregation, the officiant will say:

The congregation will please rise.

Do you, members of _____ Church, stand by your pastoral call previously extended to _____? If so, answer, yes.

Will you at this time and as long as he will serve faithfully among you, receive him joyfully, share all good things with him who is to instruct you in the word, show him Christian respect and obedience, and encourage him in the Lord? If so, answer, yes.

Addressing the pastor being installed, the officiant will say:

Do you stand by your decision to accept this call from _____ Church, to serve as their pastor? If so, answer, yes.

The officiant will say:

_____, I hereby install you in the office of pastor of _____ Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. May a rich measure of God's grace, guidance and power be with you, your wife/family and the congregation as you work together for the extension of his kingdom in this community.

The congregation may be seated.

The pastor may kneel and the officiant or elders will offer prayer or prayers for the newly installed pastor and the ministry of the congregation.

The officiant and congregation will pray the Lord's Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The officiant will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

The officiant will ask the newly installed pastor to rise. The elders will extend the right hand of fellowship and return to their seats. The officiant may speak words of encouragement to the wife of the newly installed pastor. The pastor's wife may be seated and the newly installed pastor will preach the sermon or give a brief response and close the service.

Ordination and Installation of Elders

When an elder is to be ordained, or when an ordained elder is installed to serve as an elder in a church other than the one in which he was ordained, the following order is used. When an elder is installed, the same questions are asked, but the laying on of hands is not required but is still appropriate.

The ordination service may be a part of the regular worship service, or it may be scheduled for another time. Other pastors and congregations may be invited to attend.

The officiant will call the elder candidate and elders forward.

The officiant will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the office of elder:

One or more of the following Scriptures may be read by the officiant or other elders.

John 21:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Galatians 6:6-10, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:1-3, 1 Peter 5:1-11

Addressing the elder to be ordained or installed, the officiant will ask the following questions. The elder will respond to each question with the answer, yes.

1. Do you believe that the Bible is the word of God, and is therefore the final authoritative guide for faith and conduct?
2. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Do you love God's children?
4. Are you willing to the extent that God gives grace, to work for the purity, edification, peace and growth of the church of Jesus Christ?
5. As far as you know your own heart, are a desire to serve God, and a desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ and to grow in him, the motives which have led you to accept the responsibilities of being an elder?
6. Do you find that the *Statement of Faith of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren* is in harmony with the word of God?
7. Do you believe, teach and confess this *Statement of Faith*?
8. Do you accept and will you work in harmony with the constitutions of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren and this congregation?
9. Will you, by the power of God's grace, live a holy life, properly care for your family and carefully and faithfully discharge your duties as elder?
10. Will you watch over the flock in which you are placed as an overseer, lead by a godly example, care for the spiritual growth and discipline of the congregation, and let no teaching contrary to God's word make its way into the church?

Addressing the congregation the officiant will say:

Do you as members of _____ Church, stand by your choice of _____ as an elder? Will you at this time and as long as he will serve faithfully among you, support him with your prayers, encouragement and cooperation? If so, answer, yes.

Addressing the elder to be ordained or installed, the officiant will say:

Do you stand by your decision to serve as an elder of _____ Church?

The candidate will kneel. The pastor and the elders will place their hands on him. Prayer may be offered by the elders and the officiant.

The officiant will say:

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The officiant will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

_____, I hereby ordain (install) you as Elder of _____ Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. May the enabling grace of God rest upon you as you serve in fulfilling this ministry for which you have been chosen and ordained. Amen.

The officiant will ask the newly ordained/installed elder to rise. The pastor and elders will extend the right hand of fellowship and return to their seats. The officiant may speak words of encouragement to the elder's wife. Prayer may be offered for God's blessing on their service to the Lord in the congregation. The officiant will present the ordained/installed elder to the congregation. The elder will give a brief response. The service will continue as planned.

Commissioning

The commissioning service is usually part of a worship service. Other pastors, elders or family members of the person who is being commissioned may be given a part in the service. The candidate and others participating in the commissioning will be asked to come forward, and the commissioning service will proceed as follows:

The officiant will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about serving the Lord:

The designated persons will read the assigned Scriptures. The following passages may be used: Matthew 4:18-20, Matthew 9:35-10:1, John 15:12-16, John 21:15-17, Acts 13:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:16-20, Romans 12:1-2.

Addressing the candidate, the officiant will ask the following questions, after which the candidate will answer, yes.

1. Do you believe that the Bible is the word of God, and is therefore the final authoritative guide for faith and conduct?
2. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Do you love God's children?
4. Are you willing, to the extent that God gives grace, to work for the purity, edification, peace and growth of the church of Jesus Christ?

5. Do you find that the *Statement of Faith of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren* is in harmony with the word of God?

6. Do you believe, teach and confess this *Statement of Faith*?

7. Do you accept and will you work in harmony with the constitutions of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren and this congregation?

8. Will you by the power of God's grace, live a holy life, walk daily in the truth, and by faithfulness, diligence and good will, serve in your capacity as a _____, doing all for the glory of God, the salvation of lost people and the edification of the church, which is the body of Christ?

The officiant will say:

Let us hear the words of the Great Commission of our Lord as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*

CLB Commissioning

Congregation Commissioning

<p>_____, I hereby commission you as a _____ of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>	<p>_____, I hereby commission you as a _____ of _____ Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>
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Prayer will be offered on behalf of the candidate by the officiant and other pastors and elders assisting him. The candidate may kneel and hands be placed upon him/her as prayer is made for God's blessing.

The officiant will say:

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer.

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The officiant will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

The person commissioned will be presented to the congregation and may give a response. Following the response, the service continues as planned.

Installation of Deacons/Deaconesses

The installation of deacons and deaconesses usually takes place as part of a worship service. At this installation, the officiant, usually the local pastor, will call forward by name those who are to be installed. He may briefly outline to them their duties as stated in the constitution of the congregation. He should also assure them of God's faithfulness as they seek to serve God in ministering to the needs of people.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the work of deacons and deaconesses.

The pastor or an elder will read the following Scriptures:

“So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.”

Acts 6:2-6

“In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.” *1 Timothy 3:8-13*

Additional passages that may be used are: Matthew 25:34-40, Galatians 6:9-10, James 1:27.

The pastor will say:

_____, will you by the grace of Jesus Christ lead a life well pleasing to God? Will you carry out your duties faithfully and to the best of your ability? Will you minister to your fellow members and friends in order to bless them and bring glory to your Lord? If so, answer by saying, yes.

The person(s) being installed may kneel, and the pastor and elders may lay hands upon each of them as prayer is offered for them.

The pastor will say:

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The pastor will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

The newly installed person(s) may respond briefly. The service will continue as planned.

Installation of Church Officers

The installation of church officers usually takes place as part of a worship service. The officiant, usually the local pastor, will call the elected officers by name, state their position and briefly remind them of their duties as stated in the constitution of the congregation, and of their responsibilities as servants of the Lord and his church. The service will proceed as follows:

After the officers have come forward, the pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about ministry in the church of Jesus Christ:

“Jesus said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.’”

Luke 22:25-27

“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” *Romans 12:5-8*

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” *1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

Addressing the officers, the pastor will say:

Each of you has been elected by this congregation to a responsible position of leadership. In recognition of the gift God has given you, are you willing to the extent that God gives grace, to uphold the word of God, to faithfully abide by the constitution of _____ Church, to serve rather than be served and to labor for the purity, edification, peace and growth of the church of Jesus Christ? If so, answer by saying, yes.

The pastor or an elder will pray for the new officers.

The pastor will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

The participants will return to their seats. The service continues as planned.

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

The installation of Sunday school teachers and staff usually takes place at a worship service. The officiant, usually the local pastor, will call the teachers and staff by name and will remind them of their privilege and responsibility in teaching the word of God.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about the ministry of teaching:

“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.” *Psalms 119:9-16*

“My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.” *Psalm 78:1-7*

Addressing the teachers, the pastor will say:

Each of you has been selected to the responsible position of being a teacher in this congregation. Will you to the extent that God gives grace, uphold the word of God, faithfully abide by the constitution of _____ Church, teach nothing contrary to the beliefs of this church, serve rather than be served, and labor for the purity, edification, peace and growth of the church of Jesus Christ? If so, answer by saying, yes.

The pastor will exhort the congregation to pray faithfully for the teachers and staff and to support and to encourage them in their work. He will lead the congregation in prayer for them.

The pastor will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

The service will continue as planned.

Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking ceremony usually follows a worship service and takes place at the site for the proposed building.

The officiant will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The officiant or other designated person will read the following Scriptures:

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the Lord—to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel... ‘May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.’ For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.” *Psalms 122:1-4, 7-9*

“When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the Lord, he rose from before the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven. He stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying: ‘Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us.’”

“May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees and laws he gave our ancestors. And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day’s need, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time.’ Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord.” *1 Kings 8:54-62*

Remarks may be given by the congregational chair, the building committee chair and/or the pastor.

The officiant will say:

The word of God commands us to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by him. It also states that, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” *Psalms 127:1*

A designated person(s) will turn over a shovel full of earth.

The officiant will say:

As we now break the ground on the site upon which _____ is to be built, we dedicate this place to the honor and glory of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The officiant will pray and lead the congregation in the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

The officiant will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Cornerstone Laying

The cornerstone laying service usually follows a worship service and takes place at the cornerstone site. Because construction often is still in process, it is important that the area be cleared and roped off beforehand.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The pastor may list or exhibit the items to be deposited in the cornerstone. These may be: a Bible; the constitution of the congregation; a copy of its history; a copy of the secretary's minutes of the meeting when the decision was made to build; names of the pastor, church board and building committee; and/or other appropriate items.

The pastor, assisted by the building committee members, trustees, and if desired, the builder, will deposit the box and have the stone set in its place.

The pastor will say:

Let us hear what the Scriptures say about God's faithfulness to his people.

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the Lord—to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel. There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.’ For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.”

Psalms 122

“David also said to Solomon his son, ‘Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.’ ... “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.”

1 Chronicles 28:20 and 29:17-18

“Jesus asked, ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.’”

Matthew 16:15-18

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” *1 Corinthians 3:11*

“For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’” *1 Peter 2:6*

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” *Ephesians 2:19-22*

The pastor will say:

The word of God declares that, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” *Psalms 127:1*

We lay this cornerstone today with the prayer that this building may be a place where God’s word is preached and taught in all its truth and purity and where the sacraments are rightly administered. We pray also that this may be a house of worship and fellowship for God’s people and a place where sinners may come to know Jesus Christ.

We lay this cornerstone for the building of a church from which the gospel will go out to the ends of the earth.

We lay this cornerstone in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor will pray, and then lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The pastor will say:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Service of Dedication for a Church

The service may follow the usual order of worship with time provided for the dedication ceremony which should follow the dedication sermon.

This service may be adapted for use in dedicating other buildings, rooms or furnishings.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A brief history of the congregation including a statement of its present membership, activities and organizations may be read.

A report of the finances and construction may be given. Acknowledgments may also be made.

The pastor will say:

Let us dedicate this building to the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor may select an individual to read Psalm 84 or 100, or the congregation may read the psalm responsively or in unison. When used as a responsive reading, it must be printed in responsive form in the worship folder, as shown below.

The pastor will say:

The congregation will please rise.

“How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest
for herself, where she may have her young—

a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baka,

they make it a place of springs;

the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

They go from strength to strength,

till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;

listen to me, God of Jacob.

Look on our shield, O God;

look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;

the Lord bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold

from those whose walk is blameless.

Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.”

Psalms 84

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 100

The pastor will say:

Let us confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles’
Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and
earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
God, the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The pastor will pray the following prayer of Solomon, at the dedication of the temple:

“Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way... The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

“Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, ‘My Name shall be there,’ so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

“[We pray this] ...so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.”
(1 Kings 8:23, 27b-30, 43b)

We pray this in the name of Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

The pastor will say:

Let us pray the Lord’s Prayer:

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The congregation may be seated.

The pastor will say:

We thank God for the gifts of mercy, grace and faith that have been at work in the people of _____ congregation, uniting and enabling them to construct/purchase this building. I hereby declare that this building, with all its furnishings, is dedicated to the glory of God, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. It is set aside as a house of worship and praise. It is set aside as a place where the sacraments are rightly administered, where believers may find fellowship and be built up in the faith. It is set aside as a place where whoever seeks may come to know Jesus Christ. Peace be upon this house and upon all who enter.

Let us pray.

Dedicatory prayer or prayers will be offered. The following prayer may be used.

Lord God, Heavenly Father; we thank you that by your Holy Spirit you, in all places, gather your church, and upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ, build this church into a spiritual temple, a temple of living stones.

In mercy look upon your church throughout the world and build it up in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Let the saving work of your Holy Spirit prosper in this congregation, and in this house now dedicated to your glory.

Bless your word as it is preached here. Grant that the proclamation of your word may always be with purity and in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power.

Make this house a house of prayer for your people and may your ear be open to the prayers that will rise from this place.

Bless our land and our people, the President/Prime Minister, our Governor/Premier and all elected and appointed officials. Strengthen us to serve you faithfully, now and forevermore. Amen.

The pastor will say:

And now may the glory of the Lord fill this house, and may the words of our Lord through his prophet Haggai be true of this place when he wrote, "...I will fill this house with glory," says the Lord Almighty... 'And in this place I will grant peace.'" Amen. *Haggai 2:7, 9*

The service may close with a hymn.

The pastor will say:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace." Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Mortgage Burning

A mortgage burning usually takes place as part of a worship service. Special preparations for this service include the provision of a fire-proof receptacle in which to burn a copy of the mortgage. Do not use the actual mortgage document. Use a reliable and suitable lighting device. Rehearse the burning of the mortgage so that it may be done appropriately and without danger. The receptacle will get hot.

The pastor will call the participants forward for the mortgage burning ritual. A designated person will give a brief history of the mortgage, its purpose, amount and duration. There should be an expression of thanks to the members and friends who have made it possible to retire the mortgage.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

With thanksgiving to God for his enabling grace which has made this building possible, we praise him for the provision of all the funds to pay this mortgage in full. We praise God for every talent, skill and effort which has been used by him to provide this place for worship, teaching, fellowship and proclaiming the gospel.

May everything that is done in this place be characterized by love.

With a deep sense of gratitude to God for his faithful provisions, we dedicate this building anew to the glory of God in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The mortgage will be lit by the designated person, and the congregation may sing the Doxology. After the burning is complete, the pastor will say:

May the presence of God always abide in this house and may his peace be given to all those who come through its doors. Let us pray.

Prayer is offered.

The service continues as planned.

Service of Dedication for Home

It is appropriate for Christian people to dedicate the place where they live to the glory of God. The order suggested below may be followed, but each family may wish to add to it.

This service is an informal meeting of singing, Scripture reading and testimony. The family may invite those they wish to join them in this dedication.

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hear the word of our Lord:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

“How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.” *Psalms 84:1-4*

“The Lord...blesses the home of the righteous.” *Proverbs 3:33*

“The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.” *Isaiah 32:17-18*

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” *Luke 6:46-49*

“On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. ‘If you consider me a believer in the Lord,’ she said, ‘come and stay at my house.’ And she persuaded us.”
Acts 16:13-15

Following the Scripture readings the pastor will say:

Dear Friends: We have gathered in the home of _____ to rejoice in the blessing of God in providing this place. We come together to give thanks to God and to invite him to share this place with those who have made a home here. We pray that God will bless each person who lives here and bless their going out and their coming in even as Jesus blessed the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany with his presence. May all who enter find God's peace here.

Listen to these words from Paul: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:12-17

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit we dedicate this home to the glory of God. May the Lord Almighty watch over this dwelling, and your coming in and your going out now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray:

The pastor, or another designated person, leads in a prayer of dedication for the house and family.

The pastor leads those assembled in praying the Lord's Prayer.

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.</p>
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The pastor will say:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

Service of Dedication for a Ship or Boat

The blessing of ships is mainly for ocean-going vessels that will house the occupants much as someone's home houses them on land and not primarily for pleasure craft. Since many mariners have lost their lives at sea in fishing and shipping, it has been a custom to bless the ships that hold their lives.

Pastors may be asked to participate in the christening of a boat or ship. The following order may be used:

The pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

In Psalm 107 we read, "Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."
Psalm 107:23-31

See also Job 38:3-11, Psalm 104:24-26, Mark 4:35-41.

The pastor may speak of the need for God's protection and of how God speaks to people through the forces of nature. The pastor will conclude with prayer committing the ship and those who will travel in it to God's care. An appropriate hymn, such as Eternal Father, Strong to Save, may be sung.

After he concludes the prayer he will say:

We dedicate _____ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Church Discipline

Church discipline is redemptive in purpose for the sinning brother or sister. It also has an instructive purpose for the other members of the congregation in teaching them the seriousness of sin and the resulting separation from God. Sinful behavior must not be treated lightly.

Church discipline is the effort of the church, in accordance with Scripture, to bring the sinning person to repentance of sin, and to forgiveness and obedience in Christ. By this, the person may be restored to fellowship and service in the church.

Church discipline is appropriately used in cases of false teaching as well as in the case of behavior that is unbiblical. It is most commonly exercised in the one-to-one relationship of pastor, elder or some other member of the congregation with the person whose sin requires such action. This redemptive intervention is often successful, and no further discipline is necessary.

When the one-to-one intervention is not successful, the next steps of action are outlined in the word of God and the church's constitution. The primary teaching on this subject is found in Matthew 18:15-20. This is a passage which should be clearly explained to the congregation. When this pattern for handling conflicts is followed, the majority of conflicts in the body of Christ will be resolved before they develop further.

When a problem develops where a major act of discipline such as exclusion or excommunication must be considered, the Board of Elders must prayerfully exercise extreme caution and care. The Board of Elders must do all it can to get the facts of the situation, to guard against gossip, and to meet with and hear all persons involved. On every level of action, whether before the Board of Elders or before the congregation, the accused will have the opportunity to appear and respond to the charge. The accused will be given the opportunity to acknowledge the wrong, and to seek and receive forgiveness. Discipline cases, insofar as possible, should be handled by the Board of Elders. Only in cases of obvious public offense, and where the person or persons will not follow the instruction of the Board of Elders, should the matter be brought before the congregation. When appropriate, legal counsel should be sought.

Levels and procedures for disciplinary action are as follows:

1. Exclusion

a. Temporary Exclusion

The Board of Elders has the authority to suspend temporarily the person's privilege of communion. This is a first step of discipline and is designed to appeal to the transgressor and to prevent the misuse of the sacrament. It may also be a temporary measure taken by the board while an issue is under investigation.

b. Congregational Exclusion

When a person has sinned and is not responding to the appeals by the pastor and elders to repent and to seek forgiveness, a congregation, at the recommendation of the Board of Elders, may vote to exclude that person from the right to commune and the right to vote in congregational business meetings until such a time that a spiritual restoration has occurred. The congregation will be reminded to pray without ceasing for the person who is being disciplined.

2. Excommunication

The strictest form of church discipline is removal from membership in the congregation and committal to Satan. The procedure for excommunication is found in Matthew 18:15-20 and in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

When faced with a situation that could be a case for excommunication, the Board of Elders must make every effort to arrange for an interview between the person accused and the one making the charge, as outlined in Matthew 18:15-20. If the matter is resolved in this meeting, the issue may be closed and no further disciplinary action taken. If the matter is a public offense, it must go to the congregation for public confession and forgiveness. If the matter is not resolved, the Board of Elders must arrange for whatever further investigation is necessary to gather all pertinent facts in order that further efforts may be made to resolve the problem. When the person is not willing to follow the instruction of the Board of Elders, the problem will need to be brought before the congregation.

When the congregation is apprised of the situation and agrees with the action taken by the Board of Elders, then a further appeal, in the name of the congregation, will be made to the person involved. If the person follows the instruction of the congregation, the issue may then be closed. If the person does not follow the instruction of the congregational appeal, the congregation will then proceed in accordance with 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 in excommunicating the person.

The excommunication will take place in the following manner:

Before the congregation, in a legally called business meeting, the pastor will read passages from Scripture which are appropriate for the occasion such as Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 1 Timothy 1:18-20. He will then solemnly ask the congregation whether it agrees to have the most severe form of church discipline exercised in the case. When such an agreement has been established, the pastor will pray that Christ himself be present with his Spirit.

Then the pastor will make the following pronouncement:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we apply the words of the apostle Paul as stated in 1 Corinthians 5:3-5 to _____.
“For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.”

Let the congregation affirm this pronouncement by saying, Amen.

The congregation will say, Amen.

The pastor will say:

Let us pray that _____ may be saved in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Time will be given for the members of the congregation to pray for the person who has been excommunicated.

The person concerned is hereby cut off from all connection with the church of Christ and will be so informed immediately in writing.

The Lord Jesus says that a person under church discipline will be “as a pagan” in Matthew 18:17. Once someone has been expelled, the church will seek to reach this person anew with the message of the gospel. The motive of discipline will be redemptive.

Reinstatement of Membership

When a person who has once been excommunicated from the congregation is to be received again into fellowship, the following Scripture passages will be considered: Psalm 32:5, Matthew 16:19, John 20:23, 2 Corinthians 2:6-11, James 5:16.

When the applicant for readmission has given satisfactory proof that he/she has truly repented, he/she will be invited to be present at a legally called business meeting of the congregation. The members are to be informed of the purpose for which the meeting has been called. After Scripture reading and prayer, the pastor will give the applicant an opportunity to testify before the congregation concerning his/her repentance. The congregation will then be permitted to ask him/her questions.

If the congregation is satisfied with his/her testimony, as shown by a vote of the congregation, the pastor will first pray to God, then call the applicant by name, and say:

In restoring _____ to fellowship in the family of God, we hereby follow the direction of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 16:19 where Jesus says, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." And in John 20:23 Jesus says, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Let the congregation affirm this pronouncement by saying, Amen.

The congregation will say, Amen.

After the Amen of the congregation, the pastor will extend the right hand of fellowship to the reinstated person, address him/her as a brother/sister and welcome him/her into the congregation. The elders will also give him/her the right hand of fellowship.

The pastor will say:

As we now are fully confident that our brother/sister is accepted of God and that all his/her sins are graciously blotted out by the blood of Jesus, let us all therefore diligently watch that this matter never again be spoken of among us and that we regard him/her as though he/she never had sinned.

The meeting will be closed with a prayer of thanksgiving and with the benediction.

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14

Restoration Service for a Pastor

When a pastor has been under discipline for a sinful offense and has experienced spiritual restoration in accordance with the restoration process as outlined in Ministers of the Gospel Handbook (Section Two. D.), a service of restoration may be held.

The service may follow a format as follows:

Opening hymns and prayer.

Selected Scripture reading by elders, e.g., Psalm 51, John 20:19-23, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

The officiant may make introductory comments and then invite the pastor who is to be restored to give testimony to God's forgiveness and grace.

An open time may be provided for others to share words of affirmation and encouragement to the pastor being restored and to give thanks to God.

A formal statement, as follows, may be read by the officiant to which the congregation gives verbal affirmation.

The officiant facing the congregation will say:

We give glory to our Lord Jesus Christ who by his suffering and death on the cross has made full satisfaction for all our sins. We also give glory to God for the work of the Holy Spirit who has led our brother into repentance and has assured him of the forgiveness of his sin.

The officiant, facing the pastor being restored, will say:

_____, you have experienced the sorrow of your sin and the joy and peace of God's forgiveness and have followed the guidelines of the restoration process. Therefore, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the redeemer of all God's people, we hereby extend to you the right hand of fellowship and joyfully recognize your restoration to full clergy status in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. We do so in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, to whom be the glory now and forever.

The officiant, turning to the congregation, will say:

And the congregation of God's people said, Amen.

Since the restored pastor is being placed into a called ministry position, the officiant may present the ordination certificate to him.

A time may be given at this moment for those present to extend the right hand of fellowship to the restored brother.

The officiant may share a brief message and proceed with the service.

Pericope Texts Prepared by the Inter Lutheran Commission on Worship
Pericope Texts
Series A

First Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 or
Matthew 21:1-11
Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 122

Second Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: Psalm 72:1-14 (15-19)

Third Sunday in Advent

Epistle: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm: Psalm 146

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14 (15-17)
Psalm: Psalm 24

Christmas Day

The Nativity of Our Lord

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-20
Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm: Psalm 96

First Sunday After Christmas

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm: Psalm 111

Second Sunday After Christmas

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18
Gospel: John 1:1-18
Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:2-12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 72

The Baptism of Our Lord

First Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17
Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 45:7-9

Second Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel: John 1:29-41
Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 40:1-12

Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23
Lesson: Isaiah 9:1b-4 or Amos 3:1-8
Psalm: Psalm 27:1-9

Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
Lesson: Micah 6:1-8
Psalm: Psalm 1

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20
 Lesson: Isaiah 58:5-9a
 Psalm: Psalm 112

Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:6-13
 Gospel: Matthew 5:20-37
 Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm: Psalm 119:1-6

Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
 Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48
 Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
 Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

Eighth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1-13
 Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34
 Lesson: Isaiah 49:13-18
 Psalm: Psalm 62

The Transfiguration of Our Lord**Last Sunday After The Epiphany**

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-19 (20-21)
 Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9
 Lesson: Exodus 24:12, 15-18
 Psalm: Psalm 2:6-13

Ash Wednesday

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2
 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Lesson: Joel 2:12-19
 Psalm: Psalm 51:1-13

First Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 5:12 (13-16) 17-19
 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11
 Lesson: Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm: Psalm 130

Second Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 Gospel: John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)
 Lesson: Genesis 12:1-8
 Psalm: Psalm 105:4-11

Third Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14
 Gospel: John 9:1-41 or
 John 9:13-17, 34-39
 Lesson: Isaiah 42:14-21
 Psalm: Psalm 142

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 8:1-10
 Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28
 Lesson: Hosea 5:15-6:2
 Psalm: Psalm 43

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 8:11-19
 Gospel: John 11:1-53 or John 11:47-53
 Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-3 (4-10) 11-14
 Psalm: Psalm 116:1-8

Sunday of The Passion**Palm Sunday**

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
 Gospel: Matthew 26:1-27:66 or
 Matthew 27:11-54
 Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16

Monday in Holy Week

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15
 Gospel: John 12:1-11
 Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Tuesday in Holy Week

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 Gospel: John 12:20-36
 Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 71:1-12

Wednesday in Holy Week

Epistle: Romans 5:6-11
 Gospel: Matthew 26:14-25
 Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm: Psalm 70:1-2, 4-6

Maundy Thursday

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:17-32 or
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 Gospel: John 13:1-17, 34
 Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm: Psalm 116:10-17

Good Friday

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
 Gospel: John 18:1-19:42 or
 John 19:17-30
 Lesson: Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 or Hosea 6:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 22:1-23

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Day**

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4
 Gospel: John 20:1-9 (10-18) or
 Matthew 28:1-10
 Lesson: Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 15-24

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Evening**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
 Gospel: Luke 24:13-49
 Lesson: Daniel 12:1c-3 or Jonah 2:2-9
 Psalm: Psalm 150

Second Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9
 Gospel: John 20:19-31
 Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm: Psalm 105:1-7

Third Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-21
 Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
 Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 36-47
 Psalm: Psalm 16

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25
 Gospel: John 10:1-10
 Lesson: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60
 Psalm: Psalm 23

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:4-10
 Gospel: John 14:1-12
 Lesson: Acts 17:1-15
 Psalm: Psalm 33:1-11

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:15-22
 Gospel: John 14:15-21
 Lesson: Acts 17:22-31
 Psalm: Psalm 66:1-6, 14-18

The Ascension of Our Lord

Epistle: Ephesians 1:16-23
 Gospel: Luke 24:44-53
 Lesson: Acts 1:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 110

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11
 Gospel: John 17:1-11
 Lesson: Acts 1:(1-7)8-14
 Psalm: Psalm 47

Vigil of Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17, 22-27
 Gospel: John 7:37-39a
 Lesson: Exodus 19:1-9 or Acts 2:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22 or Psalm 130

The Day of Pentecost

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21
Gospel: John 20:19-23
Lesson: Joel 2:28-29
Psalm: Psalm 104:25-34

The Holy Trinity**First Sunday After Pentecost**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20
Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:3 or
Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalm: Psalm 29

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 3:21-25a, 27-28
Gospel: Matthew 7:(15-20)21-29
Lesson: Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28
Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5 (6-18) 19-24

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 4:18-25
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13
Lesson: Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm: Psalm 50:1-15

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 5:6-11
Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8
Lesson: Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm: Psalm 100

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 5:12-15
Gospel: Matthew 10:24-33
Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm: Psalm 69:1-20

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel: Matthew 10:34-42
Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 7:15-25a
Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30
Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm: Psalm 145:1-2 (3-13) 14-22

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:18-25
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9 (18-23)
Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm: Psalm 65

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:26-27
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30 (36-43)
Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52
Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:35-39
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21
Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 104:25-31

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33
Lesson: 1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28
Lesson: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm: Psalm 67

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 11:33-36
 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20
 Lesson: Exodus 6:2-8
 Psalm: Psalm 138

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 12:1-8
 Gospel: Matthew 16:21-26
 Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Psalm: Psalm 26

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10
 Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20
 Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-9
 Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 14:5-9
 Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35
 Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Philippians 1:1-5 (6-11), 19-27
 Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16
 Lesson: Isaiah 55:6-9
 Psalm: Psalm 27:1-13

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Philippians 2:1-5 (6-11)
 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32
 Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
 Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Philippians 3:12-21
 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43
 Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7
 Psalm: Psalm 80:7-14

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-13
 Gospel: Matthew 22:1-10 (11-14)
 Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9
 Psalm: Psalm 23

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5a
 Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21
 Lesson: Isaiah 45:1-7
 Psalm: Psalm 96

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:5b-10
 Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40 (41-46)
 Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
 Psalm: Psalm 1

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (15-18)
 Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
 Lesson: Amos 5:18-24
 Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
 Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
 Lesson: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9
 Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:8-13
 Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12
 Lesson: Malachi 2:1-2, 4-10
 Psalm: Psalm 131

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
 Gospel: Matthew 24:1-14
 Lesson: Jeremiah 26:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 105:1-7

Christ The King

Last Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-24

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

Reformation Day

Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mission Festival

Epistle: Romans 10:11-17

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-7

Harvest Festival

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Thanksgiving Day

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Pericope Texts Prepared by the Inter Lutheran Commission on Worship
Pericope Texts
Series B

First Sunday in Advent

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 or
Mark 11:1-10
Lesson: Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1-8
Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7

Second Sunday in Advent

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8
Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm: Psalm 85

Third Sunday in Advent

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28
Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11
Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:(1-7)7-11, 16
Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 14-18

Christmas Day

The Nativity of Our Lord

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-9
Gospel: John 1:1-14
Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm: Psalm 97

First Sunday After Christmas

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel: Luke 2:25-40
Lesson: Isaiah 45:22-25
Psalm: Psalm 111

Second Sunday After Christmas

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18
Gospel: John 1:1-18
Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:2-12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 72

The Baptism of Our Lord

First Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11
Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 45:7-9

Second Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: John 1:43-51
Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm: Psalm 67

Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20
Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm: Psalm 62:6-14

Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28
Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm: Psalm 1

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
 Lesson: Job 7:1-7
 Psalm: Psalm 147:1-13

Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 Gospel: Mark 1:40-45
 Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-14
 Psalm: Psalm 32

Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12
 Lesson: Isaiah 43:18-25
 Psalm: Psalm 41

Eighth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:1b-6
 Gospel: Mark 2:18-22
 Lesson: Hosea 2:14-16 (17-18) 19-20
 Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Last Sunday After The Epiphany**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Gospel: Mark 9:2-9
 Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12a
 Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Ash Wednesday

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2
 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Lesson: Joel 2:12-19
 Psalm: Psalm 51:1-13

First Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 8:31-39
 Gospel: Mark 1:12-15
 Lesson: Genesis 22:1-18
 Psalm: Psalm 6

Second Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 5:1-11
 Gospel: Mark 8:31-38
 Lesson: Genesis 28:10-17 (18-22)
 Psalm: Psalm 115:1, 9-18

Third Sunday in Lent

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
 Gospel: John 2:13-22
 Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm: Psalm 19:7-14

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10
 Gospel: John 3:14-21
 Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm: Psalm 27:1-9 (10-18)

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Hebrews 5:7-9
 Gospel: John 12:20-33
 Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm: Psalm 51:11-16

**Sunday of The Passion
Palm Sunday**

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
 Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47 or
 Mark 15:1-39
 Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-10
 Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16

Monday in Holy Week

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15
 Gospel: John 12:1-11
 Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Tuesday in Holy Week

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 Gospel: John 12:20-36
 Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 71:1-12

Wednesday in Holy Week

Epistle: Romans 5:6-11
 Gospel: Matthew 26:14-25
 Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm: Psalm 70:1-2, 4-6

Maundy Thursday

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (18-21)
 Gospel: Mark 14:12-26
 Lesson: Exodus 24:3-11
 Psalm: Psalm 116:10-17

Good Friday

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
 Gospel: John 18:1-19:42 or
 John 19:17-30
 Lesson: Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 or Hosea 6:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 22:1-23

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Day**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:19-28
 Gospel: Mark 16:1-8 or
 John 20:1-9 (10-18)
 Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9
 Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 15-24

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Evening**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
 Gospel: Luke 24:13-49
 Lesson: Daniel 12:1c-3 or Jonah 2:2-9
 Psalm: Psalm 150

Second Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 John 5:1-6
 Gospel: John 20:19-31
 Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm: Psalm 148

Third Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 John 1:1-2:2
 Gospel: Luke 24:36-49
 Lesson: Acts 4:8-12
 Psalm: Psalm 139:1-11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-2
 Gospel: John 10:11-18
 Lesson: Acts 4:23-33
 Psalm: Psalm 23

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 John 3:18-24
 Gospel: John 15:1-8
 Lesson: Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm: Psalm 22:24-30

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 John 4:1-11
 Gospel: John 15:9-17
 Lesson: Acts 11:19-30
 Psalm: Psalm 98

The Ascension of Our Lord

Epistle: Ephesians 1:16-23
 Gospel: Luke 24:44-53
 Lesson: Acts 1:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 110

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 John 4:13-21
 Gospel: John 17:11b-19
 Lesson: Acts 1:15-26
 Psalm: Psalm 47

Vigil of Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17, 22-27
 Gospel: John 7:37-39a
 Lesson: Exodus 19:1-9 or Acts 2:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22
 or Psalm 130

The Day of Pentecost

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21
Gospel: John 7:37-39a
Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm: Psalm 104:25-34

The Holy Trinity**First Sunday After Pentecost**

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17
Gospel: John 3:1-17
Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:3 or
Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalm: Psalm 149

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Gospel: Mark 2:23-38
Lesson: Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm: Psalm 81:1-10

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18
Gospel: Mark 3:20-35
Lesson: Genesis 3:9-15
Psalm: Psalm 61:1-5, 8

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
Gospel: Mark 4:26-34
Lesson: Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm: Psalm 92:1-5 (6-10) 11-14

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Gospel: Mark 4:35-41
Lesson: Job 38:1-11
Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-14
Gospel: Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43 or
Mark 5:24b-34
Lesson: Lamentations 3:22-33
Psalm: Psalm 30

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel: Mark 6:1-6
Lesson: Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 143:1-2, 5-8

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Mark 6:7-13
Lesson: Amos 7:10-15
Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 2:13-22
Gospel: Mark 6:30-34
Lesson: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 23

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16
Gospel: John 6:1-15
Lesson: Exodus 24:3-11
Psalm: Psalm 145

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 4:17-24
Gospel: John 6:24-35
Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm: Psalm 78:23-29

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 4:30-5:2
Gospel: John 6:41-51
Lesson: 1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm: Psalm 34:1-8

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 5:15-20
Gospel: John 6:51-58
Lesson: Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 34:9-14

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 5:21-31
 Gospel: John 6:60-69
 Lesson: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
 Psalm: Psalm 34:15-22

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20
 Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
 Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
 Psalm: Psalm 15

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: James 1:17-22 (23-25) 26-27
 Gospel: Mark 7:31-37
 Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a
 Psalm: Psalm 146

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18
 Gospel: Mark 8:27-35
 Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-10
 Psalm: Psalm 116:1-8

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: James 3:16-4:6
 Gospel: Mark 9:30-37
 Lesson: Jeremiah 11:18-20
 Psalm: Psalm 54:1-4, 6-7a

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: James 4:7-12 (13-5:6)
 Gospel: Mark 9:38-50
 Lesson: Numbers 11:4-6, 9-16, 24-29
 Psalm: Psalm 135:1-7, 13-14

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 2:9-11 (12-28)
 Gospel: Mark 10:2-16
 Lesson: Genesis 2:18-24
 Psalm: Psalm 128

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6
 Gospel: Mark 10:17-27 (28-30)
 Lesson: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
 Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 4:9-16
 Gospel: Mark 10:35-45
 Lesson: Isaiah 53:10-12
 Psalm: Psalm 91:9-16

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10
 Gospel: Mark 10:46-52
 Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-9
 Psalm: Psalm 126

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 7:23-28
 Gospel: Mark 12:28-34 (35-37)
 Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:1-9
 Psalm: Psalm 119:1-16

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28
 Gospel: Mark 12:41-44
 Lesson: 1 Kings 17:8-16
 Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-18
 Gospel: Mark 13:1-13
 Lesson: Daniel 12:1-3
 Psalm: Psalm 16

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 13:20-21
 Gospel: Mark 13:24-31
 Lesson: Daniel 7:9-10
 Psalm: Psalm 111

Christ the King**Last Sunday After Pentecost**

Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel: John 18:33-37

Lesson: Daniel 7:13-14

Psalm: Psalm 93

Reformation Day

Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mission Festival

Epistle: Romans 10:11-17

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-7

Harvest Festival

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Thanksgiving Day

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Pericope Texts Prepared by the Inter Lutheran Commission on Worship
Pericope Texts
Series C

First Sunday in Advent

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Gospel: Luke 21:25-36 or
Luke 19:28-40
Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Second Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6
Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm: Psalm 126

Third Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7 (8-9)
Gospel: Luke 3:7-18
Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Lesson: Micah 5:2-4
Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7

Christmas Day

The Nativity of Our Lord

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:1-20
Lesson: Isaiah 62:10-12
Psalm: Psalm 98

First Sunday After Christmas

Epistle: Hebrews 2:10-18
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52
Lesson: Jeremiah 31:10-13
Psalm: Psalm 111

Second Sunday After Christmas

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18
Gospel: John 1:1-18
Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:2-12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 72

The Baptism of Our Lord

First Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 45:7-9

Second Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11
Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 26-27
Gospel: Luke 4:14-21
Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 113

Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13
Gospel: Luke 4:21-32
Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20
 Gospel: Luke 5:1-11
 Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
 Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
 Gospel: Luke 6:17-26
 Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-8
 Psalm: Psalm 1

Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38a, 42-50
 Gospel: Luke 6:27-38
 Lesson: Genesis 45:3-8a, 15
 Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

Eighth Sunday After The Epiphany

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
 Gospel: Luke 6:39-49
 Lesson: Jeremiah 7:1-7 (8-15)
 Psalm: Psalm 92

The Transfiguration of Our Lord**Last Sunday After The Epiphany**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 Gospel: Luke 9:28-36
 Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
 Psalm: Psalm 99:1-5

Ash Wednesday

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2
 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Lesson: Joel 2:12-19
 Psalm: Psalm 51:1-13

First Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13
 Gospel: Luke 4:1-13
 Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:5-10
 Psalm: Psalm 91

Second Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Gospel: Luke 13:31-35
 Lesson: Jeremiah 26:8-15
 Psalm: Psalm 42:1-7, 11-15

Third Sunday in Lent

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Gospel: Luke 13:1-9
 Lesson: Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15
 Psalm: Psalm 126

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 or
 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25
 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
 Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 32

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Epistle: Philippians 3:8-14
 Gospel: Luke 20:9-19
 Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm: Psalm 28:1-3, 7-11

Sunday of The Passion**Palm Sunday**

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
 Gospel: Luke 22:1-23:56 or
 Luke 23:1-49
 Lesson: Deuteronomy 32:36-39
 Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16

Monday in Holy Week

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15
 Gospel: John 12:1-11
 Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Tuesday in Holy Week

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 Gospel: John 12:20-36
 Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 71:1-12

Wednesday in Holy Week

Epistle: Romans 5:6-11
 Gospel: Matthew 26:14-25
 Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm: Psalm 70:1-2, 4-6

Maundy Thursday

Epistle: Hebrews 10:15-39
 Gospel: Luke 22:7-20
 Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm: Psalm 116:10-17

Good Friday

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
 Gospel: John 18:1-19:42 or
 John 19:17-30
 Lesson: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 or
 Hosea 6:1-6
 Psalm: Psalm 22:1-23

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Day**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Gospel: Luke 24:1-11 or
 John 20:1-9 (10-18)
 Lesson: Exodus 15:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 15-24

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Evening**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
 Gospel: Luke 24:13-49
 Lesson: Daniel 12:1c-3 or Jonah 2:2-9
 Psalm: Psalm 150

Second Sunday of Easter

Epistle: Revelation 1:4-18
 Gospel: John 20:19-31
 Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm: Psalm 149

Third Sunday of Easter

Epistle: Revelation 5:11-14
 Gospel: John 21:1-14
 Lesson: Acts 9:1-20
 Psalm: Psalm 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: Revelation 7:9-17
 Gospel: John 10:22-30
 Lesson: Acts 13:15-16a, 26-33
 Psalm: Psalm 23

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: Revelation 21:1-5
 Gospel: John 13:31-35
 Lesson: Acts 13:44-52
 Psalm: Psalm 145:1-13

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
 Gospel: John 14:23-29
 Lesson: Acts 14:8-18
 Psalm: Psalm 67

The Ascension of Our Lord

Epistle: Ephesians 1:16-23
 Gospel: Luke 24:44-53
 Lesson: Acts 1:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 110

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Epistle: Revelation 22:12-17, 20
 Gospel: John 17:20-26
 Lesson: Acts 16:6-10
 Psalm: Psalm 47

Vigil of Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17, 22-27
 Gospel: John 7:37-39a
 Lesson: Exodus 19:1-9 or Acts 2:1-11
 Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22 or Psalm 130

The Day of Pentecost

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-11

Lesson: Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 104:25-34

The Holy Trinity**First Sunday After Pentecost**

Epistle: Romans 5:1-5

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:3
or Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Psalm: Psalm 8

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 1:1-10

Gospel: Luke 7:1-10

Lesson: 1 Kings 8:(22-23, 27-30) 41-43

Psalm: Psalm 117

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-24

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

Lesson: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Psalm: Psalm 30

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 2:11-21

Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15

Psalm: Psalm 32

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

Gospel: Luke 9:18-24

Lesson: Zechariah 12:7-10

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

Lesson: 1 Kings 19:14-21

Psalm: Psalm 16

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Galatians 6:1-10, 14-16

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 16 (17-20)

Lesson: Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm: Psalm 66:1-11, 14-18

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Colossians 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Colossians 1:21-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Lesson: Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14)

Psalm: Psalm 15

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Colossians 2:6-15

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Lesson: Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm: Psalm 138

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-26

Psalm: Psalm 49:1-11

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Lesson: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 33

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-13

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Lesson: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm: Psalm 82

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 12:18-24
Gospel: Luke 13:22-30
Lesson: Isaiah 66:18-23
Psalm: Psalm 117

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-8
Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14
Lesson: Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm: Psalm 112

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Philemon 1(2-9)10-21
Gospel: Luke 14:25-33
Lesson: Proverbs 9:8-12
Psalm: Psalm 10:12-15, 17-19

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel: Luke 15:1-10
Lesson: Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm: Psalm 51:1-18

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-8
Gospel: Luke 16:1-13
Lesson: Amos 8:4-7
Psalm: Psalm 113

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:6-16
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31
Lesson: Amos 6:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 146

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:3-14
Gospel: Luke 17:1-10
Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4
Psalm: Psalm 95:6-11

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:8-13
Gospel: Luke 17:11-19
Lesson: Ruth 1:1-19a
Psalm: Psalm 111

**Twenty-Second Sunday
After Pentecost**

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Gospel: Luke 18:1-8a
Lesson: Genesis 32:22-30
Psalm: Psalm 121

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Gospel: Luke 18:9-14
Lesson: Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Psalm: Psalm 34

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday
After Pentecost**

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10
Lesson: Exodus 34:5-9
Psalm: Psalm 145

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Gospel: Luke 20:27-38
Lesson: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13
Psalm: Psalm 148

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19
Lesson: Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm: Psalm 98

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday
After Pentecost**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Gospel: Luke 19:11-27
Lesson: Isaiah 52:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 68:1-4

Christ The King**Last Sunday After Pentecost**

Epistle: Colossians 1:13-20

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Lesson: Jeremiah 23:2-6

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

Reformation Day

Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mission Festival

Epistle: Romans 10:11-17

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-7

Harvest Festival

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Thanksgiving Day

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-10