

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Authorized Rite for the

INSTALLATION OF A BISHOP

The Hymn of the Day is sung.

The Creed may be spoken.

INSTALLATION

The secretary presents the bishop-elect to the presiding minister:

I present *name*, who has been elected and called by the Church,
for installation into the office of bishop of _____.

The assembly is seated. The secretary steps aside.

The presiding minister addresses the bishop-elect:

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;

if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20:21-23)

And again:

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

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

Hear also the words of the apostles:

“Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock,

of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,

to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.” (Acts 20:28)

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him,

a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

“Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me,

in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.”

(2 Tim. 1:13-14)

The presiding minister questions the bishop-elect:

To you is being given the care of the pastors and congregations of this *church/synod*.

I ask you in the presence of God and of this assembly:

will you assume the office of bishop of _____ ?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be faithful in your office?

Will you discharge your duties in accordance with the Holy Scriptures

and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church,

and in harmony with the constitution of this *church/synod*?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and in your use of the means of grace?

Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments,

and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

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

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you guide, encourage, and support the ministers and the congregations
of this *church/synod* in their ministries?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

And you, people of God, representatives of this *church/synod*,

will you receive *her/him* as a servant of God and a shepherd in Christ's Church?

We will.

Will you pray for *her/him*, help and honor *her/him* for *her/his* work's sake,

and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will.

The bishop-elect may kneel.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of the bishop-elect.

Following a time of silent prayer the presiding minister continues:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

it is your Spirit that sustains the Church.

By the power of the Spirit
you call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole Church.
Pour out your Spirit upon *name*
to empower and enlighten *her/his* ministry as a bishop in your Church.
Sustain *her/him* as a shepherd who tends the flock of Christ with love and gentleness,
and oversees the ministries of the church with vision and wisdom.
Uphold *her/him* as a faithful steward of your holy Word and life giving sacraments
and a strong sign of reconciliation among all people.
Give courage and fortitude to sustain *her/him* in this ministry.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
through whom glory and power and honor are yours
in your holy Church now and forever.
Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the bishop-elect:

The office of bishop is now committed to you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The newly installed bishop may remain kneeling for the blessing.

The presiding minister may lay her/his right hand on the head of the newly installed bishop.

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in you that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The newly installed bishop may remain kneeling or stand for the prayers.

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world—

for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;

for the newly installed bishop, the unity of the Church, all ministries in the Church,

all Christians in their vocation, the Church, and the communities it serves.

for the well-being of creation;

for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority,

the community and those who govern;

for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;

for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;

for the assembly, and for special concerns.

Additional prayers may come from the assembly.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include those who recently have died and those commemorated on the church's calendar.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these or similar words.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

OR

Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

OR

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great

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

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

Amen.

The newly installed bishop may kneel, as the presiding minister continues:

Remember to rekindle the gift of God that is within you.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control. Amen.

When a pectoral cross is given, the presiding minister places it around the new bishop's neck and says:

Receive this cross and wear it as a sign of your calling to serve Christ and his people,
and as an emblem of the office to which you have been elected.

The newly installed bishop stands and the presiding minister presents her/him to the people.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

PEACE

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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

All return to their places. The assembly is seated.

The service continues with the offering.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

- > This service is the approved rite of this church for the installation of a bishop.
- > Set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Sermon. The Creed may be said between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.
- > At the installation of a synodical bishop, the presiding minister is normally the presiding bishop. At the installation of a presiding bishop, the presiding minister is the retiring presiding bishop or, where that is not possible, another bishop designated by the church.
- > The secretary of the church presents a presiding bishop-elect. The secretary of the synod presents a synodical bishop-elect.
- > The full name of the bishop-elect is used in the initial presentation. At other places in the rite only the Christian name is used.
- > Three bishops in historic succession (the presiding bishop and two others) join in the laying on of hands in conformity with the canons of the Council of Nicaea. Other bishops and representatives of churches with which a relationship of full communion has been established with this church join in the laying on of hands. The laying on of hands may happen in different ways:
 1. After the presiding minister lays on hands and keeps a time of silence, all may lay hands simultaneously as the presiding minister speaks the prayer.
 2. All may lay hands in silence, either one at a time or simultaneously, followed by the prayer spoken by the presiding minister as *she/he* alone lays on hands. If the laying on of hands is done one at a time, it is important that silent prayer is kept.
- > The laying on of hands and its accompanying prayer is not repeated for a person who is currently serving as a bishop. When a bishop is called to a new ministry, the following prayer is used without the laying on of hands:

Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain your bishop *name*,
that with patience and understanding *she/he* may follow Jesus Christ
in this new ministry as *presiding bishop/bishop of the (name) synod*.
Pour out your grace, that *she/he* may love and care for your people and teach the faith;
grant that together they may follow Jesus, offering to you their gifts and talents;
through Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

- > The pectoral cross is the one symbol of the office of bishop that we hold in common throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Normally, the same cross that was worn by the outgoing bishop is presented to the newly elected bishop as part of the rite of installation.

In some synods, additional symbols associated with the ministry of oversight are presented at the time of installation. These additional presentations often reflect the piety and longstanding practice in the synod.

When a crozier (bishop's staff) is given to mark the shepherding aspect of the bishop's ministry, the minister may say:

Receive this staff as a sign of your pastoral office: keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you to shepherd in the Church of God.

PROPERs

- > When the installation is set within a service apart from the chief service of a local congregation, the proper s listed below are always used.
- > When the installation is set within the chief service of the congregation on a Sunday for which the color is green, the proper s listed below are always used.
- > When the installation is set within the chief service of the congregation on another Sunday or festival, the proper s for that Sunday or festival may be used. The Prayer of the Day for installation is said following the Prayer of the Day appointed for the Sunday or festival.
- > It is not desirable to schedule this service during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ
you gave the holy apostles many gifts
and commanded them to feed your flock.
Inspire all pastors to proclaim your Word diligently
and your people to receive it willingly,
that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Psalms and Psalm Antiphons

Psalm 16
Psalm 84
Psalm 91
Psalm 99
Psalm 103
Psalm 113
Psalm 121
Psalm 122

I love you, O Lord my strength. (Ps. 18:1a)

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of Hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh rejoice in the longing for the courts of the lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. (Ps. 84:1)

Or an appropriate phrase or verse from the selected psalm may be used.

Readings

Exodus 3:13-15

Numbers 6:22-27

Isaiah 40:6-11

Isaiah 42:5-9

Isaiah 52:7-10

Jeremiah 23:1-5

Jeremiah 23:25-28a

Acts 20:28-35

Romans 10:13-17

Romans 12:4-8

2 Corinthians 4:1-7 (8-12)

1 Timothy 4:14-16

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 Peter 5:2-4

Matthew 9:1-8

Mark 4:1-9

Mark 10:42-45

Luke 10:1-12, 16-20

John 10:7-18

John 13:(3-11) 12-17, 20

John 21:15-19

Hymn of the Day

“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,” ELW 395

“Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove,” ELW 577 or 578

“Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray,” ELW 743

Gospel Acclamation Verse

The verse for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; The Conversion of St. Paul; St. Bartholomew, Apostle; Holy Cross Day; St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist; or Reformation Day may be used. Or, during Lent the Verse may be Matthew 28:19-20 or Luke 4:18-19.

Preface: Apostles

Color: Red