



Consecration of Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers (with Installation at Consecration)

Approved for use by Church Council after June 1, 2009

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

The ministry of diakonia has New Testament roots: Stephen, Philip, and five others oversee the distribution of food within the church in Jerusalem; Phoebe and Priscilla are identified with diakonia in Paul's letters. Although this ministry has taken different forms throughout the church's history, its emphasis has been this: Those called to the diaconate speak God's word to God's world, and in turn they speak also for the needs of the God's world to the church; they give leadership in the church's mission to witness to God's love through both words and actions. In the Consecration service, those who have accepted the church's call to the diaconate are consecrated and sent into this ministry.

Consecration of Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers is properly set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and the hymn of the day. If used, the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the consecration rite.

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

Presentation

The assembly stands. Candidate/s for consecration gather with presenters and participating ministers before the assembly.

Each candidate for consecration is presented to the presiding minister and to the assembly.

I present for consecration as a *deaconess / diaconal minister* full name,
who has been prepared, examined, and approved for this ministry
and who has been called by the church to this ministry through name of calling body.

Thanks be to God.

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

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the candidate/s.

All baptized Christians are called to share
in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world,
to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.
You have been called as a *deaconess / a diaconal minister*
to give leadership in the church's mission to proclaim the gospel through word and deed.
You are now to be entrusted with this ministry by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

One or more of the following scripture passages are addressed to the candidate/s.

A reading from Luke: Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

A reading from First Corinthians: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

A reading from Second Corinthians: The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

The presiding minister questions the candidate/s.

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

Will you accept this ministry, believing that you are called by God
to faithful service as *a deaconess / a diaconal minister*?

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

The church in which you are to be consecrated
confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of its faith and life.
We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds.

We also acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions
as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

Will you therefore serve in accordance with the Holy Scriptures
and these creeds and confessions?

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

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

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

Will you witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed,
pray for God's people,
and by your own example encourage them in faithful service and holy living?

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

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

The assembly responds: **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The assembly stands for the prayers of intercession.

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

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

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

For the holy catholic church,
that, filled with your love,
it may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness:
God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all members of the church,
that they may serve you in true and godly lives:
God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For name/s, called to be a *deaconess* / a *diaconal minister* in the church,
that, sustained by your Holy Spirit,
she/he/they may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of bold trust,
serve your people and the world in need, and glorify your name:
God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

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

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

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

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer;
for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected:
God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be included.

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

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

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

Hymn of Invocation

The candidate/s may kneel. "Lord, whose love in humble service," hymn 712, "Creator Spirit, heavenly dove," hymn 577 or 578, or another appropriate hymn may be sung.

Thanksgiving

The presiding minister leads the assembly in giving thanks.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
we thank you for sending your Son,
Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who proclaimed your kingdom
in words and in deeds of service to the poor and the suffering;
who humbled himself, taking on the form of a servant;
and who showed us that the one wishing to be great
must be servant of all.
We praise you for the many ministries in your church,
and especially this day for calling women and men to the diaconate,
to equip your people for their work of ministry
and to serve a world in need.

The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of each candidate.

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

Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon name.
Consecrate *her/him* to ministry
as a *deaconess / diaconal minister* in your church,
and empower *her/his* service.
Bless *her/him* in *her/his* serving,
that *she/he* may faithfully carry out the ministry entrusted to *her/him*.
Let *her/his* life and teaching so reflect your grace
that many may come to know you and love you
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Giving of a Symbol of Ministry

The candidate/s stand. A towel and basin may be given to each as the following is said.

Receive this towel and basin as a sign that you are to serve as Christ served, humbling himself and taking the form of a servant. Remember the words of Jesus: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example; that you should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:14-17)

When a deaconess is consecrated, a cross may be given to the deaconess as the following is said.

Receive and wear this cross as a sign of your calling to serve Christ and his people.
Confess your faith in the risen Christ,
and bear in your heart the love of Christ who died on the cross for you.

Charge

The presiding minister addresses the candidate/s.

Name/s, serve the needy, care for the sick, comfort the distressed,
and, through words and actions, witness faithfully to God's love for all people.
Cross every barrier that stands between the church and its ministry in the world.
Seek out those places where the gospel of Jesus Christ meets the world's need.
Empower, equip, and support all the baptized in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
Lead us all in proclaiming the gospel in witness and service.
And be of good courage, for God has called you,
and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Blessing

The presiding minister continues.

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

Amen.

OR, when a deaconess is consecrated, the presiding minister may say this blessing.

Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, creator of man and woman: You anointed with the Spirit Miriam and Deborah and Hannah and Huldah; you chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of your only Son; and you set apart women for service in your temple. Bless this your servant, who has been consecrated to the ministry of the diaconate. Protect her, and grant that in singleness of purpose and with a willing mind she may accomplish the service committed to her to the praise of Christ, to whom be glory with you and the Holy Spirit both now and forever.

The assembly stands.

Acclamation by the Assembly

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

Will you, assembled as the people of God, receive name/s as a consecrated *deaconess / diaconal minister*, sent by God to serve all people in Christ's name?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for *her/him/them*, help and honor *her/him/them* for *her/his/their* work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister presents each of the newly consecrated to the assembly.

Let it be acclaimed that name is consecrated a *deaconess / diaconal minister*, called to serve among God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

After all the newly consecrated have been presented, the assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

Peace

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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

All return to their places. The assembly is seated.

The service continues with the offering.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

When scheduling a consecration service, the rhythms and emphases of the church year should be taken into account. For example, because of their solemn character, the days from the Sunday of the Passion through Easter Day are best avoided as days for such a service.

Other days on the church's calendar lend themselves well to the consecration of deaconesses or diaconal ministers. Commemorations such as the following may be suitable: January 2 (Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe); January 27 (Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe), February 25 (Elizabeth Fedde), April 29 (Catherine of Siena), August 10 (Lawrence), August 13 (Florence Nightingale and Clara Maass), October 4 (Theodor Fliedner), December 26 (Stephen, deacon and martyr).

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

The bishop of the synod in which candidate/s have accepted calls normally presides at the consecration of the candidate/s. If unable to be present, the bishop authorizes another bishop or ordained minister of this church to preside. It is desirable that one person preside during the entire service. If the service takes place in a congregation, circumstances may suggest that the congregation's pastor preside at the meal of holy communion.

As a sign of the community of deaconesses and diaconal ministers, effort should be made to include other consecrated ministers in leadership roles within the service. Assisting minister roles in the liturgy are the most appropriate place to do this.

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

Preparation

The candidate/s is appropriately vested in an alb, a symbol of being clothed with Christ in baptism. Or, a candidate may wear the dress associated with her/his area of specialized service. A deaconess candidate may be presented in the approved garb of the deaconess community. Until presented, the candidate/s may be seated with the congregation.

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

Presentation

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

When a candidate is to be a diaconal minister, the presenter is chosen from among those who exercise leadership in the training or candidacy process. When a candidate is to be a deaconess, the head of the deaconess community or her designee is the presenter. When there are several candidates, each candidate may have a presenter. At a synod assembly, the secretary of the synod may present all candidates.

The words of presentation may be altered to fit the circumstances of the authorization and the call.

Address and Questions

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

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

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

Thanksgiving

The assembly may be seated if there is a large number of candidates or if the circumstances otherwise suggest.

The presiding minister lays both hands on the candidate's head. To make this possible, an assisting minister holds printed service materials for the presiding minister.

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

Giving of a Symbol of Ministry

When several persons are consecrated at the same service, their respective presenters may have with them a towel and basin and may give these items during the address. Alternatively, the presiding minister or another minister may give the towel and basin.

When a cross is given to one who is consecrated a deaconess, it is normally presented by the head of the deaconess community or her designee. A scripture verse may be selected for the deaconess and may be read following the giving of the cross.

Other symbols of the ministry of the diaconate may be given, such as a distinctive pin; a Bible. A vessel containing oil, such as an oil stock, may be appropriate when the ministry to which the person is called involves chaplaincy or congregational ministry to the sick. The following may be said as the item is given:

Receive this _____ as a sign of your calling to the ministry of the diaconate.

Because deaconesses and diaconal ministers are not ordained, the presentation or use of a stole (even when worn over the shoulder) by consecrated ministers is not appropriate.

Acclamation

After the assembly acclaims the candidates by responding to the two questions, the declaration beginning "Let it be acclaimed that *name* is consecrated . . ." is repeated for each candidate. After all the newly consecrated have been presented, the assembly may conclude the acclamation with applause.

Peace

The presiding minister begins the greeting of peace. As the service continues, the newly consecrated may serve as a communion minister.

PROPERS

When consecration is set within the primary service of the congregation on a Sunday or festival, the propers for that Sunday or festival are normally used. The prayer of the day for consecration may be said following the prayer of the day appointed for the Sunday or festival.

When consecration is scheduled as a part of a special service, apart from the primary service of the congregation, propers may be selected from those listed below.

Prayer of the Day

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

Readings and Psalms

Ruth 1:1-19a
Isaiah 43:8-13
Amos 5:14-15, 24
Micah 6:6-8
Habakkuk 2:1-4

Psalm 20
Psalm 40:1-11
Psalm 67
Psalm 84

Acts 6:2-7
Romans 12:1-18
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
1 Corinthians 12:4-13
1 Corinthians 13:1-7
2 Corinthians 4:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:14-20
Galatians 5:14, 22-25
Ephesians 4:1-16
Philippians 2:5-13
Hebrews 6:10-12
1 Peter 4:8-11

Matthew 5:1-6
Matthew 20:20-28
Matthew 25:31-40
Luke 12:35-38
Luke 12:24-30
John 13:12-17
John 15:1-8

Gospel Acclamation

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

Or, during Lent:

May I never boast of ¹ anything *
except the cross of our Lord ¹ Jesus Christ. (Gal. 6:14)

Other gospel acclamation texts that may be used:

John, Apostle and Evangelist; Conversion of Paul; Holy Cross Day; Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist; Reformation Day; Lent 3, year B; Lent 5, year C.

Hymn of the Day

358	Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
401	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
551	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
576	We All Are One in Mission
577, 578	Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove
708	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
743	Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray
878	Soli Deo Gloria

Preface: Apostles

Prayer after Communion

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

Color: of the season or of the day

INSTALLATION AT CONSECRATION

In circumstances where a candidate is consecrated and installed at the same service, the following is inserted in the order for Consecration prior to the greeting of peace. See the notes on the service for the Installation of a Deaconess or Diaconal Minister for additional helps with this section.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Having been authorized by the church to install full name,
our co-worker in the gospel, as position,
I now ask for certification of this call.

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation,
we, of name of calling/employing body,
have called full name
to serve as a *deaconess / diaconal minister*
in the position of position.
I present *her/him* and this letter certifying the call.

The representative gives the presiding minister the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted.

The presiding minister questions the deaconess / diaconal minister.

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

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

Will you carry out this ministry
in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in *America*?

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

The presiding minister addresses the deaconess / diaconal minister.

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

Amen.

The service continues with the greeting of peace.