



Installation of a Deaconess or Diaconal Minister

Approved for use by Church Council after June 1, 2009

Installation is appropriately set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and hymn of the day. If used, the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the installation rite.

This order is appropriate for installing a deaconess / diaconal minister who has been previously consecrated. The bishop of the synod in which the person is called to serve, or an ordained minister designated by the bishop, presides at the installation of a deaconess or diaconal minister.

Presentation

The assembly stands. The deaconess / diaconal minister to be installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

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

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation,
we, of name of calling/employing body,
have called full name
to serve as a *deaconess / diaconal minister*
in the position of position.

I present *her/him* and this letter certifying the call.

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

The presenter moves aside, and the assembly is seated.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the one being installed.

Our Lord, who came among us as a servant,
calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor.
You come among us as one consecrated to the diaconate,
a gift from God to inspire us to love and service to Christ.

A reading from Mark: Jesus said, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45)

A reading from Romans: As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:4-8)

A reading from First Peter: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of us has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 4:9-11)

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,
in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

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

Will you carry out this ministry
in accordance with the Holy Scriptures
and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church
and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: 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?

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

Trusting in God's care,
will you witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed,
pray for God's people,
seek to grow in love for those you serve,
strive for excellence in your skills,
and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Response: 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.

The assembly stands.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, will you receive name into this ministry
as one called and sent to serve all people in Christ's name?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

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

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister addresses the 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.

Prayer

The newly installed deaconess / diaconal minister may kneel. The presiding minister prays one or more of the following prayers, as appropriate to the form of service in which the person will serve, or another appropriate prayer.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

GENERAL

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called name to this ministry. Grant *her/him* joy and a spirit of bold trust, that *her/his* work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LEADERSHIP IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OR YOUTH MINISTRY

Almighty and ever-living God, as you called apostles and evangelists, pastors and teachers to instruct, comfort, admonish, and care for us, so you have called name. Fill *her/him* with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that *she/he* may with gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

TEACHING

O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your church. By your Holy Spirit you have called name to the ministry of witness and service in teaching. Give *her/him* and all teachers insight into your word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth in the every circumstance; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

EVANGELIZATION

O God, you sent our Savior Jesus to call all people to faith. First to the house of Israel and then to all the world, your word was preached and your love proclaimed in deed. Strengthen and bless name in the ministry of witness and service, that *she/he* may boldly proclaim the good news of salvation and reconciliation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHURCH MUSIC AND THE ARTS

O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Strengthen and bless your servant name, who, through your gift of *music / the arts*, seeks to enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ADMINISTRATION

O God, we remember with thanksgiving the orderliness of your creation and preservation of life. Bless and accept the ministry of *name* in the stewardship of the resources entrusted to your church: its people and their talents, its wisdom and energy from your Spirit, and its wealth from your goodness. Remind us that we are accountable to you in all things great and small; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HEALTH CARE

Merciful God, as your beloved Son brought health and strength to the sick and afflicted, so you have called *name* to offer aid to the suffering. Make *her/him* wise in using knowledge and skill, diligent in ministering to those in need, and compassionate in all service. In the midst of suffering and death make *her/him* a faithful witness to the hope of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

COUNSELING

O God, you sent our Savior Jesus to care for the troubled and to bind up the broken-hearted. Christ's healing touch was a sign of your presence with your people and a beacon of the heavenly realm to come. Strengthen and bless the ministry and counsel of *name*, who speaks the word of consolation to the troubled and guides the restless spirit to find peace in Christ; in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Blessing

Addressing the newly installed, the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, guide, bless, and keep you,
that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called and consecrated.
Amen.

The deaconess / diaconal minister stands. The presenter or another representative of the ministry where the newly installed will serve may present her/him with a symbol of the ministry to be exercised.

The presiding minister and a representative of the calling or employing body welcome the deaconess / diaconal minister

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for the newly installed deaconess / diaconal minister, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

When scheduling an installation 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.

A congregation that has more than one primary weekly service may consider combining its services for the installation. Otherwise, installation may take place at only one of the services, and an appropriate announcement may be made at the other services.

Neighboring congregations and ministers, especially those serving in the ministry of the diaconate, may be invited to participate in the service.

The deaconess / diaconal minister may be vested in an alb, a symbol of being clothed with Christ in baptism. Dress associated with the form of service, or, for deaconesses, the authorized garb of the deaconess community, is appropriate. Until presented, the one being installed may be seated with the assembly.

The complete name of the deaconess / diaconal minister is used at the presentation. At other places in the service, the first or given name/s (without surname/s) is appropriate.

Presentation

A description of "position" may include not only title, but also the name of the congregation, institution, or agency to which the person has been called.

The letter which the representative presents is not the letter of call. It is certification of the acceptance of the call by the deaconess or diaconal minister.

Blessing

The presiding minister may lay one hand on the head of the deaconess / diaconal minister while saying the blessing.

If a symbol of ministry is presented, it appropriately reflects the form of service that will be a primary responsibility of the deaconess / diaconal minister. For example, a Bible may be given to one who will teach; the church's worship book to a church musician; the church's pastoral care book to one who will serve in a ministry of care, and so forth.

After the peace, the newly installed deaconess / diaconal minister may assume the assisting minister's role in the liturgy. The assisting minister's responsibility recalls the role that the deacon historically carried out in the liturgy. The assisting minister may receive the offering, set the table, lead the offering prayer, serve as a communion minister, and lead the prayer after communion and the dismissal.

PROPERS

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

When installation 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

Isaiah 43:8-13
Jeremiah 1:4-9
Amos 5:14-15, 24
Micah 6:6-8

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 5:1-10
1 Peter 4:8-11

Matthew 5:1-6
Matthew 20:20-28
Matthew 25:31-40
Luke 12:35-38
Luke 22:24-30
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
579	Lord, You Give the Great Commission
708	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
712	Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
743	Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray
878	Soli Deo Gloria

Preface: Apostles

Color: of the season or of the day