

# **ALTAR BOOK**

*of the*

*Apostolic Lutheran Church  
of America*

**First Printing**

**1969**

**Second Printing**

**1998**



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## THE DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

*The Service will begin with the singing  
of a devotional song or hymn.*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Let us all pray:

Our dear heavenly Father, we give praise and thanks unto Thee, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for all Thy goodness and mercy, that Thou hast permitted us to rest under the shadow of Thy wings. Grant that we this day and always may be so awakened and watchful in faith that we will not desire to live but only in Thee, and that, as long as life shall last, we may live solely in faith in Thy Son, that He may be our light and our life. To this end we commend ourselves anew to Thee, that Thou wouldst cleanse and reign over us. Grant us that He may bring forth the fruits of faith within us, — love, hope, humility, meekness, and patience. Teach us that we may desire nothing but Thy love; no gain but the riches of Thy grace; no honor but that of being Thy child. May we take no worry for temporal things, for

Thou wilt not leave us nor forget us. Bless Thou the labor of our hands and deliver us from all sin, danger, and harm.

Spread the wings of Thy mercy over all men and rescue each one from destruction. Let Thy protecting hand be over our nation, and grant us faithful rulers to do Thy will in Thy fear. Grant unto Thy Church faithful laborers who shall declare Thy truth and shall live according to Thy will. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful. Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death, and strengthen them who are suffering for the sake of Christ's Name. Especially do we commend to Thy care and keeping all Thy children.

Keep from us all offenses, and bind us together in the unity of Thy holy love. And, when our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world; and, on the last day, a resurrection to Thy glory forever, Amen.

*Or:*

Almighty God, Who knowest us to be set in the midst of darkness of this world and of so many great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection that may support and guard us in all dan-

gers, and carry us through all temptations. Reveal unto us the glory of Thy Son and let the light of Thy gospel shine upon us. We pray Thee, guide us by this light that we may walk diligently as Christians in all good works, ever be strengthened by Thy grace, and so conduct our lives in all godliness and humility to Thy glory, honor, and praise. Heavenly Father, we thank Thee, that Thou hast revealed Thyself in Thy only-begotten Son, and hast sent Thy witnesses with Thy blessed Word, whereby Thou hast called us into Thy kingdom. We beseech Thee that Thou wouldst open our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit that we may not resist Thy gospel, but believe in Thy only-begotten Son, take up His cross and magnify the Name of Him Who, by His suffering and death, became our Saviour from sin and eternal death, paying the penalty in our stead. We beseech Thee so to enlighten, direct, and lead us by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may ever remain faithful to Him, our King and Saviour, and never be offended by His humble form and despised Word, but firmly believe in Him and obtain eternal salvation through Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer: (This may be omitted when Communion is to be served and the Apostles' Creed is used instead.)*

Our Father Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

*Sermon:*

*Evening Prayer:*

We praise and thank Thee, our heavenly Father, that Thou hast caused Thy light to shine upon us this day and granted us such abundant blessing both of body and soul. Preserve Thou in our hearts what the Holy Spirit hath implanted in us by Thy Word, that we may bear fruit in patience unto eternal life. Forgive us everything in which we have not obeyed Thy divine will. Permit not the adversary to sift us this night nor deprive us of the good that Thou this day hast permitted us to experience and to learn.

Be Thou our light in the darkness, our strength in all our weakness, our protection, life, and salvation. We flee to Thy tender bosom, Lord Jesus, the only Saviour of our soul. Let Thy will ever grow and become strong within us. Let us, even when we sleep, be pleasing in Thy sight. Remind us constantly of the Word which we have heard today, that all our minds and our thoughts may be directed toward Thee, Who art and ever shall be our only peace by day and by night, our only salvation in life and in death. This grant us, dear heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

*Prayer after the sermon:*

Almighty and gracious God! Grant us Thy holy grace, that by Thy Word we may grow day by day in

knowledge of Thee, and learn to serve Thee in true faith and obedience, shunning both sin and error. Sanctify, O Holy Spirit, Thy congregation; strengthen and keep it in power; grant that it may ever prosper, so that it may serve, honor, thank, and praise Thee, — here in true fear, and hereafter in eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prepare, O God, Holy Spirit, a dwelling place in all our hearts; guard us from all that would separate us from the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and as we each day draw nearer to our timely death, help us so to avail ourselves of this precious time of grace, that we may finally reach the eternal kingdom of glory in heaven, where we with all Thy saints may fulfill our thanks to Thee. Amen.

*Benediction:*

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

Let us pray with and for them who now will partake of the Lord's Holy Supper:

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Bread of Life! Grant that Thy Holy Communion may be a blessing to all those who today shall partake of it, that through the power of Thy Body and Blood, they may receive peace and comfort to their souls and be strengthened in faith, love, and a lively hope of eternal life. Amen.

Truly it is meet, right, and blessed that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, on the same night in which He was betrayed, took Bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also, He took the Cup. When He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this Cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the Highest!

Let us all pray as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us, saying:

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with thee!

*The administration shall begin while the congregation sings*

‘O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace and Thy blessing.’

*The minister shall first administer the Bread, by saying:*

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve thy body and soul unto eternal life. Amen.

*Then he shall administer the Cup, by saying:*

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve thy body and soul unto eternal life. Amen.

*Or, administering the Bread:*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ given for thee.

*Or, administering the Cup:*

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ shed for thee.

*Or, administering the Bread:*

May this, the true Body of Christ, which was delivered unto death for thee and for all thy sins, strengthen and preserve thee in true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

*Or, administering the Cup:*

May this, the true Blood of Christ, which was shed for the remission of thy sins, strengthen and preserve thee in true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

*In dismissing the Communicants, the minister shall say:*

May the Body and the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ preserve your bodies and souls unto eternal life. Amen.

Praise the Lord for His gracious gift, of which you have partaken, and proclaim His death until He cometh again.

Arise, and depart in the Lord!

Let us give thanks and pray:

O Lord, Almighty God! Thou, Who allowed us to partake of Thy Holy Sacrament; We thank Thee for Thy grace, and pray: Grant that we also, with all Thy chosen saints, may share Thy eternal honor and glory, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, in one Godhead, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

*Or:*

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou, Who hast called us to Thy Holy Supper, We heartily thank Thee, that Thou hast nourished us with Thy Body and Blood, and refreshed us with Thy grace and goodness. Lord Jesus, abide with us! Into Thy hands we commend ourselves, desiring to be Thine own forever. Amen.

*Or:*

We thank Thee, O Lord, Almighty God, that Thou hast refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech Thee, that Thou of Thy mercy wouldst strengthen us through this communion in faith toward Thee and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Humble your hearts before God and receive the Benediction:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The service ends with a hymn.*

## BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Amen.

Dear friends:

The Word of God teaches us that all mankind, by the fall of Adam, came under the power of sin, death, and the devil, but our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us with His precious blood and atoning death. Therefore, in obedience to His commandment, let us assist this child to become a partaker of His Holy Baptism, praying that the Lord Jesus will keep him (her) in faith all the days of his (her) life. Amen.

*Or:*

Forasmuch as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and thus death passed upon all men, for all have sinned, so, by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation. By nature we are all, therefore, the children of wrath, and have come short of the glory of God. But as through one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so through the obedience of One shall many be made righteous. For, "as

sin reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord," Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. It is therefore most meet and right that, in obedience to His commandment, and trusting in His promises, we bring our children to be baptized in the Name of the triune God. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has Himself instituted Holy Baptism, saying to His disciples:

"All power hath been given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:18-20)

This comforting Gospel from the tenth Chapter of St. Mark assures us that God hears our prayers and graciously receives children:

"And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them: Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you: Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them."

*The minister shall lay his hand upon the child's head, saying:*

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*If several children are baptized at one time, the Lord's Prayer must be said for each child.*

Let us hear the Christian faith that our Church confesses and into which this child is to be baptized:

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness

of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. Amen.

*The minister, applying water thrice upon the head of the child, shall say:*

I baptize thee N. N., in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you, now and ever henceforth. Amen.

Let us give thanks and pray:

O, innocent Lamb of God, Jesus Christ! Thou, Who lovest children and therefore bade them come unto Thee: Thou, Who placed Thy hand upon them and blessed them, saying: Theirs is the kingdom of God: We pray Thee, look graciously upon this child, who also needs Thy holy blessing, that, as (he) (she) has been baptized in Thy holy name, with water and the Holy Ghost, (he) (she) also, by the same Spirit, may prosper and grow, and be filled with all good gifts to Thy honor and glory: Thou, Who reignest with God the Father, and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

*Then the minister shall bless the child, saying:*

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Exhortation to those present:*

Dear friends: You are witnesses that this child has been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, I exhort you, parents and godparents, early to teach this child to keep that which our Lord Jesus Christ in His Word has commanded us; so that (he) (she) may grow in the grace and knowledge of God and our Redeemer Jesus Christ, abiding in this covenant wherein the triune God in His grace has received (him) (her) through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. To that end may God give you His grace! Amen.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into His death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:3, 4.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end! Amen.

The peace of God be with you!

## BAPTISM OF ADULTS

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dear Friends:

The Word of God teaches us that all mankind by the fall of Adam came under the power of sin, death, and the devil; but our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us with His precious blood and atoning death. Therefore, remembering the words of our Saviour: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned", it is meet and right for all those who believe on Him, to be baptized into His Name.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted holy baptism as He said to His disciples:

"All power hath been given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:18-20)

*(Then shall the candidate kneel, and the minister, laying his hand upon him, shall say:)*

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*(The candidate rising, the minister shall say:)*

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

*Answer: I believe.*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: Descended into hell; The third day rose again from the dead: Ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead?

*Answer: I believe.*

Do you believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting?

*Answer: I believe.*

Is it your desire to be baptized into this faith?

*Answer:* It is.

Is it your sincere intention, by the grace of God, to continue in this confession as a follower of Christ, and by a godly life to manifest your faith?

*Answer:* It is.

*(Then shall the candidate bow or kneel, and the minister, while applying the water thrice, shall say:)*

I baptize thee N. N., in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you now, and ever henceforth. Amen.

Let us give thanks and pray: Almighty and Everlasting God, dear heavenly Father! We thank Thee, that Thou hast redeemed us, and made us acceptable to Thee, by faith in Thy Son, Jesus Christ, through Whom we have the adoption as Thy children, which entitles us to become partakers of this precious sacrament of baptism. We pray Thee Lord; Graciously behold Thy servant, who always needs Thy holy blessing, that, as (he) (she) has been baptized into Thy holy Name, with water and the Holy Spirit, that (he) (she) may also, by the power of the same Spirit, prosper and grow, and be filled with all good gifts to

Thy honor and glory; that finally, after a successful journey, (he) (she) may obtain the victory, even the everlasting crown of life. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall give the blessing, saying:)*

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*(Let us now hear the Apostle Paul's warning to us, who have received the grace of baptism.)*

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into His death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:3, 4

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Depart, and the peace of the Lord be with you!

## ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

*(The service will begin with an appropriate hymn.)*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Beloved in the Lord:

We have gathered today before God, after the custom of our Christian Church, to receive these children into full fellowship of the congregation of Jesus Christ, by allowing them to partake of the Lord's Holy Supper. They are here before God prepared to confess their faith, and to renew their covenant of baptism, and as servants of Jesus Christ, to run with patience the race which is set before them, by shunning sin and walking in the light of the gospel: thereby following in His footsteps.

May the triune God, Who, through Jesus Christ, has received these children into His covenant of grace, has in love protected them, and has begun all good work in them, grant them the grace to confess their faith sincerely, and remain steadfast in it unto the end. Let us thus pray with and for them:

Almighty and everlasting God! We thank Thee that Thou, by Thy great mercy, hast called these children

to be partakers of Thy kingdom through Thy only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Confirm, we beseech Thee, the work which Thou hast begun in them, that they may abide in the communion of Thy Church and in the faith of Thy gospel, humbly submitting to the guidance of Thy Spirit. Strengthen them by Thy Spirit, that they may from sincere hearts confess their faith before Thee and Thy congregation, and continue steadfast unto the end, ever being Thine own, and finally inherit Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall address the children in this manner:)*

Dear children: You must carefully remember what Christ your Saviour has said: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Therefore, I exhort you to pray to the Heavenly Father that He may preserve in your hearts this divine truth; that you may earnestly desire to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and to live according to His saving word all the days of your life.

An unbeliever is brought to grace through repentance and faith in the Gospel. The baptized person who has fallen from grace has the same condition of heart as an unbeliever, and can be restored to grace only by repentance and faith in the Gospel. Conversion is the work of God in sinful man who in himself

is entirely helpless. This person first must be awakened by the righteous and holy Law of God:—the Ten Commandments—to see the horror of sin and know that he is condemned under the curse of the Law.

This applies to a careless sinner as well as to a self-righteous person. He is under the curse of the Law and cannot find peace for his soul. Thus, this person is awakened to seek a means of reconciliation. He is now awakened from his dead condition. “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. (Ephesians 2:1)

Now the gospel of Christ will lead him to the cross of Calvary where the pains of the newbirth begin, as he beholds that he has nailed the Son of God to the cross with his sins. “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.” (Galatians 4:19)

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:14,15)

“A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.” (John 16:21,22)

At the cross he will hear the cry of Jesus, "It is finished." The righteous Law has now received all that it demanded by the suffering and death of Jesus.

We believe that the Ten Commandments, or the moral Law, has been given so that unruly men may be governed by it and punishment meted out to those that break it. We also believe that the Law convicts a person of his sins and his corrupt nature, as St. Paul states in Romans 3:20: "For by the law is the knowledge of sin. This Law of God was given that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." (Romans 3:19) But St. Paul also states in 1 Timothy 1:9: "Knowing this, that the law is not made for the righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane," etc. Therefore he concludes: "Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." (Galatians 3:24, 25)

Now the Holy Ghost becomes the Teacher and begins to lead this person into all truth. He takes up his bed of sin and walks; that is, he makes restitution of the wrongs he has done in the past, as Jesus says: "But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:21) This person has now come to the narrow road of life and the Holy Spirit is his Guide. He has

entered inside the living church of Jesus, Christ being the cornerstone of that building which is not made with hands.

We believe in the inspired Word of God, as Peter says: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20,21) And Paul says: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

We believe in the unity and trinity of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (1 John 5:7)

We believe in the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' Name and blood as the means of redemption and reconciliation with God, through repentance and faith, as the Bible records: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15) And in Colossians 1:14: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Then in Hebrews 9:14: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" And in 1 Peter 1:19: "But with the precious blood of Christ, as

of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Also in Luke 24:47: “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” And in John 20:23: “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”

The fruits of living faith will now appear. “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17) This will lead a person to follow Jesus in doctrine and life and in suffering, as Jesus says: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24) and St. Paul says: “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)

We believe that a person asks when in need. He seeks when he wants to find and he knocks when he wants to come in, as Jesus says: “Ask, and it shall be given; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:7,8)

### *The Baptism of Blood*

We believe this to be the Baptism that Jesus refers

to as He states: “But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!” (Luke 12:50) And again: “Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” (Matthew 20:22)

We believe that those persons who are following Jesus “in the way of regeneration” (Matthew 19:28) are not regenerated until they have experienced this which Jesus states: “Ye shall drink indeed of my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with . . .” (Matthew 20:23)

Men who have sinned must taste the bitterness of their sin and the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus in order that they be regenerated. Then they have drunk of the cup that Jesus drank of and are baptized with His baptism. They then have experienced “godly sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.” (2 Corinthians 7:10) And “the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel” (Hebrews 12:24) occurs in the spoken words of the forgiveness of sins in the Name of Jesus and His atoning blood.

We believe as stated in the Small Catechism that we should confess before God that we are guilty of all kinds of sins, even of those which we do not know. But to the confessor we should confess those sins which we know and feel in our heart, and which burden our consciences. The confession of sins to a trusted Christian

brother (confessor) is a good gift of God and a privilege which every Christian should use according to his needs and the demands of his conscience.

Confession should never be taught in an exacting spirit, as if it were a command; neither should it be taught as a condition for salvation, for the only condition for salvation is Scriptural faith in Jesus. Jesus says: "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. "(John 7:38) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." (John 6:48)

Every Christian admits and knows that he has not as yet reached perfection in faith and the knowledge of Christ, or in righteousness, peace, joy, or in sanctification. Therefore, every Christian continues to pray that God will increase in him the grace and light of the Holy Spirit in order that he may know Christ and His redemptive sacrifice better and also grow in love and in the fruits of faith.

"That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:10,12)

Such a deepening and growth do not justify a Christian, for through faith he is already justified before

God through Christ and His merits, and is wholly His own without spot or blemish. But he wants to grow in the knowledge of this redemption and justification through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. This growth and deepening do not, however, mean that the Christian himself feels that he is becoming better and better, but only that he realizes more and more his sinfulness, and at the same time, wholly relies on the grace of God in Christ. Thus he himself decreases, but Christ increases in him.

All this is not an achievement of his own but the work and gift of God, as the Apostle says: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to work, for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12,13)

The Apostolic Lutheran Christians, in general, yearn and pray for "new showers of blessings" from God, a new pouring out of His Spirit, a "latter rain." They crave for this in order that they may be refreshed and quickened in their faith and be endued with power from on high. This "latter rain" is also prayed for in order that the children of Christian parents and other unbelievers would again, in multitudes, be awakened, both at home and in foreign lands, and return from the ways of the world to the kingdom of God.

You are now invited to come before this congregation and make known your knowledge of the Christian doctrine, thus confessing your faith and renewing your covenant of baptism.

*(The children are assembled about the chancel rail, and the examination in which the essential parts of the Christian doctrine are briefly re-viewed, begins.)*

*(Concluded, the minister continues:)*

Dear children: You have now briefly made known your knowledge of the Christian doctrine that our Apostolic Lutheran Church confesses. Into this faith you were baptized in the Name of the Triune God. If it is your heartfelt desire, as servants of God, to continue steadfast in this faith, now is your opportunity to renew your covenant of baptism by answering in the affirmative to these questions that I shall ask you before God and this congregation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." In accordance with these Words of our Lord, I ask you:

Do you confess belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ as it is purely and plainly written in the Holy Bible and taught in our Apostolic Lutheran congregation?

*Answer: I do.*

Do you wish to continue steadfast in that confession?

*Answer:* I do.

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

*Answer:* I believe.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: Descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead: Ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead?

*Answer:* I believe.

Do you believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting?

*Answer:* I believe.

Is it your intention, by the grace of God, to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and to obey the Word of God, by shunning sin and walking in the fear of God?

*Answer:* It is.

Do you promise, with the aid of God, by watching and praying, to diligently study the Word of God, and to earnestly seek the Saviour in His Holy Communion?

*Answer:* I promise.

*(Then the minister shall say:)*

May the God of peace sanctify you wholly, that your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Humble yourselves before God, Who alone can give both the desire and strength to fulfill these promises, and treasure in your hearts these Words of God:

*(Then the minister shall read one or more appropriate Bible verses.)*

May these Words of God remind you always of that covenant which you this day have renewed with Him!

And since you have now confessed your faith before God and His congregation, and have made known your desire to be included among those who confess the Name of Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and have expressed your earnest intention to live according to God's Word, then I, as a servant of Jesus Christ and His congregation, do hereby accept you as communicant members in this Christian congregation, and for the strengthening of your faith, admit you to the Lord's Supper and invite you to partake in the spiritual privileges of the church. May the Lord grant you grace, that as living members of His body, of which He is the Head, you may grow in Him, and through Him, in fellowship with His children, so that with them you may share in the eternal glory of His heavenly kingdom!

Now dear children: You have been dearly purchased; you are not your own; you are the Lord's possession. Therefore, let us thank and praise the Name of the Lord now and forever! Amen.

*(An appropriate hymn or song may be sung.)*

Let us give thanks and pray.

Merciful God, dear heavenly Father, Thou Author and Finisher of all good works! We thank Thee for Thy great love, that Thou hast revealed Thyself and Him

Whom Thou sent, Jesus Christ, unto these children; and hast enlightened them by Thy Holy Word so that they have been able to confess before Thy congregation, Thy love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. We beseech Thee: Strengthen and enlighten them continually by Thy Spirit, that they, protected in the living faith, may daily increase in grace, and in the saving knowledge of Thee and Thy Son Jesus Christ. Guide them by Thy Spirit that the old life in them may diminish and the new life in Thee may increase. Fill them with Thy spiritual gifts, that they may be fit for all that is good, and bear the fruits of faith and love, to Thy honor and glory. Grant that the love that passeth all understanding may be theirs., that they may know Thy peace! Strengthen them that they may patiently bear life's trials and burdens; comfort them, by Thy grace, in all dangers and troubles, and uphold them in the hope of eternal life. Help them to continually watch, pray, and be well prepared. Make them steadfast in love, and assist them to be victorious in every spiritual conflict; that finally, when their successful journey ends, they may receive the reward of victory, the glorious crown of life! Amen.

*(Sermon)*

*(If the children on the same day partake of the Lord's Supper, the ceremony continues as in the "Holy Communion." Otherwise it continues as follows:)*

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*(Benediction:)*

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## ORDER FOR COMMUNION OF THE SICK

Merciful God and Father! Thou, Who hast ordained the ministry of reconciliation, effect within me, through Thy Holy Spirit, sincere repentance, and a heartfelt desire for Thy righteousness, that I might find grace and mercy before Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then the minister shall say:*

Do you believe that God, because of Jesus Christ, will forgive you your sins?

Answer: I believe.

May it be unto thee as thou believest, and as a servant of Jesus Christ, I declare unto thee, that God, for Christ's sake, graciously forgives thee all thy sins; and this Absolution I declare unto thee in the Name of Jesus Christ, and His precious blood of reconciliation! Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty and Eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Thou, Who best knowest the weakness of man; Thou, Who alone can strengthen him; Shed Thy

Holy Spirit into the heart of this Thy servant, and grant him the grace to partake of Thy Holy Sacrament, that he may receive the spiritual benefits which it brings, and be steadfast in faith unto the end, through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

*The order of "Holy Communion" will now be followed, beginning with: "Truly it is meet and right," etc.*

## SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE - FORM A

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dearly beloved: Marriage was ordained by God Himself, Who at the beginning created man and woman, and blessed them, joined them together, that they through holy wedlock, living one for the other in a Christian home, should carry out God's holy plan for the prosperity and happiness of society.

This holy estate has its spiritual pattern in the mutual relationship between our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. This the Apostle Paul teaches, saying: "The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the Church." And he instructs wives to submit themselves to their own husbands, as unto the Lord; and husbands to love their wives, even as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it. Therefore, the husband shall love and honor his wife, patiently endure her weaknesses, and use his authority to assist her and not to oppress her. He must so conduct himself toward his wife, as toward one who shall receive a like inheritance as he in the kingdom of God, for Christ has purchased her with the same precious price as well as him, and the wife is a member of Christ's Body as well as he.

Likewise the wife shall love and honor her husband, and not rule over him; for the woman was created for

man, and not the man for the woman. She must so conduct herself that she will please her husband, for whom she was made an help meet. The wife is the glory of her husband; therefore, let her walk accordingly.

The husband and the wife shall love one another, even more than their father and mother, for the Bible says: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife." They are also to remember that no man has the right to separate them against the command of God. Therefore, it is necessary that they pray to God for a companion with whom they may live in love, harmony, and godly fear, so that their married life may begin in the Lord; and, by obeying His will, their wedlock will be blessed and happy. In behalf of this couple, we pray God for this grace, and blessing. Amen.

*The minister shall ask first of the bridegroom:*

In the Name of the triune God, and in the presence of these witnesses, I ask thee, N. N., wilt thou take N. N., here present, to be thy wedded wife, and love her alike in prosperity and adversity?

*Answer:* I will

*Then shall he ask the bride:*

In the Name of the triune God and in the presence of these witnesses, I ask thee, N. N., wilt thou take N. N., here present, to be thy wedded husband, and love him alike in prosperity and adversity?

*Answer:* I will.

*If the ring service is used, the minister shall now receive the ring and say:*

Let us pray:

Almighty Father, Eternal God, Thou, Who Thyself art love, and blessest all those that fear Thee! We beseech Thee: Graciously look upon this estate, of which this ring is an emblem. Grant unto this couple grace, that they, being united according to Thy holy will and decree, may blamelessly live in this holy estate to Thy honor and glory, and to their own benefit and eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The groom, receiving the ring from the minister, shall say:*

I, N. N. take thee N. N., to be my wedded wife, to love thee in prosperity and adversity alike, and as a token thereof I give thee this ring.

*The bride shall answer:*

I, N. N., take thee N. N., to be my wedded husband, to love thee in prosperity and adversity alike, and as a token thereof I receive this ring.

*Then the groom shall place the ring on the third finger of the bride's left hand, and the minister shall say:*

Forasmuch as you have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this assembly, and have given the wedding ring as a token thereof, as a servant of Jesus Christ, I confirm your marriage in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us hear the holy Gospel written according to the 19th chapter of St. Matthew:

“The Pharisees also came unto Him, tempting Him, and saying unto Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And He answered and said

unto them. Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.”

Believe these Words of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do not forget that your marriage is inseparable, and patiently accept with thanksgiving all that may befall you, as from the hand of God, Who hath joined you in this holy estate.

The Lord be with thee and protect thy going out and coming in, now and ever henceforth! Amen.

O God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! Pour into the hearts of this wedded couple, Thy Spirit, and fill them with all spiritual blessing in this holy estate wherein they have consented, that they may never offend Thee, but may live therein purely and honorably, to Thy honor and glory, and to their temporal success, and eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord Bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE - FORM B

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dearly beloved: Forasmuch as marriage is a holy estate, instituted by God, and to be held in honor by all, it becometh those who purpose to enter therein, duly to weigh the Word of God concerning it.

Marriage was ordained by God Himself when He said: "It is not good that man should be alone: I will make an help meet for him."

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh."

Marriage is well pleasing in the sight of God, and hath His blessing; as it is written: "God created man in His own image, male and female created He them. and God blessed them, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth. And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. Therefore, Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor from God."

God hath commanded concerning this estate: "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church. He that loveth his wife loveth himself; For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as Christ also the church."

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord; for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the Head of the Church.”

Forasmuch, then, as nothing hath been shown to hinder this marriage,

I ask thee, N. N., Dost thou take, N. N., here present, to be thy wedded wife, and forsaking all others, to keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live? If so, declare it before God and these witnesses by saying: I do.

*Answer: I do.*

N. N., Dost thou take, N. N., here present, to be thy wedded husband, and forsaking all others, to keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live? If so, declare it before God and these witnesses by saying: I do.

*Answer: I do.*

*The minister will ask for the rings (ring) and say:*

Let us pray:

Almighty Father, eternal God: Thou, Who Thyself art love, and blessest all those who fear Thee: We beseech Thee, graciously look upon this estate of which these rings are an emblem. Grant unto this couple

grace, that they being united, according to Thy holy will and decree, may blamelessly live in this holy estate to Thy honor and glory and to their own benefit and eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

*The minister receiving the ring shall deliver it to the groom to put on the third finger of the bride's left hand, and shall say:*

Receive this ring as a pledge and token of wedded love and troth.

*Then the minister shall say:*

What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. And forasmuch as N. N. and N. N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this assembly, I pronounce them man and wife, in the Name of the triune God. Amen.

As you have now been united in holy wedlock in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and that your marriage may redound to the glory of God, and to your own true welfare, let us earnestly invoke God's blessing upon you in prayer.

Almighty and Everlasting God, Our Father in heaven, Thou Who hast Thyself ordained that man and woman shall be one flesh, and hast confirmed this

union with Thy divine blessing: We pray Thee, in Thy infinite mercy, to vouchsafe unto this bridegroom and his bride, grace, prosperity, and happiness, in body and soul! Grant that they may serve Thee faithfully, that they may live together in mutual love, and that they may always observe Thy holy commandments, to live according to Thy Holy Word, so that, on the last day, as true Christians and Thy dear children, they may be found together with Thy Son Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

## SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE - FORM C

*(The persons to be married shall present themselves before the minister, the man standing at the right of the woman.)*

### *Invocation:*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

### *Address to the Assembly:*

Dearly beloved: We are assembled in the presence of God to unite this man and this woman in holy matrimony, instituted of God, regulated by His commandment, blessed of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all men. This sacred relation is to be entered into soberly, advisedly, discreetly, reverently, and in the fear of God. Into this beautiful and holy relationship these two persons desire now to enter. They desire to take each the other as husband and wife, for prosperity or adversity, sickness or health, poverty or riches; and to perform all the duties belonging to such relationship to the end of life. To some of these duties as laid down in the Holy Scriptures I now call your attention.

God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Our Lord declared, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh."

The Apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit, said, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it."

May the spirit of Ruth, the ancestress of our Lord, accompany this couple as they journey through life together! "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

*Address to Persons to be Married:*

I charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy home. If the solemn vows you are about to make be kept faithfully, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, your life will be full of joy, and the home you are establishing will abide in peace.

I entreat you both to seek the help of God in this sacred moment, and to look to Him steadfastly for His love and grace which will make your marriage rich in comfort and fruitful in service.

*Declaration of Intention:*

*(The minister shall say to the man:)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded wife, to cherish her and live with her according to God's holy ordinance? Will you pledge your loyalty to her, and promise to love, honor, comfort and keep her, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and keep yourself unto her only so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, I will.

*(The man shall answer:)*

I will.

*(Then the minister shall say to the woman:)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded husband, to cherish him and live with him according to God's holy ordinance? Will (or, do) you pledge your loyalty to him, and promise to love, honor, comfort and keep him, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and keep yourself unto him only so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, I will.

*(The woman shall answer:)*

I will.

*Prayer:*

*(The following or in the minister's own words:)*

God of all grace and goodness: Thou hast heard the declarations of these Thy servants. May it please Thee to bless them as they are now about to be joined together in holy matrimony. Guide and sanctify them by Thy Spirit, and fill them with a profound sense of the holy obligations of the vows they are about to make. Help them to look to Thee for Thine assistance and to enter into these sacred obligations in humble dependence upon Thine enabling grace. Grant all of us these mercies, O Father, we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Ceremony:*

In token of your readiness to assume these obligations, you will now join your right hands, while I propose to you the marriage covenant.

*(The man shall take the following vows, as directed by the minister:)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this time forth, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in health and in sickness, to love and to cherish till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and to this I do pledge thee my faith.

*(The woman shall take the following vows as directed by the minister:)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this time forth, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in health and in sickness, to love and to cherish till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and to this I do pledge thee my faith.

*Pronouncement:*

*(The minister shall then say to all who are present:)*

By the authority committed unto me as a minister of the Gospel, I declare that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Whom, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

*(The couple may now kneel as the minister prays:)*

*Prayer:*

*(The following or in the minister's own words:)*

Most merciful and gracious God, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. Bestow upon these Thy servants the seal of Thine approval, and Thy fatherly benediction, granting unto them grace to fulfill, with pure and steadfast affection, the covenant and vows and covenant between them made. Guide them together, we beseech Thee, in the way of righteousness and peace, that, loving and serving Thee, with one heart and mind, all the days of their life, they may be abundantly enriched with the tokens of Thine everlasting favor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Then the minister and people shall pray together, or a soloist may sing:)*

*The Lord's Prayer:*

*Benediction:*

God, the Father: God, the Son: God, the Holy Spirit: bless, preserve and keep you! The Lord mercifully look upon you with His favor and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may share together the joys of the life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE - FORM D

*(The minister shall first give this exhortation:)*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Dearly Beloved! Marriage is a holy estate instituted by God Himself for the preservation of the human family, and for the mutual help of those who enter into this sacred bond, to lighten the burdens of life, to alleviate its unavoidable cares, and by careful nurture to provide for the happiness of posterity. This is a holy institution; its obligations and objects are likewise holy.

It is the duty of the husband to love and honor his wife, and by careful consideration for her welfare ever seek to deepen her love for him. It is the duty of the wife to love her husband, share with him tenderly and faithfully the cares of the household, and at all times so conduct herself as to be his true help meet. They should both carefully consider that they have entered into an estate in which their mutual happiness is dependent upon fidelity to their marriage vows; and, by due regard to their persons and their duties, they should seek to make themselves worthy of mutual esteem and love, and always set for each other a good example in a godly life. Wherefore it behooves them to pray earnestly for a virtuous help meet who appreciates the duties of the marriage estate, as well as the blessedness

which comes from fulfilling them. So shall the marriage begin and continue according to the will of God, and the highest happiness be thereby secured. To this end we pray Almighty God for His blessing on this Man and this Woman.

*(The Minister shall then say to the Man:)*

Before the omniscient God and in the presence of this Congregation (these witnesses), I ask thee, N. N., wilt thou have this Woman, N. N., to be thy wedded wife, and to love her in prosperity and adversity?

*Answer:* I will.

*(Then shall the Minister say to the Woman:)*

Before the omniscient God and in the presence of this Congregation (these witnesses), I ask thee, N. N., wilt thou have this Man, N. N., to be thy wedded husband, and to love him in prosperity and adversity?

*Answer:* I will.

*(The Minister shall then receive the rings, and pray:)*

Almighty God, Who with a holy, wise and beneficent purpose hast instituted marriage: We pray Thee to let Thy blessing rest upon the solemn covenant which these Thy servants with this emblem (these emblems)

seal before Thee. Fulfill upon them the promises which Thou hast given to all who live according to Thy Word, and who keep the obligation which Thou hast ordained for the welfare of mankind.

*(The Man shall then receive the ring (which shall be held by both until the vows of both have been made), and the Man shall say:)*

I, N. N., take thee, N. N., to be my wedded wife, to love thee in prosperity and in adversity, and as an emblem thereof I give thee this ring.

*(Man gives Woman's ring.)*

*(Then Woman shall say:)*

I, N. N., take thee, N. N., to be my wedded husband, to love thee in prosperity and in adversity, and as an emblem thereof I give thee this ring.

*(Woman gives Man's ring.)*

*(The Man with his right hand shall take the Woman by her right hand, and the Minister shall say:)*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Forasmuch as ye now have been joined in holy wedlock, I as a servant of Jesus Christ, before God and this Christian congregation (these witnesses) confirm your marriage covenant in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Saviour teaches us in the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew that marriage is a holy covenant, which cannot be set aside by men at will: "And there came unto Him Pharisees, trying Him, and saying, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? and He answered and said, Have ye not read, that He who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

*The Minister shall then say to the Man and Woman:*

Consider these words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Forget not that your marriage covenant, according to God's will, cannot be revoked, and receive with patience and thanksgiving all that may betide you in the providence of God.

The Lord be with you and guide you in His truth and fear, now and forevermore.

*(The Man and the Woman shall kneel, and the Minister shall say:)*

Let us pray:

Almighty, Eternal God, unchangeable in grace and mercy: We pray Thee, fill the hearts of these Thy servants with Thy Holy Spirit, and graciously to bestow upon them every spiritual and temporal blessing. Bless the solemn covenant which they now have made before Thee, that loyalty and happiness may ever abide in their home, that unity and love may lighten their labors, and that a virtuous posterity may cheer their declining years. Merciful God, hear their prayers, and be their very present help when they call upon Thee. Guide them with Thy counsel, that when their pilgrimage is ended they may be received into the Father's house of many mansions, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God Almighty send His light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you, and His holy angels accompany you. God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost cause His grace to be mighty upon you. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be  
gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and  
give thee everlasting peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of  
the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Let us pray:

Gracious and faithful God, Lord of the living and the dead, Comforter of the mournful, and Strength of the weak! Hear the prayers of all those who long for Thy consolation and help. Let the everlasting light of Thy Son Jesus shine upon us. Dear Saviour Jesus Christ, lead us all, for whom Thou hast shed Thy holy, precious blood, into the glory of God, and unite us with all Thy saints, for Thy Name's sake! Amen.

*Or*

Lord God, heavenly Father, Who by Thy Son Jesus Christ hast revealed to us that heaven and earth shall pass away, that our bodies shall rise again, and that we shall all appear before Thy judgment seat, we beseech Thee, keep us by Thy Holy Spirit in Thy Word. Establish us in the true faith, graciously defend us from sin and preserve us in all temptations and cares of this life; that we may ever watch and pray, and trusting fully in Thy grace, await with joy the glorious coming of Thy Son, and at last obtain eternal salvation through Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and

reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end! Amen.

*Or*

Thou Father of Mercy, and God of all consolation! Thou turnest man to destruction and sayest: *Return ye children of men.* Look graciously upon us, who are still on this dangerous pilgrimage. We are very weak. Remember us, and strengthen and help us to continue steadfast in Thee. Save us from indifference and fear of our heart. Help us to honestly fight unto the end, that we may win the incorruptible crown. Keep our souls near Thee, and guide us safely to that haven where Thy righteous shall be gathered eternally. Amen.

*Funeral sermon:*

*The obituary may be read here  
or before the sermon.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all, now, and ever henceforth! Amen.

## SERVICE AT THE GRAVE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Minister shall thrice cast earth upon the casket saying:*

Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return; Jesus Christ our Saviour shall raise thee from the dead at the last day.

Let us pray:

Almighty, merciful, and eternal God! Thou, Who by reason of sin hast appointed unto man that he must die: Thou, Who also that we may not eternally remain in the power of death, suffered Thy only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die, and hath thus by His great work of redemption destroyed the power of death that it has no more dominion over us. Turn Thy Fatherly face now toward us, Thy poor children, and grant us Thy holy grace in conducting this burial, that we may ever be reminded how we, too, when Thou wilt call us, shall return to dust, being mindful that here we have no abiding city. Grant us the grace, O merciful God, to seek that which is eternal, and so to live in this miserable world according to Thy will, that we, with all the faithful in Christ, may rise on the Last Day to everlasting life! Amen.

*The Minister may now read from the following Bible passages:*

1 Thess. 4:13,14. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

Job 14:1,2,5. Man that is born of a woman is of a few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with Thee, Thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.

Eccl. 12:7. Then shall the dust return unto the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God Who gave it.

Heb 13:14. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Rom. 5:12. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Psalm 90:1-6. Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

Ps. 90: 7-9. For we are consumed by Thine anger, and by Thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalm 90:10-12. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of Thine anger? Even according to Thy fear, so is Thy wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Isa. 38:1. Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Psalm 39:5-8. Behold, Thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before Thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee. Deliver me from all my transgressions.

Mark 13:35,36. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.

Gal. 6:7. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

2 Cor. 5:10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Heb. 9:27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

Heb. 10:31. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Rom. 6:23. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 5:28,29. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 11:25,26. Jesus said, - I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Rom. 8:10,11. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Rom. 8: 17, 18. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

Rom. 14-7-10. For none of us liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live

unto the Lord: and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living.

1 Peter 1:3,4. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

1 Cor. 15:19-23. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming.

1 Cor. 15:50, 53-57. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall

have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 14:13. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

Rev. 21:4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Psalm 6. O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, neither chasten me in Thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed, but Thou, O Lord, how long? Return, O Lord, deliver my soul; oh, save me for thy mercies' sake! For in death there is no remembrance of Thee; in the grave who shall give Thee thanks! I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of

grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed; let them return and be ashamed suddenly.

Psalm 23. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepar-est a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 25. Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in Thee; let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on Thee be ashamed; let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Show me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth and teach me; for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been

ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth nor my transgressions; according to Thy mercy remember Thou me for Thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore will He teach sinners in the way. The meek will He guide in judgment, and the meek will He teach His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. What man is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn Thee unto me and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; oh, bring Thou me out of my distresses. Look upon mine affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins. Consider mine enemies, for they are many and they hate me with cruel hatred. Oh, keep my soul and deliver me, let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in Thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on Thee. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Psalm 27. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even

mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not hear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His Temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me. Therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing praises unto the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me and answer me. When Thou saidst, Seek ye My face, my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not Thy face far from me; put not Thy servant away in anger. Thou hast been my Help leave me not, either forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up. Teach me Thy way, O Lord; and lead me in a plain path because of mine enemies. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies; for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.

Psalm 30. I will extol Thee, O Lord; for Thou hast lifted me up and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O Lord, my God, I cried unto Thee, and Thou hast healed me. O Lord, Thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness. For His anger endureth but a moment; in His favor is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. Lord, by Thy favor Thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: Thou didst hide Thy face, and I was troubled. I cried to Thee, O Lord; and unto the Lord I made supplication. What profit is there in my blood when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise Thee? Shall it declare Thy truth? Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; Lord, be Thou my Helper. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; Thou hast put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee and not be silent. O Lord, my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.

Psalm 32. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; my moisture is

turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto Thee in a time when Thou mayest be found; surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my Hiding Place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with Mine eye. Be ye not as the horse or as the mule, which have no understanding; whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psalm 51. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness; according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight, that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts; and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, Open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; Thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God. Thou wilt not despise. Do good in Thy good pleasure unto Zion; build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

Psalm 91. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and

my Fortress: my God, in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust; His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my Refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.

Psalm 103:1-14;15-22. Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless

the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the Children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them. The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, ye

His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 121. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy Keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even forevermore.

Psalm 130:1-7. Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His Word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

Matt. 9:18-19, 23-26. While He spake these things unto, them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped Him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay Thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples.... And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed Him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, He went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

Matt. 25:1-13. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him! Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they

that were ready went in with him to the marriage. And the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us! But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Mark 10:13-16. And they brought young children to Him that He should touch them; and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

Luke 7:11-17. And it came to pass that He went into a city called Nain, and many of His disciples went with Him and much people. Now, when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said unto her, Weep not. And He came and touched the bier; and they that bare him stood still. And He said Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was

dead sat up and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all, and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people. And this rumor of Him went forth throughout all Judea and throughout all the region round about.

John 11:20-27. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

John 14:1-6. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

John 16:16-23. A little while, and ye shall not see Me; and again a little while, and ye shall see Me, because I go to the Father. Then said some of His disciples among themselves, What is this that He saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see Me, and again a little while, and ye shall see Me, and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that He saith, A little while? We cannot tell what He saith. Now, Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask Him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see Me, and again a little while, and ye shall see Me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice; and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in travail, hath sorrow, because her hour is come; but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing.

2 Cor. 5:1-10. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved; we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord (for we walk by faith, not by sight): We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2 Tim. 4:6-8. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge,

shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

Rev. 7:9-17. After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost! Amen.

## ORDINATION TO THE HOLY MINISTRY

*When a Candidate receives a call to serve a congregation he shall be ordained at the earliest convenience. The ordination shall be performed by the president of the Church Body, or a Pastor whom he shall appoint. The Ordainer shall appoint the Pastors who shall assist. At the time appointed, the person (or persons) to be ordained shall meet in the Sacristy, or a designated place, and then enter the Church.*

The usual Order of Service shall be used at an Ordination. *The Opening Hymn: "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"* followed by

### THE INVOCATION

Lord God, dear Heavenly Father: We thank Thee out of a full heart that Thou hast granted us to live in this blessed time when Thy holy Gospel may be freely heard, and men may know Thy Fatherly will. We beseech Thee: may Thy holy Word be preached in its truth and purity that all may behold Thy grace and the salvation that Thy Son obtained for us. Grant that we may retain

the light of Thy holy Word. So rule our hearts with Thy Spirit that we may never fall away from Thy Word, but may abide therein to our final and blessed salvation. This, we ask through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one true God, world without end. Amen.

*Hymn after Prayer.* THOU WHO THE NIGHT  
IN PRAYER,

The holy Epistle recorded by the Apostle Paul in *2 Corinthians 3:4 through 9* – reads as follows:

“And such trust have we through Christ to Godward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of His countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.”

*The holy Gospel as found in Joh n 20:21 reads thus:*

“Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace be unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.”

The Ordination Hymn shall now be sung:

“O POUR THY SPIRIT FROM ON HIGH”

*After the hymn, the Ordainer shall address the congregation and conclude by saying:*

Beloved Congregation: The holy Scriptures admonish us to know them that labor among us, and are over us in the Lord, to pray for them and esteem them highly in love for their work's sake. On this day a new laborer in the Church presents himself before us, (*name of Candidate*), who has received the call to be the minister of (the name of the Congregation), is now to be ordained to the holy office of the Ministry. Let us receive him in love, and present him before God in prayer:

*The Candidate (or Candidates) comes to the Chancel Rail and kneels:*

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Who hast given Thy Church, some to be apostles, some prophets, and some evangelists, pastors, and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of the ministry, to the building up of the body of Christ: we thank Thee for Thy great mercy, and we bless Thy holy Name, that Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins or much unfaithfulness, but hast graciously preserved among us to this present day Thy holy Word and Thy precious Sacraments. We pray Thee, have mercy upon us! May Thy Holy Spirit enlighten and direct us, comfort and strengthen us; and may this sacred act which we are about to perform redound to the honor of Thy Name, to the increase of Thy kingdom. Thou hast decreed in Thy holy Word the words, So hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. May Thy blessing abide upon this Thy servant (these Thy servants), and may we all be builded up in the faith which is in Thee, Thou Rock of our Salvation, immovable forevermore! Amen.

Let us now hear the testimony of God's Word concerning this sacred office:

*One of the Pastors shall read:*

In the *twenty-eighth Chapter of the Gospel*, according to *St. Matthew, verses 18 through 20*, it is written:

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

*Another Pastor shall read from Acts 20:28-32:*

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

*Other appropriate passages of Scripture for Pastors to read are:*

*In 2 Timothy 2:15, 16, 23, 24 25:*

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”

“Foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.”

*In 1 Peter 5:1 through 4:*

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

*In 2 Timothy 3:16, 17:*

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

*In 2 Timothy 4:2, 3, 4:*

“Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

*The Ordainer will then say:*

May these Words of God remind you of your responsibility and be a guide for your conduct! May they urge you fervently and humbly to submit yourself into the service of the Good Shepherd!

The Christian Congregation hopes that you realize the solemn importance of this ministry and that you submit to be examined regarding the holy responsibility into which you are entering, and have prayed for grace and strength faithfully to perform the duties of your office: Fight the good fight of faith, run the course that God has set before you and attain life everlasting.

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given in thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of all these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. The laborer is worthy of his reward.” (I Timothy 4:6,14 – 5:17, 18, 19, 21).

“I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses.”

I, therefore, charge and enjoin upon you:

That you give diligence always to preach the Word of God in its purity, as found in the Old and the New Testaments, and is taught in the Apostolic Lutheran Church:

That you administer the two Sacraments, as instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself:

That you will admonish your listeners faithfully to a true repentance from sin and to believe their sins forgiven in the Name and blood of Jesus, and to live according to the Word of God in love toward God and man, and: That you yourself will make a sincere endeavor

to live according to the Word of God, so as to serve the Lord in truth as a right shepherd of the flock entrusted to you:

Will you promise me here in the presence of the All-Knowing God, in full dependence upon the grace which the triune God shall bestow, to perform all this in fidelity?

*Answer:* I do.

### ORDINATION VOWS

1. Do you believe in one God — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Do you confess the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord and acknowledge Him Head over all things to the Church, which is His body?

*Answer:* I do.

2. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

3. Do you sincerely believe the principles of the doctrine of Christ which are as follows: repentance from dead works, of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:1,2)?

4. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord? As long as they counsel you in accordance with the Word of God?
5. Do you seek the office of the holy ministry from love of God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son to the saving of souls?
6. Do you promise to remain in the pure Word of God and strive to grow therein, to shun all un-Scriptural doctrines, to faithfully preach Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation, according to the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments as Jesus instituted them?
7. Do you promise to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and as a minister of the Gospel, whether personal, private or public, and to endeavor by the grace of God to be exemplary in conduct in your profession of the Gospel before the flock of which God shall make you overseer?
8. The authority of Christ cannot be separated from the infallibility of the Holy Bible. The two are the same. Christ and the Scriptures are one. Do you believe this?
9. Do you promise to adhere to the Scriptural teachings as taught in our Church and abide by the decisions made at our annual Church Conventions, those which are in accord with the Bible?

Confess your faith with 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church: the Communion of saints: the forgiveness of sins: the resurrection of the body: and the life everlasting. Amen.

May the Lord God give you grace firmly to remain in this faith to the end, and to strengthen others likewise to remain faithful!

*The Candidate will kneel and the President will lay his hand on his head, and say:*

I, as a servant of our Lord Jesus Christ do ordain you into the sacred Gospel Ministry in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with

authority and power, as a right servant of God and Jesus Christ, to declare the infallible Word of God, both in public and in private, to administer the Holy Sacraments in accordance with their Institution: to loose sin upon the penitent, and to bind sin upon the unrepentant, and to perform thy holy calling with the Word of God and the practices of our Apostolic Lutheran Church.

*Candidate remains kneeling during prayers and Benediction:*

Merciful and everlasting God: By the Word of Thine only begotten Son Thou hast taught us that the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few, and that we should pray the Lord of the harvest that He send forth laborers into His harvest. Hear, therefore, the prayer we offer in behalf of him whom we ordain this day to be a servant in Thy Church. Lord, keep him in Thy Name, and sanctify him in Thy truth, strengthen him in faith and in love toward Thee, and bestow upon him through Thy Spirit the gifts of ministration, that he may become a right laborer in Thy harvest. Help him to proclaim Thy Word with boldness and fidelity, to counsel, comfort, and rebuke with all meekness and wisdom and in all things conduct himself as a good steward of Thy manifold grace. Be with him in every conflict and trial, and make him patient and humble

in heart; for Thy power is made perfect in weakness. Make fruitful his labors according to Thine own good pleasure, and when his day of toil shall end, receive him with joy in Thine own presence, there to inherit a portion with all Thy saints in everlasting bliss. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

### THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious under thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee everlasting peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Closing Hymn appropriate for Conclusion shall be sung*

“THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”

If needed, other appropriate hymns may be included: viz. "Faith of our Fathers;" "O God Our Help in Ages Past;" "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty;" "A Charge to Keep I Have;" "Holy, Holy,. Holy, Lord God Almighty;" "How Firm a Foundation."

THE DOXOLOGY: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" "Enter Into His Gates With Thanksgiving"

## THE CONSECRATION OF A CHURCH

*The president of the Church Body may designate Pastors for participating in the Consecration according as the Service shall require. Opening hymn: "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"*

INVOCATION:

O Lord, eternal and merciful God: We thank Thee for Thy fatherly goodness, that Thou hast permitted us to build Thee an house, now to be consecrated to Thy glory. We pray Thee, strengthen us by the Holy Spirit in faith toward Thine only begotten Son Jesus Christ, unite our hearts in the contemplation of Thy holy Word, and in the fellowship of devout prayer, that we may rightly consecrate this house. In Thy mercy grant that it may become a holy place, whence the precious blessings of Thy grace may ever proceed, bringing to this congregation of Thy people help and comfort in life and in death. We ask it in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn after Prayer: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION.*

SERMON TEXTS: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. (Psalm 127:1)

In the eighth Chapter of 1 Kings, it is written thus:

“And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord Jehovah in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; and he said: O Jehovah, the God of Israel, there is no God like Thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant and loving kindness with Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their hearts; who hast kept with Thy servant David my father that which Thou didst promise him: yea, Thou spakest with Thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with Thy hand, as it is this day. Now therefore, O Jehovah, the God of Israel, keep with Thy servant David my father that which Thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel, if only thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me as thou hast walked before me..

Now therefore, O God of Israel, let Thy Word, I pray Thee, be verified, which Thou spakest unto Thy servant David, my father.

But will God in very deed dwell on earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee: how much less this house that I have builded! Yet have Thou respect unto the prayer of Thy servant and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which Thy servant prayeth before Thee this day; that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof Thou hast said, My Name shall be there; to

to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant shall pray toward this place. And hearken Thou to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: yea, hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling place; and when Thou hearest, forgive.”

*In the 84th Psalm it is written thus:*

How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house; they will be still praising Thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Who passing through the valley of Weeping make it well; yea, the rain covereth it with blessings. They go from strength to strength; every one of them appeareth before God in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of Thine anointed. For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and a shield;

the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee. Amen.

*In the 100th Psalm, it is written thus:*

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God; it is He that hath made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and bless His Name. For the Lord is good: His mercy endureth forever; and His faithfulness unto all generations.

*In the 10th Chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, it is written:*

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which He dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having a great priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience: and having our body washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for He is faithful that promised:

and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.

*In the 21st Chapter of Revelation it is written:*

And I, John, saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God; and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more: the first things are passed away. And He that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He saith, Write: for these words are faithful and true. And He said unto me, They are come to pass. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

The above reading ended, the Officiating Pastor shall say the *Apostles' Creed*.

Let us confess our holy faith:

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 Ghost, Born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body; and the Life everlasting. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY sung by the Congregation:  
*Praise God From Whom All Blessings*

*The Officiating Pastor shall deliver the Sermon*

*At its close he shall say*

Dearly Beloved: All things are consecrated with the Word of God and prayer. Let us, therefore, offer

up our common supplication in Jesus Christ saying:

Lord God, heavenly Father: We thank Thee that by Thy Holy Spirit Thou dost in all places gather together Thy Christian Church, and upon the one chief cornerstone, even Jesus Christ, dost build unto Thyself a spiritual temple, wrought of living stones. We beseech Thy great mercy: graciously look upon Thy Church throughout our land to build it up in the faith which is in Christ; let the saving work of Thy Spirit prosper in this congregation and in this house, now consecrated to Thy glory. Stretch forth in compassion Thine almighty hand toward this place, and withhold from it at all times all that is unholy and impure. Bless Thy Word as it shall be spoken from this pulpit, and grant that its proclamation may be with purity, and in demonstration of the Spirit and its power. Here impart unto our children the grace of Thy Baptism, here satisfy us with the holy Body and Blood of Thy Son.

Make this house a house of prayer unto Thy people and let Thine ear ever be open to our supplications and our humble desire, to the praise and thanksgiving which from this place shall ascend unto Thee. Send always hither faithful shepherds and teachers, make their ministration fruitful, and so awaken the hearts of all by Thy Holy Spirit to repentance and to faith that when we are summoned to Thine house, we may come with joy to hear the Gospel of Thy grace. O Lord God, give Thy Word free course among us that

it may follow us to our homes, accompany us in all our ways, and bless our undertakings. Bless our land and its faithful people, the President of these United States, and all who are in authority that they may legislate just laws. Comfort and help the sorrowing, be with the troubled and the dying. Grant us a blessed resurrection at the Last Day that we may dwell with Thee forever in the abiding city, the new Jerusalem, where there is no temple, for Thou, Lord, the Almighty God, and the Lamb, art the temple thereof. Hear our prayer for the sake of Thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Officiating Pastor shall then say:*

I, as a servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, declare this Church building to be set apart *to the glory of God*, and to the edification of His Church in the living faith which is in Christ Jesus. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Peace be unto this house, and unto all who enter therein. Other foundation can no man lay except that which hath been laid, which is Christ Jesus.

*Let us pray:*

Let us give thanks and pray: We humbly return thanks to Thee, O Lord, and praise Thy infinite mercy,

that Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations, and hast granted to us and our fathers the knowledge of Thy grace in Christ, even the grace of the forgiveness of sins in the Name of Jesus in His atoning blood. We beseech Thee: look not upon our sins, nor take from us Thy grace, but abide with us according to Thy faithfulness, and be a sure dwelling place to the generations yet to come. Graciously look upon Thy Church throughout our land to build it up in the faith which is in Christ; let the saving work of Thy Spirit prosper in this congregation and in this house consecrated to Thy glory. Here impart to our children Thy redemption which is in the blood, even the forgiveness of their sins according to the richness of Thy love. Let Thy work appear upon Thy servants, and Thy glory be upon their children. Let Thy light shine upon Thy people, even until the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*CLOSING Hymn:* FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

*Other suggested hymns* – “O God Our Help in Ages Past;” “How Firm A Foundation;” “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty;” “Arise, My Soul, Arise;” “Praise the Lord Each Tribe and Nation.”

## THE INSTALLATION OF PASTORS

*An Installation shall occur at a Full Service on a Sunday or other Holy Day. The Officers of the Congregation are to be seated forward.* OPENING HYMN:  
“O POUR THY SPIRIT FROM ON HIGH”

INVOCATION:

O Lord God, heavenly Father, Thou Who didst reveal Thyself in Thy Son Jesus Christ and entrusted Thy sacred work of ministry to His disciples and hast promised that we also, if we lay hold with a sincere faith upon the merits of Jesus Christ, shall become heirs of eternal life: We pray Thee, uphold us in this blessed and enduring doctrine of our salvation, strengthen our faith, and make our bodies temples of Thy Holy Spirit!

O Lord, for the sake of Thine own mercy, graciously bless upon our hearts this hour of the consecration of Thy servant that he may go forth in Thy strength, empowered by Thy sustaining grace to bring comfort to the suffering, and to bear faithful witness before the world of Thy great and fathomless love, until at last we attain eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who with Thee liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn after Prayer: "A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE" – OR "Thou, Who the Night in Prayer Didst Spend."*

SERMON TEXT:

*After the Sermon the Congregation shall sing THE DOXOLOGY*

*Officiator shall say:*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Forasmuch as Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, who here presenteth himself before you, hath been called, examined, and ordained to the holy office of the Ministry, and hath expressed the desire to be installed as the pastor of this congregation, I shall now in the Name of the triune God proceed with the following questions:

Do you, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, solemnly promise that in this congregation you will publicly and privately declare the Word of God in its truth and purity in accordance with the teachings of our Apostolic Lutheran Church?

*Answer:* I do.

Do you promise to conduct yourself in public and in private as becomes your office and the sacred ministry of the Word?

*Answer:* I do.

Do you promise diligently to visit the sick and poor and needy in the congregation, and to attend carefully upon the instruction the young in the doctrines of our Christian religion?

*Answer:* I do.

Do you promise to comply with all the rules and by-laws of this congregation, as set forth in its regularly adopted constitution?

*Answer:* I do.

May God grant you grace to fulfill these promises as a servant in His Church to the glory of His Name and to the salvation of souls.

I, likewise, ask you as the officers of this congregation:

Do you on its behalf promise and obligate yourselves as a Christian congregation, to esteem Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ as a teacher among you, to hear and obey him as the shepherd of souls, in accordance with the Word of God, and the constitution, rules, and usages of this congregation?

*Answer:* We do.

Do you promise and obligate yourselves and this congregation with all its members to assist him by word and deed according to the opportunity and ability both in the performance of his duties and in the maintenance of churchly order and of salutary discipline?

*Answer:* We do.

And do you promise, as a Christian congregation, to communicate to him that teacheth in all good things and, as such, to pay your pastor promptly and faithfully the salary designated at the time you called him; and, on the whole, so to provide for him that he may labor among you without temporal anxiety?

*Answer:* We do.

All of which is duly required and promised on the part of the congregation and Pastor. God grant that you may keep your promises unbroken before Him!

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. So states St. Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, Chapter 9:14. He continues: "We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Brethren, warn them that are unruly,

comfort the timid, encourage the weak, be patient toward all men. See that no one render evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." (1 Thess. 5:12-15).

In view of these promises, mutually made, all in accordance with the Word of God, for the laborer is worthy of his hire, and, together with the Confession of our Apostolic Lutheran Church embracing the principles of the doctrine of Jesus Christ as set forth in Hebrews, the 6th Chapter, verses 1 and 2, I hereby now install Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, as Pastor of this congregation, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

May the Chief Shepherd and Bishop of the Church so direct the pastor and congregation by His Holy Spirit that they may be built ever upon the eternal foundation in Zion, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, for other foundation can no man lay except that which hath been laid, which is Jesus Christ. Amen!

*Let us pray:*

Lord God, heavenly Father: We thank Thee for Thy good and faithful care of Thy Church on earth, and that Thou hast given to this congregation a willing servant who will serve it in Thy Name. Lord, give him the continuing Holy Spirit that he may faithfully perform the

duties of his office. Let Thy blessing so rest upon him and us that Thy work may prosper in this congregation, bringing souls to repentance and to faith in Thee, for the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few. And we pray, Lord of the harvest, that thou wilt send forth laborers into Thy harvest. This we ask in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ Who taught the most perfect prayer, and unite to pray, saying:

Our Father, Who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in 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.

### THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

OR

"A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"





