



Celebration and Convocation of Synod Authorized Ministry Worship Service



While the Commissioning of a Synod Authorized Minister will be a part of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly each summer, this service is to be used in congregations to mark and bless the beginning of Synod Authorized Ministry.

Celebration of Synod Authorized Ministry is appropriately set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the commissioning.

This order is appropriate for the celebration of a Synod Authorized Minister who has been appointed by the Northwestern Minnesota Synod bishop. The Synod Authorized Minister may preside in the service of Holy Communion once they and their mentor agree on readiness. This may happen before or after the Commissioning service.

Order of Worship

Presentation

The assembly stands. The Synod Authorized Minister to be celebrated, and a representative of the congregation come before the assembly.

The congregation president or council representative addresses the assembly.

Having been authorized to serve church/parish name as our Synod Authorized Minister, today we celebrate SAM's full name, our co-worker in the gospel, I now ask for the letter of appointment from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

A representative of the congregation or council addresses the assembly.

After prayerful deliberation,
we, of name of congregation/Church/Parish,
recognize and lift up SAM's full name to serve as our Synod Authorized Minister
of Word and Sacrament.

I present SAM's full name and this letter of appointment.

The representative gives the presiding minister the letter of appointment.

Assembly is seated.

Adapted from the "Installation of a Pastor." from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly.

Scripture

Two to three congregation representatives or council members are needed for the next section.

One or more of the following scripture passages are addressed to those being authorized.

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

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

A reading from First Peter: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. *(1 Peter 4:10-11)*

The congregation representative or council members address questions to the Synod Authorized Minister.

SAM's Full Name, in the presence of this assembly,
will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility
in the confidence that it comes from God.

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

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures
and with the confessions of the Lutheran church?
Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitution
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

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

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures
and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

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

Trusting in God's care,
will you love, serve, and pray for God's people,
nourish them with the word and sacraments,
and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

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

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

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

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

The assembly responds: **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

The congregation representative or council members address questions to the Assembly.

People of God,
will you support this messenger of Jesus Christ,
sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you pray for *them*,
help and honor *them* for *their* work's sake, and in all things, strive to live in peace and unity in
Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

*The congregation representative or council members and SAM move to the following places of the word
and sacrament.*

The place of baptism (baptismal font).

A representative of the congregation says:

You have been authorized to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

They proceed to the place of the word (Pulpit).

A representative of the congregation says:

You have been authorized to be among us to proclaim the good news.

They proceed to the place of the meal (Altar).

A representative of the congregation says:

You have been authorized to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

*The congregation representative or youth lead prayer with the Assembly.
The assembly is asked to raise their hand for the blessing prayer.*

Blessing Prayer

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

The assembly responds: Amen.

The congregation representative or council member addressed the assembly with these or similar words.
People of God, we present to you SAM's name, your Synod Authorized Minister.
Let us welcome SAM's name in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession, led by the Synod Authorized Minister. Prayers are included for the newly authorized minister, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.

Notes on the Service

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

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

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

The letter of appointment the representative presents acknowledges the Synod authorized minister's willingness to serve. Please contact the Synod office if you do not have this letter of appointment.

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

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors and Synod authorized ministers to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.⁸⁷¹

Readings and Psalms

Exodus 3:1-12 *God calls Moses*

Numbers 6:22-27 *The Aaronic blessing*

Isaiah 40:1-11 *The word of our God will stand forever*

Isaiah 42:5-9 *I have called you; I have taken you by the hand*

Isaiah 52:7-10 *The messenger who brings good news*

Jeremiah 23:1-6 *God will raise up faithful shepherds*

Jeremiah 23:23-29 *Speak God's word faithfully*

Psalms 16 *In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)*

Psalms 84 *My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. (Ps. 84:2)*

Psalms 91 *You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust. (Ps. 91:2)*

Psalms 95 *We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

Psalms 96 *Declare the glory of the LORD among the nations. (Ps. 96:3)*

Psalms 99 *Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God. (Ps. 99:5)*

Psalms 103 *The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (Ps. 103:4)*

Psalms 113 *Let the name of the LORD be blessed from this time forth forevermore. (Ps. 113:2)*

Psalms 121 *My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)*

Psalms 122 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)*

Psalms 133 *How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*

Acts 20:28-35 *Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock*

Romans 10:13-17 *Faith comes from what is heard*

Romans 12:4-8 *Gifts that differ according to the grace given to us*

2 Corinthians 4:1-7 [8-12] *Treasure in clay jars*

2 Timothy 4:1-5 *Carry out your ministry fully*

1 Peter 5:1-4 *Tend the flock of God that is in your charge*

Matthew 9:1-8 *God gives authority to forgive*

Mark 4:1-9 *Parable of the Sower*

Mark 10:35-45 *The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve*

Luke 10:1-12, 16-20 *Sending of the seventy*

John 10:7-18 *The good shepherd*

John 13:[3-11] 12-17, 20 *Whoever receives one whom I send receives me*

John 17:6-19 *I have sent them into the world*

John 20:19-23 *Receive the Holy Spirit*

John 21:15-17 *Feed my sheep*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,*

who brings good news, who announces salvation. *Alleluia.* (Isa. 52:7)

Or, during Lent:

May I never boast of anything*

except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Gal. 6:14)

Other gospel acclamation texts that may be used:

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

Hymns

395 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

743 Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

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