Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care
Readings, Prayers, and Occasional Services
_Provisional Draft for Review October 2007_

The ongoing development of Evangelical Lutheran Worship resources includes work on the church’s occasional services, led by an editorial team and a related development panel. In the context of this work, which has been underway since the late fall of 2006, the editorial team has benefited from earlier work in the Renewing Worship process, particularly that which led to _Life Passages: Healing, Funeral, Marriage_ (2002), volume 4 in the Renewing Worship series. The editorial team has also reviewed _Occasional Services: A Companion to Lutheran Book of Worship_ (1982) and has considered how to use and build upon the resources present in that volume.

The proposal that the body of material commonly described as “occasional services” be made available in two distinct print volumes (as well as in electronic forms), has been well received in the early stages of review.

As proposed, the first volume focuses on support for the church’s ministry of care. The published _Evangelical Lutheran Worship_ assembly and leaders editions support worship around the means of grace in the public assembly; the proposed Pastoral Care volume is a collection of services, patterns for worship, readings, and prayers intended primarily for other occasions and settings. The collection is intended to be useful not only to pastors and rostered leaders but also to lay people, either when serving in caregiver roles or in other contexts. The volume is envisioned to be published in a compact format appropriate to use in a variety of settings outside the assembly.

The second proposed volume includes church orders related to the life of the Christian community, for use throughout the church (congregation, institution, synod, churchwide) within assembly worship. The proposed materials include orders related to the church’s ministry (such as ordination) and services related to the congregation’s life and mission (such as the installation of a congregational council). This volume is envisioned to be published in a larger format suitable for use in public worship. Some overlap of contents between the two volumes is envisioned. Provisional materials for the second volume will be available later in 2008.

The complete proposed content of the Pastoral Care volume is included in this file, with the exception of several orders that will be reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship pew edition or leaders edition, as well as the scripture reading appendix and various indexes. The materials are available for provisional use and review throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and responses are needed by February 1, 2008. Forms for evaluation and comment are available on the Web site elca.org/worship. Publication of the Pastoral Care volume is anticipated in the fall of 2008.
Materials from the following sources are acknowledged:

AAPBA, An Anglican Prayer Book, South Africa
APBA, A Prayer Book for Australia (Anglican Church)
BAS, Book of Alternative Services, Anglican Church in Canada
BCW, Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
BCW: PE, Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition
CHBP, Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers
CW, Common Worship: Services and Prayers, Church of England
CW:PE, Common Worship: Pastoral Services, Church of England
ELW, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pew Edition
ELW LE, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Edition
ELW PC, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care (new)
EOW 2, Enriching our Worship 2, Episcopal Church U.S.A.
LFF, Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006, Episcopal Church U.S.A.
NZPB, A New Zealand Prayer Book (Anglican Church)
OS, Occasional Services: A Companion to LBW
PCC, Pastoral Care Companion, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
PCS, Pastoral Care of the Sick, International Commission on English in the Liturgy
RW4, Life Passages, Renewing Worship, Vol. 4

The New Revised Standard Version Bible, National Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Prayers in Time of War

Thomas a Kempis
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10. Indexes
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2. Propers

Prayers of the day and gospel reading citations are proposed for inclusion in this section. A sample, using the Advent season, is illustrated here.

First Sunday of Advent

A
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Matthew 24:36-44

B
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Mark 13:24-37

C
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.


Second Sunday of Advent

A
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Matthew 3:1-12

B
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Mark 1:1-8

C
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Luke 3:1-6
Third Sunday of Advent

A
Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Matthew 11:2-11

B
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

C
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Matthew 1:18-25

B
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Luke 1:26-38

C
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

3. Holy Communion

3.1 HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE ASSEMBLY

This order is an extension of the service of Holy Communion to people who are unable to be present in the public worship of the assembly (for example, people who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned).

During or after the sending section of the service of Holy Communion, ministers may be sent to carry out this ministry. This prayer from the leaders edition may be prayed, or one of the other prayers for the sending of communion (p. 00 of this volume) may be prayed.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Gathering
The minister may greet the participant/s in these or similar words.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
Response: And also with you.

The minister may address the participant/s in these or similar words.
When our congregation gathered for Holy Communion, we heard again of God’s mighty acts and the love shown us in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. We shared in the holy meal of the Lord’s supper. Now we bring to you this word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, that you may share in these same gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.

The minister may continue with confession and forgiveness (A) or with a prayer of preparation (B). If neither of these forms is used, the minister continues with the prayer of the day.

A - Confession and Forgiveness
Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence may be kept for reflection.
Most merciful God,
Response: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your heart through faith.
Response: Amen.
OR

B - Prayer of Preparation
Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.
Response: Amen.

The prayer of the day (pp. 00-00) or another appropriate prayer may be said.

Word
The gospel for the day (pp. 00-00) or another reading from the assembly’s worship is read.
Circumstances may call for a brief reading instead, such as one of the following or another appropriate reading, especially one from the gospels.

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28)
Jesus came proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:14)
Jesus said, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.” (Luke 6:20-21)
When Jesus was at table with the disciples at Emmaus, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. (Luke 24:30-31)
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)
Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)
Jesus said, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (John 14:23)
Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Brief comment or conversation related to the reading may follow.

A hymn, such as the hymn of the day from the assembly’s worship, may be sung or read.

The minister may offer prayers of intercession from the assembly’s prayers, from the resources in this volume, or in other words suitable to the context.

The minister and the participant/s may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.
Meal

The minister addresses the participant/s.
Gathered at the Lord’s table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that “in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

The Lord’s Prayer is prayed by all. The minister may introduce the prayer with these or similar words. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,  
    on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those  
    who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
    and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and forever. Amen.

or

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,  
    forever and ever. Amen.

The minister may say:
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The minister then gives the bread and wine, saying:
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
and each communicant may respond Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow.

One of the following or a similar prayer after communion may be said.
Let us pray.  
Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.  
Response: Amen.
Let us pray.
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Response: Amen.

Sending

The service concludes with one of the following or a similar blessing.
Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Response: Amen.

or

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon us with favor and + give us peace.
Response: Amen.

Be at peace. Christ is with you.
Response: Thanks be to God.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Holy Communion from the Assembly best underscores the incorporation of the person visited into that larger assembly when it is used soon after the congregational service, normally within a few hours on the same day.

The congregation designates ministers of communion, selecting and training them carefully for this ministry. The ministers may be lay or ordained persons. The congregation also establishes a common practice for this ministry, attending to such matters as term of service for the ministers, record-keeping, and the care of the elements and vessels used in this ministry.

At regular intervals, especially during the Christmas and Easter cycles of the year, those who cannot attend public worship may benefit greatly from participating in Holy Communion in a service led by an ordained minister, with others from the congregation present. A fuller form of the service, with preaching and perhaps singing, may then be possible.

In this service, the customary responses are provided for the participant/s, such as And also with you and Amen. Circumstances may suggest that the minister speak the responses with or on behalf of the participant/s, except that And also with you is best omitted if the participant/s do not respond.

Preparation

The sacramental elements are brought in suitable containers, which need not be elaborate but should be designed to avoid spillage and contamination. The amount of bread and wine carried should be estimated so there is enough for each communicant yet without a great quantity remaining after all have communed.

If possible, a table to accommodate the bread and wine may be set near the communicant. Other items may be placed on the table, such as a cross, candle/s, a bowl of water recalling baptism, a Bible.
Upon arriving, the minister may informally greet those present. Fuller conversation may be better suited to another context, or may follow the service; however, the minister should be sensitive to the needs of those visited.

Gathering
A greeting such as one of those provided marks a transition from conversation to the sharing of communion. Other forms may be used, such as Peace to this house and to all who dwell in it.

Confession and forgiveness may be included, especially when it has been part of the assembly’s worship. The assurance of God’s forgiveness is often particularly welcomed by those who live with illness and confinement.

If the participant is unable to read the prayer of confession or to recite it by repeating phrases after the minister, the communion minister may read it and then ask, Is this your confession? If so, answer “yes.”

When a pastor is the communion minister, one of the forms on page 00 may be used in response to the confession. Or the pastor may use Individual Confession and Forgiveness, page 00.

The prayer of preparation provided or a similar prayer may be used in place of the prayer of confession.

Word
Another suitable scripture reading may be read instead of the gospel of the day or the readings suggested.

Selections from the intercessions used in the assembly’s worship may be prayed. Prayer concerns may be requested from those present and included in the prayers. The prayers that are provided for a variety of circumstances in other sections of this volume may be helpful resources in leading these prayers of intercession.

The physical setting may suggest that the greeting of peace be shared at the end of the visit rather than at its customary place in the service.

In some contexts, laying on of hands and anointing may be included following the prayers of intercession. See the Brief Order for Healing, p. 00, for guidance on incorporating this action into this service.

Meal
The communion minister recalls Jesus’ words of command and promise from the assembly’s worship. These words are not to be understood as a consecration of the elements. The bread and wine may be made ready to be shared after the Lord’s Prayer or before the service begins.

When the communicant’s circumstances prevent receiving one or the other element, it is important to remember that communion under one kind (bread or wine only) is a full sharing in the sacrament. Other circumstances may require further adaptation in how communion is received.

Other communicants who are present with the person visited may be invited to commune also, so that the communal nature of the meal may be more evident. It is appropriate for the communion minister also to share in the bread and the wine.

Bread and wine remaining after the last person to be visited has been communed may be consumed by those present at the last visit or reverently disposed of according to the congregation’s practice.
3.2 HOLY COMMUNION IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

This service of Holy Communion is intended for use in such places as the homes of the sick or homebound, health-care institutions, or prisons. An ordained minister presides at this service.

Gathering

The minister may greet those present in these or similar words. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. And also with you.

The minister may continue with confession and forgiveness (A) or with a prayer of preparation (B). If neither of these forms is used, the minister continues with the prayer of the day.

A - Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. Silence may be kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

Response: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

or

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

OR

B - Prayer of Preparation

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.

Response: Amen.

The minister prays the prayer of the day (pp. 00-00) or another appropriate prayer.

Word

The appointed gospel (pp. 00-00) is read. Another scripture reading may precede the gospel. Brief comment or conversation related to the reading may follow.
A hymn may be sung.

The minister may offer prayers of intercession from the assembly’s prayers, from the resources in this volume, or in other words suitable to the context.

The minister and the participant/s may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

Meal
The minister sets the table.

The minister may begin the great thanksgiving with the dialogue and preface.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

The minister continues, using one of the following forms or another appropriate form (pp. 00-00).

A
Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

OR

B
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
The Lord’s Prayer is prayed by all. The minister may introduce the prayer with these or similar words. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

or

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

The minister may say:  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The minister then gives the bread and wine, saying:  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
and each person may respond Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow.

One of the following or a similar prayer after communion may be said.  
Let us pray.  
Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.  
Amen.

or

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Sending

The service concludes with one of the following or a similar blessing.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
Amen.
or
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Be at peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE
This service retains the essential pattern and central elements of Holy Communion—greeting and prayer of the day, gospel reading (and comment on it), great thanksgiving, communion, and blessing.

At regular intervals, especially during the Christmas and Easter cycles of the year, those who cannot attend public worship may benefit greatly from participating in Holy Communion with others from the congregation present. A fuller form of the service, with a sermon and perhaps singing, may then be possible.

In this service, the customary responses are provided for the participant/s, such as And also with you and Amen. Circumstances may suggest that the minister speak the responses with or on behalf of the participant/s, except that And also with you is best omitted if the participant/s do not respond.

Gathering
A greeting such as one of those provided marks a transition from conversation to the service of Holy Communion. Other forms may be used, such as Peace to this house and to all who dwell in it.

Confession and forgiveness may be included. The assurance of God’s forgiveness is often particularly welcomed by those who live with illness and confinement. The prayer of preparation provided or a similar prayer may be used in place of the confession and forgiveness.

Word
The gospel reading may be the gospel for the preceding or the following Sunday, one of the gospel readings for the week in the daily lectionary, the gospel reading for a lesser festival or commemoration occurring on the day, or another appropriate gospel reading. The reading/s may be abbreviated as appropriate.

Prayer concerns may be requested from those present and included in the intercessions. The prayers that are provided for a variety of circumstances in other sections of this volume may be helpful resources in leading these prayers of intercession.

The physical setting may suggest that the greeting of peace be shared at the end of the visit rather than at its customary place in the service.

In some contexts, laying on of hands and anointing may be included following the prayers of intercession. See the Brief Order for Healing, p. 00, for guidance on incorporating this action into this service.

Meal
If those present are not able to participate in the responses, the dialogue is best omitted. The minister may then begin the thanksgiving with the preface (“It is indeed right . . .”).

Another brief thanksgiving at the table (pp. 00-00) may be used instead of one of the forms given here.

Other communicants who are present with the person visited may be invited to commune also, so that the communal nature of the meal may be more evident.
3.3 RELATED PRAYERS

3.3.1. Prayer at the sending of communion

Advent
Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent sisters and brothers. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christmas
O God, whose grace and truth are revealed in the Word-made-flesh, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent brothers and sisters. Nourish and strengthen those who receive this holy communion, that through the body and blood of your Son all may rejoice at his birth and in his presence among us now and forever.

Lent--Easter
Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent sisters and brothers. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

General
Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. May they be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

General
O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our absent sisters and brothers. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

General
Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes, in prisons, and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3.3.2. Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (3.3.2.1.)
Gracious God, you reveal your Son to us in word and sacrament. Open our hearts to receive him now. As the scriptures are proclaimed and the meal is shared, grant us to see and know the presence of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (3.3.2.2.)

3.3.3. Thanksgiving at the table
Additional forms for the thanksgiving at the table are in the leaders edition.

IX
Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
[We praise you, O God.]

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
[We bless you, O God.]

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
[We thank you, O God.]

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.
Amen.

X
O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. [Amen.]
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. [Amen.]
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [Amen.]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

Amen.

XII
Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in our community of faith and with your people throughout the world. Glory and praise to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

3.3.4. Prayer after communion

Advent
God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Christmas
Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Lent
Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Easter
Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

General
Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

General
O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
4. Holy Baptism

4.1 BAPTISM IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

This order may be used when an unbaptized person is in danger of death and baptism is requested. It is desirable that Christian witnesses be present.

When a pastor is not available, another baptized person may administer Holy Baptism.

One of the following or another appropriate scripture passage may be read.

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38-39)

or

Jesus said, My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)

The person who is baptizing applies water to the head of the candidate three times while saying:

Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer may be prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,
  hallowed be your name,
  your kingdom come,
  your will be done,
  on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
  as we forgive those
  who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
  and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
  and the glory are yours,
  now and forever. Amen.

or

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,
  forever and ever. Amen.

The following or other appropriate prayers may be said.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you have given name new birth, cleansed her/him from sin, and raised her/him to eternal life. Bless her/him, O Lord, with your presence, enfold her/him in the arms of your mercy, and keep her/him in your love forever. Amen.

The leader may address others who are present.
Be at peace. Christ is with you.

*Or, Name is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Care and discernment are called for when administering holy baptism under extraordinary circumstances. The order is intended for use only when an unbaptized person is in danger of death and asks to be baptized, or when a parent or guardian requests baptism for an unbaptized child who is in danger of death.

The discernment about such a decision is best approached with a spirit of trust in the grace and love of God, which are unfailing gifts whether or not the person is baptized under such circumstances.

Resources for use when a child has died before or shortly after birth are in the Ministry at the Time of Death section of this volume, pp. 00-00.

Baptism conducted in extraordinary circumstances should be reported to the pastor of the appropriate congregation for recording.

If the person who is baptized survives, the pastor should instruct the parents of a newly baptized child or the newly baptized adult regarding the significance of baptism and the obligations for instruction and nurture in faith.

Although sponsors may not have been present at the baptism, it is appropriate that such persons be selected to share responsibility for spiritual nurture.
4.2 PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF A BAPTISM

This order is used with an infant or young child who was baptized when in danger of death, or whose baptism did not take place within the public assembly. Affirmation of Baptism may be used for the public recognition of the baptism of an adult under similar circumstances. Or, Public Recognition of a Baptism may be modified as necessary.

When set within the service of Holy Communion, the public recognition of a baptism normally follows the hymn of the day.

Presentation
Sponsors and parents bring the baptized child and gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly may be seated.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.
God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

or
In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

A sponsor for the baptized child presents the child.
I present name to this community of faith.

The presiding minister may announce the baptism that has taken place.
Name was baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on date.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who have brought the child for recognition of baptism.
As you rejoice in the baptism of your child, you are also entrusted with responsibilities:
- to live with her/him among God's faithful people,
- bring her/him to the word of God and the holy supper,
- teach her/him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- place in her/his hands the holy scriptures,
- and nurture her/him in faith and prayer,
- so that your child may learn to trust God,
- proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- care for others and the world God made,
- and work for justice and peace.
Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?
Response: I do.
The presiding minister addresses sponsors.
Sponsors, do you promise to nurture name in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her/him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?
Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.
People of God, do you promise to support name and pray for her/him in her/his new life in Christ?
We do.

The assembly stands.

Profession of Faith
The presiding minister addresses parents and sponsors. The assembly may join in the responses.
I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.
Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.
**Thanksgiving at the Font**

The presiding minister leads the following or another form of the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

We thank you that by your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, name has been washed in the waters of baptism and has been given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may respond with one of the following, a sung alleluia, or another acclamation.

Blessed be God,

the source of all life,

the word of salvation,

the spirit of mercy.

or

You belong to Christ,

in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia.

Clothed with Christ in baptism, the baptized child may receive a baptismal garment.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the baptized child, the minister prays:

Sustain name with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized child. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

*Name*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.
Welcome

A lighted candle may be given to a parent or sponsor as a representative of the congregation says:
Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

or
Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.
Let us welcome our sister/brother name.
We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places. An acclamation, psalm, or hymn may be sung.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.
4.3 ANNIVERSARY OF A BAPTISM

This order is intended for use in the home. It may be adapted for use in another context, such as a Christian education setting. When used in the home, a parent or sponsor may be the leader.

A bowl of water may be placed in the midst of those who are gathered.

A baptismal hymn or acclamation (see Evangelical Lutheran Worship #209-217, 442-459) may be sung.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism as they say:
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The candle received at baptism or another candle may be used. As it is lighted, the leader may say:
Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

or

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

One or more scripture readings follow. Those present may share in reading.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Rom. 6:3-5)

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 4:26-28)

Little children were being brought to Jesus in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Matt. 19:13-15)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Cor. 5:17)

I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:1-6)

Other readings:
Matthew 28:18-20
John 3:1-8
Romans 6:3-11
Ephesians 1:13-14
Colossians 1:11-13
1 Peter 2:2-3
1 Peter 2:9
Revelation 22:1-2

Those present may share experiences related to baptism and to their lives as baptized children of God. A portion of the Small Catechism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pp. 1160-1167) may be read as part of this conversation.
Prayers may include the following or other appropriate prayers. Those present may share in speaking the petitions.

Let us pray.

Mighty and loving God, you made water everywhere: oceans and lakes, rivers and clouds. For creating water, we thank you.

Hear us, O God.

You give us water for drinking, for washing, for playing. For water that gives us life and joy, we praise you.

Hear us, O God.

You give us new life in Jesus by the gift of our baptism. For life in your Son, our Savior, we thank you.

Hear us, O God.

You wash us from our sin and make us clean and new. For the peace of forgiveness, we praise you.

Hear us, O God.

You send us your Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us. For all the gifts of the Spirit, we thank you.

Hear us, O God.

You feed us with your word and with the bread and cup of life. For all the ways you nourish us, we praise you.

Hear us, O God.

You call us to tell others about Jesus. For willingness to show Jesus by what we say and do, we pray to you.

Hear us, O God.

You help us to care for other people and to work for what is right. For strength to follow Jesus, we pray to you.

Hear us, O God.

Other prayers may be added.

This prayer may be used in place of the prayers above or as a conclusion to those prayers. Everyone may place a hand on the head or shoulder of the one who is celebrating the anniversary.

Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism. Especially, we ask you to bless name on the anniversary of her/his baptism. Continue to strengthen name with the Holy Spirit, and increase in her/him your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.
The prayers may conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

or

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

The following or another appropriate blessing is said.
May the God of all grace, who has called us to glory, support us and make us strong.
Amen.

A baptismal hymn or acclamation may be sung. During this time, a parent or sponsor may mark the sign of the cross on the forehead of the person celebrating a baptismal anniversary, or another reminder of baptism may be used.

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.
4.4 THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

This order may be used in various circumstances outside the weekly assembly to give thanks for the gift of holy baptism. Examples of settings in which this order might be used include a conference or retreat, a small group meeting for study or mutual support, or a camp setting.

The gathering may be near a body of water, or a bowl of water may be placed in the midst of those who are gathered. A candle may be lighted and placed near the water.

Those present may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

or
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

The leader may address others who are gathered.
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

The leader may give thanks with these or similar words (see pp. 00-00).
Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. [Here particular bodies or sources of water may be named.] Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Those present may join in singing, especially song related to baptism. Water may also be used to provide a reminder of the gift of baptism.
4.5 AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM FOR LIFE PASSAGES

Affirmation of Baptism for Life Passages is intended for use in pastoral care with people in a variety of life situations—especially transitions, times of change and decision, and times of crisis. Occasions for using this order might include moving from the parental home, beginning parenthood or grandparenthood, diagnosis of a chronic illness, choosing or changing an occupation, release from prison, new life after abuse or addiction, entering retirement, or the first anniversary of a loved one’s death.

The scripture readings and prayers given for a variety of circumstances in other sections of this volume may be used within this order.

The forms provided in Evangelical Lutheran Worship assembly and leaders editions are most appropriate for use in the public worship of the assembly.

Presentation

If this order takes place in the church building, the font may be used as the place of gathering. If the order takes place in another location, a bowl of water may be placed in the midst of those who are gathered.

Those present may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

or

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

The leader may note briefly the occasion for this affirmation, and may conclude, as appropriate:
Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, and we come before God with name/s as they make affirmation of their baptism into Christ.

The leader may continue with prayer.
Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

Reading

One or more scripture passages may be read. Readings may be selected from those suggested for particular circumstances in other sections of this volume, or other appropriate readings may be chosen.
Silence for reflection may follow the reading of scripture. Other forms of reflection may also follow, such as brief comment by the leader or guided conversation among those present. A hymn may be sung.

Profession of Faith
The leader addresses those making an affirmation of their baptism.
I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Response: I renounce them.

Those present may join in the Apostles’ Creed. Or, the leader may frame each of the three articles of the creed as a question, beginning “Do you believe . . . ” and concluding “Then answer, ‘I believe.’” Those present then respond after each article, “I believe.”

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

Affirmation
The leader addresses those who are making affirmation of their baptism.
You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
   to live among God's faithful people,
   to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
   to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
   to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.
The leader may address others who are present.
People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The presiding minister prays for God’s blessing.
Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. The following words of blessing may be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say: Stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.

The leader continues.
Names, we rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

A hymn, song, or psalm may be sung, and may be accompanied by a reminder of baptism.

Prayers may follow, and may include prayers suggested for particular circumstances in other sections of this volume. The prayers may conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your name,
    your kingdom come,
    your will be done,
    on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
    as we forgive those
    who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
    now and forever. Amen.

or

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,
    forever and ever. Amen.

The order may conclude:
Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

4.6 INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Individual Confession and Forgiveness, reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Edition, is proposed for inclusion here.
4.7 RELATED READINGS AND PRAYERS

4.7.1. Preparing for baptism
John 3:1-8, 16-17  *Born of water and the Spirit*
Romans 6:3-11  *Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection*
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  *A new creation*
Galatians 3:26-28  *Children of God through faith*

Merciful God, creator and giver of life, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. Grant grace to name/s and bless them. Raise them by your Spirit. Revive them by your word. Form them by your hand. Bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord. (4.7.1.1.)

4.7.2. Preparing for the baptism of an infant or young child
Matthew 19:13-15  *Let the children come to me*
Romans 8:14-19  *Children and heirs of God*
2 Timothy 1:1-5  *The gift of faith from generation to generation*
1 Peter 2:2-4, 9-10  *Like newborn infants*

O God, again and again in ages past you showed your mercy and grace to children. You snatched the infant Moses from death with the help of his mother and sister. You called Samuel when he was yet a toddler, and Hannah his mother sang for joy. You raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead and made a child an example of faith to your disciples. As you blessed Mary and Joseph and the child Jesus, bless also this family, that they may care for this child entrusted to them, bring her/him to baptism and to the bread and cup of blessing, and help her/him to mature in the household of faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. (4.7.2.1.)

4.7.3. Litany in preparation for baptism
A leader may pray the litany in dialogue with those present (sponsors, parents, other family members and friends) or with one other person representing the group.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Be gracious to us:
Hear us, O God.
Deliver your people:
Hear us, O God.
You loved us before the world was made:
Hear us, O God.
You rescued the people of your promise:
Hear us, O God.
You spoke through your prophets:
Hear us, O God.
You gave your only Son for the life of the world:
Hear us, O God.
For the gift of the Holy Spirit:
Thanks be to God.
For the one holy catholic and apostolic church:
Thanks be to God.
For the great cloud of witnesses into which name will be baptized:
Thanks be to God.
For our mothers and fathers in faith:
Thanks be to God.
Give new life to name by the grace of baptism:
Hear us, O God.
Give wisdom to those who guide name into the life of baptism:
Hear us, O God.
Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross:
Hear us, O God.
Clothe us in compassion and love:
Hear us, O God.
Bring us with all your saints to the river of life:
Hear us, O God.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

4.7.4. Acclamations and blessings
See Evangelical Lutheran Worship #209-217 for musical settings of several of these acclamations.

Blessed be God, who chose you in Christ.
Live in love as Christ loved us.

May the God of all grace, who has called you to glory, support you and make you strong.

God calls you to be one with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus, you call your own by name, and lead them to waters of life.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose great mercy we have a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

4.7.5. Signing with the cross in preparation for baptism
A sponsor, parent, or leader traces the cross on the forehead of the one preparing for baptism as the following is said:
Receive the + sign of the cross, a sign of God’s endless love and mercy for you.
4.7.6. Sponsors
God of new birth, you make us your own through the waters of baptism. Guide name/s by your Holy Spirit that, living in the covenant of their baptism, they may nurture name in the Christian faith and help her/him live in the covenant of her/his baptism and in communion with the church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4.7.7. Thanksgiving for baptism
One of these forms may be used in place of the one in Thanksgiving for Baptism, p. 00.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

OR

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers. [Here particular bodies or sources of water may be named.]

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. You, holy God, are the river of life.

Through this water remind us of our baptism. Create us all anew that we may serve this world in all its need, and that justice may flow like a river; for we trust in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.
5. Healing and Health

5.1 BRIEF ORDER FOR HEALING

The Brief Order for Healing may be used in a variety of circumstances in the church’s ministry of care. Those who sense the need for God’s healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gifts of prayer and of the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. Rather, the church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God’s presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God’s promise of wholeness and peace, and God’s love embodied in the community of faith.

The minister may begin with these or similar words.

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing. Name/s, with the gifts of prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing, we now entrust you to God in the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world.

or

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God name/s and all who are in need of healing.

One or more readings from the scriptures may follow, as appropriate to the circumstances or the occasion. Suggested readings for many circumstances are included in this section of Pastoral Care.

Prayers are said, as appropriate to the circumstances or the occasion. Suggested prayers for many circumstances are included in this section of Pastoral Care. Or, the following prayers may be said.

Let us pray.
Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy,

hear us, O God.

Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy,

hear us, O God.

Holy God, your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection. In your great mercy,

hear us, O God.
Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to name/s and all who are mental, physical, or spiritual distress. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of name/s and all who are suffering. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and requests for healing. The prayers conclude:

God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain name/s and all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The minister lays both hands on the person's head and may use one of these forms or similar words. The minister may also anoint the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross.
Name, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
be strengthened and filled with God's grace,
that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.
Response: Amen.

or
Receive this oil as a sign of forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ.
Response: Amen.

or
Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,
send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, name;
drive away all sickness of body and spirit;
make whole that which is broken;
deliver her/him from the power of evil;
and preserve her/him in true faith,
to share in the power of Christ's resurrection
and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.
Response: Amen.

The minister continues.
Let us pray.
Living God, through the laying on of hands [and anointing], grant comfort in suffering to name/s. When she/he is afraid, give her/him courage; when afflicted, give her/him patience; when dejected, give her/him hope; and when alone, assure her/him of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
The minister addresses those who are gathered. Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

This order is an adaptation of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship order for Healing, for use primarily with one or more persons in the course of the church’s ministry to the sick.

The particular focus of the order, including appropriate readings and requests for prayer, may best be discerned before the order begins.

The action of the laying on of hands is a significant physical gesture of blessing that recalls the promises of baptism. Laying both hands on the head of each person, the minister may allow for silence before continuing.

The first and third forms of the blessing may be used whether or not anointing is also offered. The form beginning “Receive this oil . . . ” is used only when anointing is offered.

When anointing is used, the laying on of hands in silence may be followed immediately by the words and action associated with the anointing. The minister places oil on the forehead of the person in the sign of the cross, speaking the words associated with this action.

Traditionally, olive oil is used for anointing. In synods where the bishop presides at a blessing of oils, that oil may be used.

The laying on of hands [and anointing] from the Brief Order for Healing may be included in Holy Communion from the Assembly (p. 00) or Holy Communion in Special Circumstances (p. 00) between the prayers of intercession and the peace.
5.2 RELATED READINGS AND PRAYERS

5.2.1. Healing and wholeness
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 91 The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Lamentations 3:22-26 The steadfast love of the Lord
Matthew 11:28-30 I will give you rest
Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd

God of compassion, your Son Jesus Christ, the great physician, made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore to us wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (5.2.1.1.)

5.2.2. A person who is sick
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 42:1-3 My soul thirsts for the living God
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 41:9b-10 Fear not, I am with you
Matthew 4:23-24 The crowds bring the sick to Jesus
Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law
Matthew 15:29-31 Jesus heals many who are sick
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
1 Peter 5:6-9a Cast your anxieties on God

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servant name the help of your power, that her/his sickness may be turned into health and our anxiety into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.2.1.)

O God of power and love, be present with name, that her/his weakness may be overcome and her/his strength restored; and that, her/his health being renewed, she/he may bless your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.2.2.)

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: comfort and relieve your servant name, and give your power of healing to those who minister to her/his needs, that she/he may be strengthened in her/his weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.2.3.)

Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you vanquished the powers of evil and healed those who were sick. Send your Holy Spirit on our sister/brother name, restore her/him to health and confirm her/his trust in you, through your all-powerful name. (5.2.2.4.)

Lord of all health, you are the source of our life and our refuge in every time of trial. Be for name now comfort in the midst of pain, strength to transform weakness, and light to brighten darkness, through Christ our Lord. (5.2.2.5)
5.2.3. A child who is sick

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Matthew 15:29-31 Jesus heals many who are sick
Luke 18:15-17 Jesus blesses the children
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
1 John 3:1-3 We are God’s children now

Lord Jesus, you took children in your arms and blessed them. Bless this child name and hold her/him in your love. Make her/him well and fill her/him with your peace; for your name’s sake. (5.2.3.1.)

Jesus, friend of little children, bless name with your healing love and make her/him well. (5.2.3.2.)

God of love, ever caring, ever strong, stand with us in our time of need. Watch over your child name who is sick, look after her/him in every danger, and grant her/him your healing and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. (5.2.3.3.)

Gentle Jesus, stay beside me through this day [night]. Take away my pain. Keep me safe. Help me in my fear. Make my body strong again and my heart glad. Thank you for your love which surrounds me. (5.2.3.4.)

5.2.4. Before a medical procedure or surgery

Psalm 8 How majestic is your name
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is on me
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, graciously protect name in her/his surgery. Fill her/his heart with confidence that, though she/he may be anxious, she/he may put her/his trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.4.1.)

Loving God, we pray that you will comfort name in her/his suffering, lend skill to the medical staff, and bless the means used for her/his care. Give her/him such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when she/he is afraid, she/he may put her/his whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. (5.2.4.2.)

God of grace and comfort, enfold name with your mercy. Strengthen her/him with the shield of faith, and enable her/him to trust you in all that lies ahead; heal her/him and bear her/his pain, keep her/him in peace and fix her/his heart on you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. (5.2.4.3.)

5.2.5. After a medical procedure or surgery

Psalm 28:6-9 The Lord is my strength and shield
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 103:1-13 The Lord is merciful and gracious
Psalm 116:5-9 I was brought low, the Lord saved me
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks that you have protected name during surgery. Enable her/him to trust in your goodness, to find comfort in your abiding presence, and to praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.5.1.)

Almighty God, source of all life and health: we give you thanks for wisdom, knowledge, and skill, for nurses and doctors, and all those whose hands have brought the gift of healing. Continue to make name whole in body, mind, and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.5.2.)

5.2.6. Beginning an extended course of treatment
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Mark 4:35-41 Jesus stills the storm
Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is on me
Matthew 11:28-30 I will give you rest

Strengthen your servant name, O God, and lead her/him through the journey ahead; that, accepting your healing gifts at the hands of physicians, nurses, and medical workers, she/he may be restored to wholeness with a thankful heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior. (5.2.6.1.)

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart, bring hope and courage to name as she/he waits in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will be with her/him in whatever lies ahead. Bring her/him courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness. You are God, and we need you. We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. (5.2.6.2.)

5.2.7. Difficult choices regarding treatment
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 90 Our dwelling place in all generations
Psalm 91 The shelter of the Most High
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season
John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice
Romans 8:22-30 The Spirit intercedes for us
Romans 14:7-9 Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s
Philippians 1:19-26 To live is Christ and to die is gain

O Lord our God, send your Holy Spirit to guide us, that we may make our decisions with love, mercy, and reverence for your gift of life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.7.1.)

Lord Jesus, in the night before your suffering and death, you struggled with all you were about to encounter. Be with name [and her/his family] in this anxious moment as they face difficult choices about medical treatment, especially those that may involve suffering and pain. Through it all, Lord Jesus, be a strong companion and guide along the way, for your love’s sake. (5.2.7.2.)
5.2.8. An incurable disease
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord?
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Lamentations 3:55-58 I call on your name from the depths
Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is on me
Romans 8:18-27 Creation will be set free
2 Corinthians 4:16-5.9 Our outer nature is wasting away
Hebrews 2:14-18 Jesus is able to help those who are tempted

God our refuge, when human resources fail, you alone remain our sure hope and defense. In the knowledge of your love, grant us courage. We place ourselves in your hands, confident that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. (5.2.8.1.)

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with illness for which there is no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own, deliver them from fear and pain, and assist us in ministering to their needs; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. (5.2.8.2.)

5.2.9. Chronic illness
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 31:1-5, 14-16 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Romans 5:1-5 Justification by faith gives peace with God
2 Corinthians 4:16-5.9 Our outer nature is wasting away
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 God’s power made perfect in weakness

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with illness for which there is no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own, deliver them from fear and pain, and assist us in ministering to their needs; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. (5.2.9.1.)

Lord Jesus Christ, by your cross and passion you redeemed the world. To all who face long-continued suffering grant patience, courage, and an unshakable trust in your love. Strengthen them to go on seeking your perfect will, that having endured with you they may also live and reign with you, now and forever. (5.2.9.2.)

5.2.10. A person who is unconscious
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives
Matthew 5:1-10 The Beatitudes
Matthew 10:29-31 More valuable than the sparrows

Merciful God, in your love and wisdom you know the needs and fears of your people before we can name them. Grant that name and we who watch with her/him may be enabled to surrender all her/his cares to you, as you care for her/him. Give her/him peace of mind and enduring trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. (5.2.10.1.)
5.2.11. Diagnosis of terminal illness
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord?
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 42:1-3 My soul thirsts for the living God
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Psalm 142 You are my refuge
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Ephesians 1:2-10 Chosen before the foundation of the world
Philippians 3:20--4.1 We await a Savior

Lord Jesus, who went out from the garden to face the long last day ahead, be with name in this uncertain moment. In the days that lie ahead, be her/his strength in times of weakness; be her/his consolation in times of sadness; be her/his rock in moments of despair. In all that she/he faces, assure her/him that your unfailing presence is always beside her/him, behind her/him, above her/him, and before her/him, both now and forever. (5.2.11.1)

Loving God, in every age you listen to the cries of lament and the questions about your wisdom from your servants who face suffering and death. In this time of distress and despair, hear the cries and questions of name [and her/his family and friends]. Stand with them in their suffering, that they may face the future with the confidence that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. (5.2.11.2.)

5.2.12. Hospice decision
Psalm 90 Our dwelling place in all generations
Psalm 91 The shelter of the Most High
Job 1:21-22 Blessed be the name of the Lord
Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives
Luke 23:46 Into your hands I commend my spirit
John 10:27-30 I give them eternal life
Romans 14:7-9 Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s

Holy and life-giving God, whose mercy is without end, look with grace upon name [and her/his family and friends] as they face the future and accept what cannot be avoided. Guide those who will accompany her/him in the days to come, so that name will be cared for and comforted. Uphold them all in your abiding love and sustain them with that peace which surpasses all understanding, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.12.1.)

5.2.13. Organ or tissue donation
Psalm 90 Our dwelling place in all generations
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season
Isaiah 35:5-7 The prophet looks to God’s healing
Isaiah 49:13b-16a God will not forget you
Romans 8:14-17 Children of God led by the Spirit of God
2 Corinthians 4:7-12 Treasure in clay jars
Philippians 3:20--4.1 We await a Savior
Blessed Jesus, help us to release name to everlasting life and name’s body to give new life to others you also love, as you have given your body that we might have life abundant, for which we give great thanks. (5.2.13.1.)

Loving God, you made our bodies as part of your good creation, and you sent your Son to share our humanity. We are thankful for the gift we have had in name. As her/his body has been a source of life and health for her/him, let it now be a source of life and health to others. Bless us in this moment with a selfless generosity, and bless those who may receive these gifts for their health and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (5.2.13.2.)

5.2.14. Grieving loss

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is on me
John 11:25-26 I am the resurrection and the life
Romans 14:7-9 Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s
Revelation 21:1-7 I am making all things new

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. (5.2.14.1.)

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.14.2.)

5.2.15. Pain

Psalm 6 O Lord, deliver my life
Psalm 22 Why have you forsaken me?
Psalm 88 My soul is full of troubles
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Luke 13:10-17 Woman, you are set free
Romans 8:18-27 Creation will be set free
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always

Almighty Father, grant to name your healing and release from pain, and your gifts of peace and hope, of courage and endurance. Cast out from her/him anxiety and fear, and grant her/him confidence and trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.15.1.)

As Jesus cried out on the cross, I cry out to you in pain, O God my Creator. Do not forsake me. Grant me relief from this suffering and preserve me in peace; through Jesus Christ my Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit. (5.2.15.2.)

Jesus, you knew pain, you knew the loneliness, the weakness and the misery it brings; you knew the agony. Be with name as she/he grapples with the pain she/he suffers now. Be a promise to her/him that this present suffering will cease; be the hand that she/he can hold; be present, Savior, for we need you now. (5.2.15.3.)
5.2.16. Confinement
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord?
Psalm 34 Blessed are those who take refuge in God
Psalm 71 The Lord will revive me
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
John 14:23 The Father and Son make a home with us
1 Peter 1:3-9 Born anew to a living hope
1 John 3:1-3 We are God’s children now

Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you are near us, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then take us by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.16.1.)

5.2.17. Loss of memory
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Isaiah 53:4 Bearing our griefs and sorrows
Matthew 9:35-38 Like sheep without a shepherd
John 6:35-40 I should lose nothing that God has given
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you
John 16:12-14 The Spirit will guide us in truth

God of compassion, you have borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Stay close beside your servant name in her/his distress. Although her/his loss of memory is hard to bear, give her/him comfort in knowing that you remember her/him always in your grace. Supply her/his every need according to the riches of your glory in Christ Jesus. (5.2.17.1.)

Holy God, you have known me from my mother’s womb and have been with me throughout my life. Protect me and keep me safe through all the changes that may come. In Christ you claimed me as your own. Help me to trust that who I am will never be lost to you. (5.2.17.2.)

5.2.18. Fear of losing hope
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Matthew 6:25-34 Do not be anxious
Mark 4:35-41 Jesus stills the storm
Romans 5:1-5 Justification by faith gives peace with God
Hebrews 2:14-18 Jesus is able to help those who are tempted
1 John 4:16-19 Whoever loves abides with God

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially name, for whom we now pray. Give her/him a fresh vision of your love, that she/he may find again what she/he fears she/he has lost. Grant her/him your powerful deliverance; through the one who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. (5.2.18.1.)

5.2.19. In the morning
Psalm 8 How majestic is your name
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 86:1-13 Great is your steadfast love
Psalm 90 God’s love in the morning
Psalm 123 **Our eyes look to God**
Lamentations 3:22-25 **God’s mercies new every morning**
Matthew 10:29-31 **More valuable than the sparrows**
Romans 12:1-2 **Present your bodies as a living sacrifice**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. (5.2.19.1.)

### 5.2.20. In the evening

Psalm 8 **How majestic is your name**
Psalm 42:1-3 **My soul thirsts for the living God**
Psalm 130 **Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord**
Romans 8:26-27 **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words**
1 John 3:1-3 **We are God’s children now**
Revelation 21:1-7 **I am making all things new**

Dear Jesus, as a hen covers her chicks with her wings to keep them safe, protect us this night under your golden wings; for your mercy’s sake. (5.2.20.1.)

Be our light in the darkness, O God, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. (5.2.20.2.)

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. (5.2.20.3.)

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. (5.2.20.4.)

### 5.2.21. Emotional distress

Psalm 13 **How long, O Lord?**
Psalm 22 **Why have you forsaken me?**
Psalm 88 **My soul is full of troubles**
Psalm 130 **Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord**
Isaiah 41:9b-10 **Fear not, I am with you**
Isaiah 43:1-3a **I have called you by name**
Lamentations 3:22-26 **The steadfast love of the Lord**
Matthew 10:29-31 **More valuable than the sparrows**
Mark 4:35-41 **Jesus stills the storm**
Mark 15:24-34 **The crucifixion of Jesus**
John 10:11-18 **I am the Good Shepherd**
John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you**
Hebrews 4:14-16 **We have a high priest who sympathizes with weakness**
1 Peter 5:6-9a **Cast your anxieties on God**
Merciful God, you give us the grace that helps in time of need. Surround name with your steadfast love and lighten her/his burden. By the power of your Spirit, free her/him from distress and give her/him a new mind and heart made whole in the name of the risen Christ. (5.2.21.1.)

Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. (5.2.21.2.)

5.2.22. Mental illness
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord?
Psalm 22 Why have you forsaken me?
Psalm 88 My soul is full of troubles
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Mark 4:35-41 Jesus stills the storm
John 10:1-18 I am the Good Shepherd
Hebrews 2:14-18 Jesus is able to help those who are tempted
1 Peter 5:6-9a Cast your anxieties on God

Mighty God, in Jesus Christ you deal with forces that trouble our minds and set us against ourselves. Give peace to those who are cast down, torn by inner conflict, or lost in worlds of illusion. By your great might, drive from us the powers that shake confidence and shatter love. Bring us into the light of your truth, so that we may see and accept ourselves as your beloved children in Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.22.1.)

Heavenly Father, have mercy on all your children who live in mental distress. Restore them to strength of mind and spirit, and give them health and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.22.2.)

Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, we lay before you the memories that disturb name, the anxieties that perplex her/him, the despair that frightens her/him, and her/his frustration at her/his inability to think clearly. Help her/him again to find calm in your constant presence and to know peace in your unflailing promise. Touch her/him, O Lord, and fill her/him with your light, for you are our hope and our salvation. (5.2.22.3.)

5.2.23. Suffering abuse or violence
Psalm 22 Why have you forsaken me?
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 55:1-8, 12-14, 16-22 Betrayed by a friend
Psalm 62 For God alone my soul waits
Psalm 140 Deliver me from the hands of the wicked
Hebrews 2:14-18 Jesus is able to help those who are tempted
Matthew 10:29-31 More valuable than the sparrows
Luke 10:27-37 The good Samaritan
1 John 4:16-19 Whoever loves abides with God

Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus you bear that pain with all who suffer at others’ hands. With your cleansing love bring healing and strength to name; and by your justice, lift her/him up, that in body, mind, and spirit, she/he may again rejoice. In Jesus’ name we pray. (5.2.23.1.)
Our Lord and our God, grant us grace to see your love in whatever we face. Give us patience and thankfulness even in our pain, anxiety, or loss; and move us with compassion and tenderness for our afflicted neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.23.2.)

Loving God, whose Son was both victim and victor, we cry to you for those who suffer abuse [especially name/s]. Be with them in confusion and pain. Heal the wounds of body and mind; break open the prisons of fear, self-doubt, and despair; and strengthen them to face the future with faith, hope, and courage. Reach out to them with your love, that they may be made whole in body, mind, and spirit, through the healing touch of the suffering Christ. (5.2.23.3.)

5.2.24. Recovering from trauma
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Lamentations 3:22-26 The steadfast love of the Lord
Matthew 5:1-10 The Beatitudes

Our Lord and our God, grant us grace to see your love in whatever we face. Give us patience and thankfulness even in our pain, anxiety, or loss; and move us with compassion and tenderness for our afflicted neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.24.1.)

Out of the darkness we cry to you, O God. Enable us to find in Christ the faith to trust your care even in the midst of pain, so that we may not walk alone through the valley of the shadow of death, through Christ our Lord. (5.2.24.2.)

5.2.25. Addiction
Psalm 25 Teach me your paths
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Mark 5:1-20 Jesus heals a man with a demon
John 3:16-17 God so loved the world
Romans 5:1-11 While we were sinners, Christ died for us
Romans 7:15-20 I do not understand my actions
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Hebrews 4:14-16 We have a high priest who sympathizes with weakness

Blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen those who are engaged in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them, give honesty, understanding, and persevering love; for your mercy’s sake. (5.2.25.1.)

O Lord, mercifully regard your servant name, who is bound with the chains of addiction. Give her/him strength, that she/he may be freed from fear and guilt and be restored in you to the liberty of the children of God, now and forever. (5.2.25.2.)

5.2.26. Recovering from addiction
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 32 Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Lamentations 3:22-26 The steadfast love of the Lord
John 3:16-17 God so loved the world
Acts 3:1-10 In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up
Romans 5:1-11 While we were sinners, Christ died for us
2 Corinthians 4:6-9 Treasure in clay jars

Blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen those who are engaged in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them, give honesty, understanding, and persevering love; for your mercy’s sake. (5.2.26.1.)

O Lord, mercifully regard your servant, name, who is bound with the chains of addiction. Give her/him strength, that she/he may be freed from fear and guilt and be restored in you to the liberty of the children of God, now and forever. (5.2.26.2.)

5.2.27. Families living with addiction
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord?
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Mark 5:1-20 Jesus heals a man with a demon
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
Romans 7:15-20 I do not understand my actions
Romans 8:18-27 Creation will be set free
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
2 Corinthians 4:6-9 Treasure in clay jars

Compassionate God, your Son brought healing and wholeness to people stricken with disease, death, and demons that destroyed the joys of family life. Look with favor on this family [name/s] as they struggle against addiction and all the harm it brings to name and those who love her/him. Grant them your strength to cope with the difficulties of each day, the power of the Holy Spirit to confront name at the opportune time, and the love of Jesus Christ to support name in the struggle against addiction. We ask all this in the name of the Power able to restore to sanity those who are addicted, Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.27.1.)

5.2.28. Sobriety, anniversary of sobriety
Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength
Lamentations 3:22-26 The steadfast love of the Lord
Romans 5:1-11 While we were sinners, Christ died for us
Romans 12:1-2 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other--living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with you forever in the next. (5.2.28.1)
5.2.29. Caregivers and others who support the sick
Psalm 28:6-9 The Lord is my strength and shield
Psalm 42:1-3 My soul thirsts for the living God
Matthew 6:25-34 Do not be anxious
1 Corinthians 12:24b-27 You are the body of Christ
James 5:13-16 The prayer of faith
Hebrews 4:14-16 We have a high priest who sympathizes with weakness

God, our refuge and strength, our present help in time of trouble, care for those who tend the needs of name. Strengthen them in body and spirit. Refresh them when weary; console them when anxious; comfort them in grief; and hearten them in discouragement. Be with us all, and give us peace at all times and in every way; through Christ our peace. (5.2.29.1.)

Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears may they know your peace. In their prayer may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or faint-hearted; for your mercy’s sake. (5.2.29.2.)

5.2.30. Thanksgiving for caregivers
Psalm 103:1-5 Bless the Lord who heals us
Matthew 25:34-40 Caring for the least
Luke 10:27-37 The good Samaritan
1 Corinthians 12:24b-27 You are the body of Christ
1 Peter 4:8-10 Use your gifts to serve one another

Holy and compassionate God, you send to us in our need those who care for us and look out for our lives. Bless them in their love for us. Bless the hands of those who work for our health. Bless the minds of those who search for our healing. Bless the feet of those who come to us in our need. Bless the eyes of those who look after us. Bless the hearts of all who serve; fill them with compassion and patience; and work through all of them for the betterment and well-being of all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.30.1.)

5.2.31. Caregivers at the limits of their power to help
Psalm 42:1-3 My soul thirsts for the living God
Psalm 123 Our eyes look to God
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Matthew 11:28-30 I will give you rest
2 Corinthians 4:7-18 Treasure in clay jars
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 God’s power made perfect in weakness

O Lord, we are at the limits of our power to help. We place into your hands ourselves and all that we have left undone. We thank you for what you have helped us to do. We ask you to lend your strength to what must be done by others. Now shelter us in your peace, which surpasses our understanding. (5.2.31.1.)

5.2.32. Health care providers
Psalm 25 Teach me your paths
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 123 Our eyes look to God
Matthew 9:35-38 Like sheep without a shepherd
Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.32.1.)

5.2.33. Emergency workers

Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength
Isaiah 41:9b-10 Fear not, I am with you
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Matthew 25:34-40 Caring for the least
Luke 10:27-37 The good Samaritan
Ephesians 6:10-17 Strength in the Lord

God of earth and air, water and fire, height and depth, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepherd. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done, under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.33.1.)

5.2.34. Restoration of health

Psalm 28:6-9 The Lord is my strength and shield
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 103:1-13 The Lord is merciful and gracious
Psalm 116:5-9 I was brought low, the Lord saved me
Psalm 150 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Isaiah 63:7-9 God has favored us with mercy
2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Inner nature renewed
Luke 8:43-48 Jesus heals a woman with a hemorrhage
Luke 17:11-17 Ten lepers are healed
John 5:2-9 Jesus heals a man at the Sheep Gate
Ephesians 1:2-10 Chosen before the foundation of the world
Romans 5:1-5 Justification by faith gives peace with God

O Lord, your compassions never fail and your mercies are new every morning. We give you thanks for giving our sister/brother [name] both relief from pain and hope of health renewed. Continue in her/him the good work you have begun; that she/he, daily increasing in bodily strength and rejoicing in your goodness, may so order her/his life and conduct that she/he may always think and do those things that please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.34.1.)
O Lord our God, we need your guidance in all we do. Let your wisdom counsel us, your hand lead us, and your arm support us. Conform us to your image and make us like our Savior, that in some measure we may live here on earth as he lived and may act in all things as he acted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.34.2.)

Saving God, we give you thanks for restoring health to your servant name. We bless you and praise you for the mercy which you show to us when we call upon you. Teach us to trust you in all circumstances of life and to know your loving care and protection, through our Lord Jesus Christ. (5.2.34.3.)

5.2.35. Recovery from sickness
Psalm 28:6-9 The Lord is my strength and shield
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 103:1-13 The Lord is merciful and gracious
Psalm 116:5-9 I was brought low, the Lord saved me
1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 24 A song of God's steadfast love
Mark 5:1-20 Jesus heals a man with a demon
Luke 7:18b-23 The Messiah comes heals
1 Peter 1:3-9 Born anew to a living hope

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to us, your children, an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (5.2.35.1.)

5.2.36. Thanksgiving for recovery
Psalm 28:6-9 The Lord is my strength and shield
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 103:1-13 The Lord is merciful and gracious
Psalm 116:5-9 I was brought low, the Lord saved me
Psalm 150 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Isaiah 63:7-9 God has favored us with mercy
2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Inner nature renewed
Luke 8:43-48 Jesus heals a woman with a hemorrhage
Luke 17:11-17 Ten lepers are healed
John 5:2-9 Jesus heals a man at the Sheep Gate
Ephesians 1:2-10 Chosen before the foundation of the world
Romans 5:1-5 Justification by faith gives peace with God

God of steadfast love, your mercies are new every day: we thank you for the gift of healing for name. We give you thanks for love of family and friends, for the prayers of your people, and for those who have ministered in healing. Accept our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (5.2.36.1.)
6. Ministry at the Time of Death

6.1 PRAYER WHEN LIFE-SUSTAINING CARE ENDS

This order is intended for use when a person gathers with others (family, friends, caregivers) for prayer to mark a transition from life-sustaining care to palliative care. It may also be used when a life support system is to be withheld or discontinued.

When death is expected immediately following the withholding or discontinuing of treatment, Commendation of the Dying (p. 00) may be used instead of this order.

Gathering

The leader greets those present and invites them into prayer.
We gather to entrust name to the care of God, who alone is our life, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Let us pray.
O God our creator and sustainer, receive our prayers for name. We thank you for the love and companionship we have shared with her/him. Give us grace now to accept our human limitations as we commend name to your merciful care. Strengthen us, we pray, in this time of trial and help us to continue to serve and care for one another; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

or

Let us pray.
God of compassion and love, you have breathed into us the breath of life and have given us the exercise of our minds and wills. In our frailty, we place our whole life into your hands, trusting in your gracious promises; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word

One or more of the following or other appropriate passages of scripture may be read.
Isaiah 49:14-16a I will not forget you
Isaiah 65:17-20 I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 103:8-13 The Lord is merciful and gracious
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 Death no longer has dominion
Romans 8:35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Matthew 11:28-30 I will give you rest
John 10:27-30 I give them eternal life
John 14:1-3 In my Father’s house

Silence for reflection may follow the readings.
A hymn may be sung.

Prayer

*The following litany or other appropriate prayers may be prayed.*

With the faithful of every time and place, let us place ourselves in God’s hands.

With Sarah and Abraham, who set out from home for a land unknown:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

With Moses, who prayed for his people before going up the mountain to die:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

With Ruth, who pledged faithfulness until death to her mother-in-law Naomi:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

With the disciples, who left their nets to follow Jesus:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

With Mary the mother of Jesus, and the women who watched at the cross:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

With our Lord Jesus, who commended himself into your hands when he breathed his last:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

With *name*, whom we now place into your strong arms, confident of your grace and mercy:

God of the promise,

*we put our trust in you.*

*Other prayers may be added.*

*The prayers conclude with these or similar words.*

God our wisdom, we commend to you the decisions we have made in hope, in sorrow, and in love, that as we place our whole trust in you, our choices and our actions may be encompassed by your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*Amen.*

*or*

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*
The Lord’s Prayer is prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven, 
ahallowed be your name, 
your kingdom come, 
your will be done, 
on earth as in heaven. 
Give us today our daily bread. 
Forgive us our sins 
as we forgive those 
who sin against us. 
Save us from the time of trial 
and deliver us from evil. 
For the kingdom, the power, 
and the glory are yours, 
now and forever. Amen.

or

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, 
forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

A hymn may be sung.

The following prayer may be said.
Let us pray.

Faithful God, give comfort and strength to name as she/he follows Christ in the path that is now set before her/him. Give wisdom and faithfulness to all of us who are companions along this way, that we may journey beside our loved one, watch and wait with her/him, and, with your help, bear witness by our presence and prayers to the love of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord. 

Amen.

The leader concludes the service with these or similar words.
Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory to God from generation to generation in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. 

Amen.

Those present may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

After this, life-sustaining treatment may be ended in accordance with the circumstances.

Commendation of the Dying may follow at a time when death is imminent.
NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Prayer When Life-Sustaining Care Ends offers resources for circumstances that have become more common as the capacities of medical technology have continued to evolve. Whenever possible, the service includes the participation of the one whose life-sustaining treatment will be ended.

The resources provided here are intentionally flexible to accommodate the variety of circumstances in which they may be used. For example, a simple order might consist of the opening sentence and prayer, the Lord’s Prayer, and the concluding prayer and blessing.

Or, the resources may be combined with those of other orders in this volume and elsewhere. After the prayers within this service, the Meal section of Holy Communion from the Assembly or of Holy Communion in Special Circumstances may be inserted. The service may then conclude with the Sending provided here. From the Brief Order for Healing, laying on of hands [and anointing] may be included after the prayers, whether or not holy communion is included in the service.

A litany is provided as one form for the prayers. If participants do not have the service before them, the leader may cue the response as part of the invitation to prayer. For other prayers that may be used in place of or in addition to the litany, see the Related Readings and Prayers in this section (p. 00) and in the Healing section (especially pp. 00-00).

In many circumstances, singing or other music may be an important element of this time of prayer. Several places are suggested in the service for the singing of a hymn, either by all gathered, or by one or several from among those present. Hymns may include the following.

565, sts. 1-3, 5 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
619 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
621 Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense
623 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
627 O Day Full of Grace
629 Abide with Me
750, st. 3 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
765 Lord of All Hopefulness
767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
776 What God Ordains Is Good Indeed
781 Children of the Heavenly Father
790 Day by Day
6.2 COMMENDATION of the DYING

When a person is near death, the pastor should be notified, so that the ministry of the church may be provided. A person approaching death may be offered the opportunity for confession and forgiveness.

Commendation of the Dying may be shortened or extended as appropriate, and may be led by an ordained minister or another leader. The prayers may be adapted as needed.

Gathering

The leader greets those present with one or both of the following sentences or in similar words.
We begin in the name in which we are baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

or

We come together for prayer to commend name to God, who is faithful and compassionate.

Let us pray.
Almighty God, look on name, whom you made your child in baptism. Comfort her/him with the promise of life with all your saints, the promise made sure by the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

or

Let us pray.
Holy God, whose peace surpasses all understanding, we pray that you will free name from all earthly cares, pardon her/his sins, release her/him from pain, and grant that she/he may come to dwell with all your saints in everlasting glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

or for a child who is dying

Let us pray.
God our creator, you called into being this fragile life, which had seemed to us so full of promise. Give to name, whom we commit to your care, abundant life in your presence, and to us who grieve, courage to bear our loss; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word

One of the following psalms or another appropriate scripture passage may be read.
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 61:1-5 Hear my cry, O God
Psalm 130 Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord
Psalm 139:1-12 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Prayer

The following litany or other appropriate prayers may be prayed. Let us offer our prayers for name.

Holy God, creator of heaven and earth, we commend name to you.

Holy and Mighty, redeemer of the world, we commend name to you.

Holy and Immortal, sanctifier of the faithful, we commend name to you.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, we commend name to you.

By your holy incarnation, we commend name to you.

By your cross and passion, we commend name to you.

By your precious death and burial, we commend name to you.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension, we commend name to you.

By the coming of the Holy Spirit, we commend name to you.

For deliverance from all evil, all sin, and all tribulation, we commend name to you.

For deliverance from eternal death, we commend name to you.

For forgiveness of all sins, we commend name to you.

For a place of refreshment at your heavenly banquet, we commend name to you.

For joy and gladness with your saints in light, we commend name to you.

Jesus, Lamb of God, we commend name to you.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, we commend name to you.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, we commend name to you.
The Lord’s Prayer is prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

or

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

Commendation

The leader continues:
Let us commend our sister/brother name to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

The leader and others who are present may lay a hand on the head of the dying person as the leader says one or more of the following.
Name, child of God,  
go forth in the name of God the Father Almighty who created you;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who redeemed you;  
in the name of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon you.
May you rest in peace and dwell forever in the paradise of God.
Amen.

or

Name, our sister/brother in the faith, we entrust you to God who created you.  
May you return to the one who formed us out of the dust of the earth.
Surrounded by the angels and triumphant saints,  
may Christ come to meet you as you go forth from this life.
Christ, the Lord of glory, who was crucified for you, bring you freedom and peace.
Christ, the High Priest, who has forgiven all your sins, keep you among his people.
Christ, the Son of God, who died for you, show you the glories of his eternal kingdom.
Christ, the Good Shepherd, enfold you with his tender care.
May you see your redeemer face to face and enjoy the sight of God forever.
Amen.

or

Name, our companion in faith and sister/brother in Christ, we entrust you to God.  
Go forth from this world in the love of God who created you;  
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who died for you;  
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you,  
at one with all the faithful, living and departed.
May you rest in peace and rise in the glory of your eternal home, where grief and misery are banished, and light and joy abide.

Amen.

*The leader may continue with this prayer of commendation, particularly when death seems near.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant name.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.

Receive her/him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

*The following may be sung or spoken.*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

After death, the leader may say:

Lord Jesus Christ, through water and the Spirit you brought name into your family; receive her/him and present her/him to God Most High.

Amen.

The leader continues.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers may be included for the family and other bereaved. Those present may be invited to offer prayers. Then the leader says one or both of the following.

May name and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

*or*

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.
NOTES ON THE SERVICE

The resources provided here are intentionally flexible to accommodate the variety of circumstances in which they may be used. For example, a simple order might consist of the opening sentence and prayer, the Lord’s Prayer, and appropriate elements from the Commendation section.

However, it is often the case that the time spent with a dying person unfolds over many hours or days. The resources provided here may be interspersed with silence, scripture and other readings, singing and other music, conversation, the sharing of stories, and the like. Some of the elements, including the Commendation, may be repeated as desired. This service, unlike many others that have a relatively predictable duration, may be best understood as a kind of vigil, a time of waiting and watching with the one who is dying, punctuated with resources from the Christian tradition as well as elements of human presence and communication.

Also, the resources provided here may be combined with those of other orders in this volume and elsewhere. After the prayers within this service, the Meal section of Holy Communion from the Assembly or of Holy Communion in Special Circumstances may be inserted. The service may then conclude with the Sending provided here. Laying On of Hands may be included after the prayers, whether or not holy communion is included in the service.

A litany is provided as one form for the prayers. If participants do not have the service before them, the leader may cue the response as part of the invitation to prayer. For other prayers that may be used in place of or in addition to the litany, see the Related Readings and Prayers in this section (p. 00) and in the Healing section (especially pp. 00-00).

In many circumstances, singing or other music may be an important element in supporting this time of prayer. Hymns may be sung, either by all gathered, or by one or several from among those present. Hymns may include the following.

565, sts. 1-3, 5       All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
618                 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
619                 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
621                 Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense
623                 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
627                 O Day Full of Grace
629                 Abide with Me
750, st. 3       Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
765                 Lord of All Hopefulness
767                 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
773                 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
776                 What God Ordains Is Good Indeed
781                 Children of the Heavenly Father
790                 Day by Day
6.3 RESOURCES FOR THE COMMENDATION OF A STILLBORN CHILD

When an infant is stillborn or dies shortly after birth, the following resources may be useful in addition to or in place of various elements of the funeral liturgy. Some of these resources may also be useful in the case of a miscarriage.

INTRODUCTION
Welcome in the name of Jesus the Savior, who died and was raised to new life by the grace of God. We come to seek the comfort of God as we mourn the death of a child, known to the mother who carried her/him, known to all those who have anticipated her/his birth in hope and expectation. We commend her/him to our merciful redeemer, even as we console one another in our grief.

NAMING
Parent/s may choose to name their child publicly.

The presiding minister says:
The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.” The name Jesus was given to the child of Mary, the Son of God, as a sign of salvation for all people. The naming of this child reminds us of God’s care for her/him and helps us remember this child’s coming among us.

The presiding minister addresses parent/s:
What do you name your child?
Parent/s respond: Her/his name is ________.

Parent/s or others may also comment on the significance of the name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Out of the depths we cry to you, O loving God. Enable us to find in Christ the faith to trust your care, so that even in the pain of losing this little life, we may not walk alone through the valley of the shadow of death, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READINGS
The following or other appropriate scripture readings may be used.

Deuteronomy 33:27a The eternal God is your dwelling place
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Psalm 139:1-15 Your right hand will hold me fast
Romans 8:26-27 The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words
1 John 3:12 We are children of God
Luke 18:15-17 Jesus blesses the children
COMMENDATION
Merciful God, your Spirit intercedes for us even when we do not know how to pray. Be present among us now that we might commend name / this child / this pregnancy into your loving care and, by your presence, find comfort; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.
Amen.

[Name,] Child of God, we entrust you to God who created you, who formed us all out of the dust of the earth.
Amen.

May this child [name] and all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

OTHER PRAYERS
A (at the death of an infant)
God our creator, you called into being this fragile life, which had seemed to us so full of promise. Give to name, whom we commit to your care, abundant life in your presence, and to us, who grieve for hopes destroyed, courage to bear our loss; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

B (at the event of a miscarriage)
O God, who gathered Rachel’s tears over her lost children, hear now the sorrow and distress of name/s for the death of their expected child. In the darkness of loss, stretch out to them the strength of your arm and renewed assurance of your love; through your own suffering and risen Child Jesus.

C (for a stillbirth, or a child who dies soon after birth)
Heavenly Father, your love for all children is strong and enduring. We were not able to know name as we hoped. Yet you knew her/him growing in her/his mother’s womb, and she/he is not lost to you. In the midst of our sadness, we thank you that name is with you now.

D (for a mother and loved ones of a child who has died near birth)
Loving God, we thank you that in your mercy you brought your daughter name through childbirth in safety. We pray that name/s will know your support in this time of trouble and enjoy your protection always; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

E (for those who mourn)
Merciful God, you grant to children an abundant entrance into your kingdom. In your compassion, comfort those who mourn for name, and grant us grace to conform our lives to her/his innocence and faith, that at length, united with her/him, we may stand in your presence in the fullness of joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ.
6.4 COMFORTING the BEREAVED

Comforting the Bereaved may be used on those occasions when family and friends gather for prayers prior to the funeral. The setting for this service is not usually the church’s worship space but the place of death, the home of the deceased, or the place of visitation.

The service offers an opportunity for those who are gathered to acknowledge death, to express sorrow and grief, to remember the one who has died, and to be comforted by the promises of God and the presence of one another.

Gathering

The leader greets those who are present and invites into prayer with these or similar words:

We are gathered for prayer and mutual consolation as we entrust our sister/brother name to the mercy of God. Let us pray.

The leader continues with one or more of the following or another appropriate prayer:

Eternal God, you gave name a new birth in baptism and entrusted her/him to us to know and to love. As we thank you for the life we shared, help us now to release her/him to your mighty keeping. Bring us all to that day when we shall stand in your presence with all your saints in light eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

or

Merciful Creator, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us even when we do not know how to pray. Send your Spirit now to comfort us in these days of need and loss, and help us to commend name to your merciful care; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

or

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or--at the death of a child

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust name to your never-failing lovingkindness. Comfort us as we bear the pain of her/his death, and gather us all into the arms of your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

One or more of the following or other appropriate passages of scripture may be read.

Isaiah 49:13b-16a God will not forget you
Isaiah 54:10 The Lord has compassion on you
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Romans 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ Jesus
2 Corinthians 4:16--5:1
Prepared for eternal glory
John 10:27-29
My sheep hear my voice
John 14:27
Peace I leave with you

*Reflection on the readings may follow. Informal conversation with those present may be appropriate.*

**Prayer**

*The leader continues with prayer. These prayers of intercession, one of the brief prayers that follow, or other appropriate prayers may be used. The prayers conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.*

Let us pray to the Lord most merciful, saying, Hear our prayer.

Most gracious God, our sister/brother name was given the promise of eternal life in baptism. Give her/him communion with your saints forever.
Lord, in your mercy, 
**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your Son wept at the death of Lazarus; look with compassion on name’s dearest loved ones, now experiencing sorrow and pain at her/his death. Grant the tender healing of your love.
Lord, in your mercy, 
**hear our prayer.**

Living God, source of compassion, our hearts are filled with grief at the death of name. Draw us near to you in faith and to one another in love, that we may be one with all your saints.
Lord, in your mercy, 
**hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died in the hope of the resurrection. Surround them with the light of your presence.
Lord, in your mercy, 
**hear our prayer.**

*Other petitions may follow. The prayers conclude:*

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*or*

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*or*

Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you stand with us in the shadows, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then deal with us as seems best to you, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**
The Lord’s Prayer is prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,
  hallowed be your name,
  your kingdom come,
  your will be done,
  on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
  as we forgive those
  who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
  and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
  and the glory are yours,
  now and forever. Amen.

or

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,
  forever and ever. Amen.

The leader concludes with a blessing.
Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.
6.5 FUNERAL

The Funeral service is reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Edition. In the proposed Pastoral Care volume, the Committal will include full texts of selected scripture passages in place.

Gathering

The ministers may meet the coffin and the bereaved at the entrance to the church. The assembly stands and faces them.

The presiding minister may address the assembly using one or both of these paragraphs, or in similar words.

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister/brother name, to give thanks for her/his life, to commend her/him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

or

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A thanksgiving for baptism may follow. As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall may be placed on the coffin by family members, pallbearers, or other assisting ministers. The minister or a representative of the congregation may say:

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

or

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her/his baptism, name was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she/he shall be clothed with glory.

The presiding minister may lead this acclamation.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

A procession may form and enter, the ministers leading. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.
GREETING
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
The presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.
Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister/brother, name. We thank you for giving her/him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

or
Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.
Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

or—at the death of a child
Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.
Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust name to your never-failing care and love. Comfort us as we bear the pain of her/his death, and receive us all into your everlasting arms, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word
READINGS
The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.

SERMON
Silence for reflection follows.

HYMN OF THE DAY
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

CREED
The Apostles' Creed may be spoken.
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition the assembly responds:
God of mercy,  
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds Amen.

A service with communion continues with the peace. Following the prayer after communion, the service continues with the commendation.

OR

A service without communion continues as follows.

The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

or

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.
Sending

COMMENDATION

The ministers take their places at the coffin. The presiding minister leads the commendation.

Let us commend name to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

The presiding minister may place her/his hand on the coffin during this prayer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant name. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her/him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

Here or during the procession out, a farewell may be sung: "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace," an acclamation, or another hymn or song.

If the committal occurs at another time, a blessing may precede these words of sending.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

A procession may form and leave the church, the ministers leading.

Committal

The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During or at the conclusion of the procession, words of comfort may include any of the following or other appropriate readings. An assisting minister or cantor may sing psalms or hymns.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. (Job 19:25-27)

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running 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 23)

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.
I thirst for God, for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my food \(^1\) day and night,  
while all day long they say to me, "Where now \(^1\) is your God?"

I pour out my soul when I think \(^1\) on these things;  
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,  
with shouts of thanksgiving, among those \(^1\) keeping festival.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted \(^1\) within me?  
Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help \(^1\) and my God.

My soul is heavy \(^1\) within me;  
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,  
and from the peak of Mizar among the \(^1\) heights of Hermon.

One deep calls to another in the roar of \(^1\) your cascades;  
all your rapids and floods have gone \(^1\) over me.

The \(\text{LORD}\) grants lovingkindness \(^1\) in the daytime;  
in the night season the \(\text{LORD}'s\) song is with me, a prayer to the \(\text{God}\) \(^1\) of my life.  (Psalm 42:1-8)

In distress I called \(^1\) to the \(\text{LORD},\)  
who answered by setting me free.

The \(\text{LORD}\) is with me; I \(^1\) shall not fear;  
what can anyone \(^1\) do to me?

I was pressed and pressed to the \(^1\) point of falling,  
but the \(\text{LORD}\) came \(^1\) to my help.

The \(\text{LORD}\) is my strength \(^1\) and my song,  
and has become \(^1\) my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents \(^1\) of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the \(^1\) \(\text{LORD}\) acts valiantly!

The right hand of the \(\text{LORD}\) \(^1\) is exalted!  
The right hand of the \(^1\) \(\text{LORD}\) acts valiantly!"

I shall not \(^1\) die, but live,  
and declare the works \(^1\) of the \(\text{LORD}.

Open for me the \(^1\) gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks \(^1\) to the \(\text{LORD}.

"This is the gate \(^1\) of the \(\text{LORD};\)  
here the righteous may enter."

Give thanks to the \(\text{LORD},\) for the \(\text{LORD}\) is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.  (Psalm 118:5, 13-17, 19-20, 29)

I lift up my eyes \(^1\) to the hills;  
from where is my \(^1\) help to come?

My help comes \(^1\) from the \(\text{LORD},\)  
the maker of heaven and earth.

The \(\text{LORD}\) will not let your \(^1\) foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you \(^1\) fall asleep.

Behold, the keeper \(^1\) of Israel  
will neither slumber \(^1\) nor sleep;

the \(\text{LORD}\) watches \(^1\) over you;  
the \(\text{LORD}\) is your shade at \(^1\) your right hand;

the sun will not strike \(^1\) you by day,  
nor the \(^1\) moon by night.

The \(\text{LORD}\) will preserve you \(^1\) from all evil  
and will \(^1\) keep your life.

The \(\text{LORD}\) will watch over your going out and your \(^1\) coming in,  
from this time forth forever.  (Psalm 121)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the \(\text{LORD},\) and if we die, we die to the \(\text{LORD};\) so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the \(\text{LORD}'s.\)  (Rom. 14:7-8)
So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.” (Rev. 14:13)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God’s peoples, and this very God will be with them and will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” (Rev. 21:1-4)

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26)

**Especially at the committal of a child:**

The Lord GOD will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. (Isaiah 40:11)

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. (Hosea 11: 1, 3-4)

The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Rev. 7:17)

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matt. 19:14)

**The presiding minister greets the assembly.**

Grace and peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

Let us pray.

Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our sister/brother name, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise her/him up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

One of the following or another appropriate passage of scripture may be read.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”
“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:51-57)

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. (Phil. 3:20-21)

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.” (John 12:23-26)

Especially at the committal of a child:
For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship day and night within God’s temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Rev. 7:15-17)

“See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God’s peoples, and this very God will be with them and will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” “Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.” (Rev. 21:3-4, 7)

The coffin may be lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place.

Earth may be cast on the coffin as the presiding minister says:
In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our sister/brother name, and we commit her/his body to the ground or the deep or the elements or its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her/him and keep her/him. The Lord’s face shine on her/him with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon her/him with favor and + give her/him peace. Amen.

The following response may be sung, or may be spoken by the minister.
Rest eternal grant her/him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her/him.

One of the following prayers may be said.
O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

or

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears. In Christ’s rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with our sister/brother name. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer may be prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,
  hallowed be your name,
  your kingdom come,
  your will be done,
  on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
  as we forgive those
  who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
  and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
  and the glory are yours,
  now and forever. Amen.

or

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,
  forever and ever. Amen.

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

Amen.

or

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go in peace.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

This service is intended primarily for use in a church with the body of the deceased present. When used in other locations—funeral establishment, cemetery chapel, private house—where some of the ritual actions are not feasible, the service is modified accordingly. For additional notes on the funeral service, see Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Edition, pp. 43-45.
6.6 REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Remembering Those Who Have Died may be used at any time of the year; it is especially appropriate during the Easter season; during the month of November, when the festival days celebrate the consummation of all things in Christ; and on a significant anniversary of a loved one’s death, such as one month following death or on the date of death in a succeeding year.

The service may take place in the home or at the place where the person’s body has been interred. When visiting a cemetery, for example, it is the custom among some people to bring flowers or evergreen branches to place at the grave.

Family members, friends, or the pastor may lead the service or share its leadership as desired. Any or all of the resources here may be used.

Invitation

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

or

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Word

One or more of the following or other appropriate readings may be used.

I lift up my eyes \( ^1 \) to the hills;  
from where is my \( ^1 \) help to come?  
My help comes \( ^1 \) from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- \( ^1 \) en and earth.  
The LORD will not let your \( ^1 \) foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you \( ^1 \) fall asleep.  
Behold, the keep- \( ^1 \) er of Israel  
will neither slum- \( ^1 \) ber nor sleep;  
the LORD watches \( ^1 \) over you;  
the LORD is your shade at \( ^1 \) your right hand;  
the sun will not strike \( ^1 \) you by day,  
nor the \( ^1 \) moon by night.  
The LORD will preserve you \( ^1 \) from all evil  
and will \( ^1 \) keep your life.  
The LORD will watch over your going out and your \( ^1 \) coming in,  
from this time forth for- \( ^1 \) evermore.  (Psalm 121)

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you, says the Lord. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. (Isaiah 49:15-16)
We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. (1 Thess. 4:13-14)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David--that is my gospel. The saying is sure: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. (2 Timothy 2:8, 11)

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26)

Reflection on the readings may follow. Informal conversation among those present may be appropriate.

Prayer

One or more of the following or other appropriate prayers may be used.

O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on earth, who now rest from their labors, especially name/s. Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come: We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. [Individual names may be spoken.] As we remember these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Strengthen us to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer may be prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
    as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
    now and forever. Amen.

or

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,
    forever and ever. Amen.

Song

One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be spoken or sung.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Tune: ST. ANNE

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God’s likeness we awaken, knowing everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY
6.7 RELATED READINGS AND PRAYERS

6.7.1. Organ or tissue donation
(see Healing and Health 5.2.13.)

6.7.2. Release
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1 Prepared for eternal glory

Faithful God, give comfort and strength to name as she/he follows Christ in the path that is now set before her/him. Give wisdom and faithfulness to all of us who are companions along this way, that we may journey beside our loved one, watch and wait with her/him, and, with your help, bear witness by our presence and prayers to the love of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord. (6.7.2.1.)

6.7.3. Impending death
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season
Luke 23:46 Into your hands I commend my spirit
2 Corinthians 4:16--5:1 Prepared for eternal glory
Ephesians 6:10-17 Strength in the Lord

Merciful Father, you teach us in your holy word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve your children. Look with compassion on name, your servant, for whom we pray. Remember her/him, O Lord, in mercy. Strengthen her/him in patience, comfort her/him with the memory of your goodness, let your presence shine on her/him, and give her/him peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. (6.7.3.1.)

Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of darkness into the light and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (6.7.3.2.)

Blessed Lord, God of mercies and of comfort: Look in compassion on your servant name, who is shaken and troubled. In your good time give her/him a right understanding of herself/himself and of your will for her/him, that she/he may not lose confidence in you. Preserve her/him from bitterness and fear, look upon her/him with favor, and give her/him your peace which passes understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (6.7.3.3.)

God of the dark night, you were with Jesus in the garden, you were with Jesus all the way to the cross and through to the resurrection. Help us to recognize you now, as we watch with name, and wait for what must happen; help us through any bitterness and despair; help us accept our distress; help us to remember that you care for us, and that in your will is our peace. (6.7.3.4.)

6.7.4. Acceptance of death
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
2 Corinthians 4:7-12 Treasure in clay jars
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
Holy Jesus, who accepted your death on the cross and went to it supported by your faith: Help *name* and all of us to accept death as it comes to *her/him*. In the face of *her/his* dying, make us thankful for the life *she/he* has lived and for all those whom you have sent *her/him* to love and travel with *her/him*. Sustain us by the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that we may support one another in all that lies ahead with the strength that you alone can give, for the sake of your unfailing love. (6.7.4.1.)

### 6.7.5. Suicide

Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd*
Psalm 34 *Blessed are those who take refuge in God*
Psalm 130 *Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord*
Isaiah 41:9b-10 *Fear not, I am with you*
John 6:35-40 *I should lose nothing that God has given*
John 10:27-29 *My sheep hear my voice*
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ*
2 Corinthians 1:3-7 *God comforts us in all our sorrows*

Out of the depths we cry to you, merciful God, for your child *name*. Meet our confusion with your peace, our anger with your mercy, and our sorrow with your consolation. Help us be still and know that you are God and that nothing in life or death will separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. (6.7.5.1.)

### 6.7.6. Prayers with children

Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd*
John 3:16-17 *God so loved the world*
John 10:14 *I am the Good Shepherd*
1 John 3:12 *We are children of God*

Jesus, you cried at the death of your friend. We come to you sad at the death of *name*. Gently hold us when we cry. And keep us in your love. Amen. (6.7.6.1.)

God in heaven, please listen to all those who are praying to you now: those who are sad and crying, those who have lost friends and family, those who are alone and frightened. Help them to remember that you are there and that you are listening. In Jesus’ name we pray. (6.7.6.2.)
7. Marriage

7.1 MARRIAGE
The Marriage service, reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Edition, is proposed for inclusion here.

7.2 PRAYERS AND BLESSING AFTER A CIVIL MARRIAGE

Prayers and Blessing after a Civil Marriage may be used with couples who have made vows to one another before a secular official. Adaptations to the service of Marriage in Evangelical Lutheran Worship make it clear that a marriage has already taken place. Rather than being seen as a remarriage or a more complete marriage that fulfills an insufficient one, this service gives thanks for a marriage already solemnized and prays for God’s blessing on the couple.

Gathering

ENTRANCE
The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music--hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music--may accompany the entrance.

GREETING
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
The minister may introduce the service with these or similar words.
Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to give thanks for the marriage of name and name, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As name and name affirm their promises to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also. We pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

OR
The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of a family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
The presiding minister leads the following or another prayer of the day.
Let us pray.
Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich
name and name with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at
the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.

Word

READINGS
The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes
communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a
reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other
appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.

SERMON
Silence for reflection follows.

HYMN OF THE DAY
A hymn of the day may be sung.

Marriage: Declaration, Acclamation, Blessing

VOWS
The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.
Name and name, I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.
I have taken you, name, to be my wife/husband. In the presence of God and this community,
I promise to join with you and share all that is to come, and to be faithful to you until death parts us.

or
In the presence of God and this community,
I, name, declare that I have taken you, name, to be my wife/husband,
to have and to hold, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

GIVING OF RINGS
If rings have not already been exchanged, they may be given in this service.

The presiding minister may say this prayer:
Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be
symbols of the promise name and name have made with each other; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.
Amen.

The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.
Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.
ACCLAMATION
The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.
_Name_ and _name_, in the presence of God and this assembly, have made public affirmation of their marriage. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate
_Amen. Thanks be to God._

The minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.
Will all of you, by God's grace, uphold and care for _name_ and _name_ in their life together?
_We will._

_Or_
Families, friends, and all those gathered here with _name_ and _name_, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?
_We will._

_The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow._

_Other symbols of marriage may be given or used at this time._

MARRIAGE BLESSING
The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.
Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out the abundance of your blessing on _name_ and _name_. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
_Amen._

_OR_
The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.
_Amen._

_Parents or others may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time._

_Prayers and Blessing after a Civil Marriage concludes with the concluding parts of the Marriage service, pp. 000-000._
7.3 AFFIRMATION OF A MARRIAGE

Affirmation of a Marriage may be used in a variety of settings to celebrate a wedding anniversary or to mark a significant life passage within the marriage.

Family members or other persons who participated in the couple’s marriage service may be invited to participate in this service.

Gathering

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The minister may introduce the service with these or similar words. The minister may also acknowledge the particular circumstances that have led to this affirmation of the marriage.

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to give thanks for the marriage of name and name, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of a family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich name and name with every good gift, that their life together may continue to show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, we thank you for providing name and name these number of years together. Grant that they, abiding in your love and faithfulness, may continue to share with one another their joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

The assembly is seated. Scripture reading may include passages that were read at the couple's marriage service. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. A sermon may follow. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.
Affirmation of Marriage

VOWS
The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.
Name and name, I invite you to affirm your vows to one another.

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.
I, name, give thanks for you, name, as my wife/husband.
I affirm my vow to join with you and share all that is to come, and to be faithful to you until death parts us.

or
In the presence of God and this community,
I, name, affirm my vow to you, name, as my wife/husband,
to have and to hold, in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

GIVING OF RINGS
In circumstances where new rings are given to mark the anniversary, the minister may pray the following.
Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. May these rings be symbols of the promise name and name affirm with each other this day; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The couple may exchange rings with these or similar words.
Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

ACCLAMATION
The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.
Name and name, in the presence of God and this assembly, affirm and give thanks for their life together as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one separate
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with name and name, will you continue to support and care for them, sustain and pray for them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy, honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?
We will.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.

MARRIAGE BLESSING
The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.
Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to endure the cross for our sake, that we may have abundance of life.
By the power of your Holy Spirit continue to pour out the abundance of your blessing on name and name. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let your love be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.
Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your love. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Family members or friends may speak additional words of blessing and encouragement at this time.

Affirmation of a Marriage concludes with the concluding parts of the Marriage service, pp. 000-000. Prayers of intercession may be prepared for the occasion, or the first form of the prayers of intercession may be used.
8. Other Occasions

8.1 GENERAL ORDER OF BLESSING

This order is designed to be adapted for use in various circumstances besides those for which other, more specific orders are provided. It calls for careful preparation on the part of the leader, especially in the selection of scripture readings, hymns, and prayers, so that the order is suitable to the place, activity, or object under consideration.

This order of blessing may be augmented with hymns, the Lord’s Prayer or other prayers, and a procession.

When people are gathered at the place of blessing, the leader begins.
Friends in Christ: Today we bless God and we seek God’s blessing as we gather with thankfulness to bless/dedicate this __________ to the glory of God.

A psalm or canticle may follow.

One or more scripture passages may be read.

A hymn may be sung.

The leader begins the prayers.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen.

You stretched out the heavens like a curtain; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and building up. You blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, mother of our Lord; Peter, James, John, and all the apostles; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

The leader continues with one of the following or another appropriate prayer.
Be with us now and bless us as we set apart/dedicate this __________ to your glory and praise. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

Be with us now and bless the fruits of those who labor in/at __________. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.
The service concludes:
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us all.
Amen.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

One of the following or another appropriate psalm or canticle may be used.
Psalm 8
Psalm 65
Psalm 66
Psalm 104
Psalm 136
Psalm 145
We praise you, O God, #227, 228

One or more of the following or another appropriate scripture passage may be read.
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (general, growing things)
Job 38:1-11, 16-18 (seed and soil; fishing and industry)
Matthew 13:24-30 (36-43) (growing things)
Luke 5:1-6a (fishing, industry)
Romans 11:33--12:5 (general)
2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (growing things, general)
1 Timothy 6:7-10, 17-19 (general)

One of the following or another appropriate hymn may be sung.
All creatures, worship God most high!, #835
All who love and serve your city, #724
Alleluia! Voices raise, #828
Creating God, your fingers trace, #684
Earth and all stars!, #731
Eternal Father, strong to save, #756
For the beauty of the earth, #879
For the fruit of all creation, #679
God created heaven and earth, #738
God of the sparrow, #740
God the sculptor of the mountains, #736
God, whose farm is all creation, #734
God, whose giving knows no ending, #678
Great is thy faithfulness, #733
Joyful, joyful we adore thee, #836
Let all things now living, #881
Light dawns on a weary world, #726
Many and great, O God, #837
Now thank we all our God, #839, 840
Praise and thanksgiving, #689
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, #858, 859
Soli Deo Gloria, #878
Touch the earth lightly, #739
Voices raised to you, #845
We plow the fields and scatter / Aramos nuestros campos, #680, 681
You have come down to the lakeshore / Tú has venido a la orilla, #817
8.2 BLESSING FOR A HOME

Blessing for a Home is a celebration of vocation in the deepest and broadest sense. We bless and thank God for the gift of a home while engaging and honoring the ways people practice their faith in their life at home: chores and hobbies, cooking and eating, ways of relaxing, relationships within the household and beyond it, caring for our bodies, connecting with the creation.

Blessing for a Home is commonly used when people move into a new residence. Besides the geographical moves that households make, other examples include moving into a nursing home or a dormitory room. The service may also be used to mark a change in the membership of a household: for example, an elderly parent moves in with younger relatives; a foster child comes into the home; a single-parent household is formed after a divorce. In some traditions, a blessing for a home is an annual observance— for example, during the time after Epiphany.

This order is meant to provide a pattern to follow, not an exact script. The basic pattern involves moving around the home and stopping at various places for scripture and prayer. Those planning for this rite may feel free to choose from the options here, rearrange them as makes best sense in the context, and add other stopping places as desired (selecting an appropriate scripture passage and crafting a suitable prayer).

Symbols may be used to mark the journey. Remembrances of baptism, such as carrying a candle from place to place or sprinkling water at each stopping place, recall that the life of the baptized is lived within these places. Carrying a cross from place to place, perhaps a cross that will hang on one of the walls, is a reminder that those who live here are called to follow in the way of the cross also in their daily lives.

Leadership may be shared among members of the household, friends and relatives, and the pastor or others from the faith community.

Gathering

When all have gathered in a convenient place, the leader begins. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

or

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spreads forth the heavens like a tent, who shelters our lives, who comes to make a home with us. Amen.

Peace to this house/dwelling/room and to all who enter here.

Friends in Christ: Today we bless God and we seek God’s blessing as we gather to give thanks for this dwelling and to pray for those who make it their home.

A reading from Proverbs: By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)
A reading from Isaiah: Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, says the Lord; for I am about to create Jerusalem as joy, and its people as a delight. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (Isaiah 65:18, 21)

or
A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise householder who built a house on rock. (Matthew 7:24)

A candle may be lighted, and these words may be spoken.
Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

The people may move around the home, stopping in various places to read scripture and to pray. Or, the people may stay in one place and the leaders may move to various places.

Welcome and Community

Entering and leaving, such as the outside doors
A reading from the Psalms: The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:8)

Let us pray. O God, watch over name/s in all their going out and their coming in; keep all evil away from their door; and let them share the hospitality of this home with all who visit, that those who enter here may know your love and peace. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

Welcoming guests, such as a chair for a visitor
A reading from Romans: Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15: 7)

or
A reading from Acts: The Lord opened Lydia’s heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my house.” And she prevailed upon us. (Acts 16:14-15)

Let us pray. O God, bless all who visit this home; may they find here warmth and peace. Bless also name/s, who welcome them into their home, as you blessed Sarah and Abraham when they entertained angels unawares. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

Sharing of conversation and communal activities, such as a living room
A reading from Acts: Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. (Acts 20:11)

or
A reading from Ecclesiastes: So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 8:15)
Let us pray. O God, you set apart time for rest and enjoyment of the world you made. Bless those who gather here for fellowship and recreation, that they may be renewed and refreshed. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Household Work

**Studying and communicating with others, such as a computer station**

A reading from Proverbs: To get wisdom is to love oneself; to keep understanding is to prosper. (Proverbs 19:8)

or

A reading from Proverbs: Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. (Proverbs 25:25)

Let us pray. O God, you are the teacher who leads us to all truth. Grant that those who study and learn in this place may use knowledge to heal and help your world. Draw us together through our technology for every good purpose. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

**Making or repairing things, such as a sewing area**

A reading from the Psalms: May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. (Psalm 90:17)

Let us pray. O God, you are the source of our creativity. You fashioned our minds to imagine and our hands to shape new things. Prosper the work that is done in this place. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

**Preparing meals**

A reading from Joel: I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied. Be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God. (Joel 2:19, 23)

or

A reading from John: When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” (John 21: 9, 12)

Let us pray. O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on those who prepare food here, and make us all ever thankful for daily bread. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Caring for Ourselves

**The gift of food, such as at a dining table**

A reading from the Psalms: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:15-16)

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Creator of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.
The gift of clothing, such as near a laundry area

A reading from Exodus: So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. (Exodus 19:14)

Let us pray. O God, you are our clothing, wrapping us in love. We bless you for the gift of clothing, and we pray that all who live here/ name may be clothed and blanketed in safety. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

The gift of caring for the body, such as near a bathroom or an exercise area

A reading from the Psalms: You yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

Let us pray. O God, through the waters of baptism you raise us up and make us alive together with Christ. Let the waters of this room refresh and renew all who use them/ name in each new day. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

or

Let us pray. O God, you revealed yourself in human flesh, making holy what is ordinary and earthly. Bless us as we care for our ordinary, marvelous bodies. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

The gift of rest, such as in a bedroom

A reading from the Psalms: In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure. (Psalm 4:8)

Let us pray. Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.
Amen.

For a couple

A reading from the letter to the Colossians: Above all, clothe yourselves in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:14-15)

Let us pray. O God, let your love be a seal upon the hearts of name and name, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their companionship and in their rest, in their sleeping and in their waking. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

or

Let us pray. O God, bless name and name in their waking and in their sleeping, and let them find in one another comfort, respect, and delight. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

For a child

A reading from the Psalms: I will dwell in your house forever, O God; I will take refuge under the cover of your wings. (Psalm 61:4)
or
A reading from the Psalms: The Lord watches over you; God will not fall asleep. (Psalm 121:5, 3)

Let us pray. O God, hold name in your unfailing love. May she/he dream peacefully and grow in health and strength. Bring her/him in safety to each new day. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

For a teenager
A reading from Jeremiah: “I will satisfy the weary, and all who are faint I will replenish,” says the Lord. Thereupon I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me. (Jeremiah 31:25-26)

or
A reading from the Psalms: It is in vain to rise so early and go to bed so late. You, Lord, give sleep to your beloved. (Psalm 127:2)

Let us pray. O God, may name find here rest and repose, privacy and connection, challenge and enjoyment. And in all these things, may she/he hear you calling her/him by name. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

Caring for Creation

Caring for pets or other animals
A reading from the Psalms: Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save humankind and animals, O Lord. (Psalm 36:6)

or
A reading from the Psalms: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds, young men and maidens, old and young together. (Psalm 148:7, 10, 12)

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for bringing [pet’s name] to name/s to be their companion and friend. May they be blessings one to another. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

or (at, for example, an aquarium)
Let us pray. O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. Give name/s the wisdom to care for these creatures and to delight in them. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

Caring for the natural world
A reading from Job: Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In God’s hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. (Job 12:7-10)

or
A reading from Jeremiah: They shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. (Jeremiah 31:12)
Let us pray. O God, we praise you for the green plants that make the oxygen we breathe and for the animals that breathe it with us. Sustain us all together in this place by your Spirit. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

After the readings and prayers (and the procession), the group may continue with a meal or other activities.

OR

The order may be concluded with Affirmation of Vocation.

Affirmation of Vocation

The leader addresses the member/s of the household.

[Sisters and brothers]/[name/s], both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

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

The leader continues.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit your servants together into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon [them/name] in their commitment to serve in Christ’s name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Water may be sprinkled on the people in thanksgiving for baptism. During this time, a hymn may be sung or spoken, such as one of the following.

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion’s help forever
and our confidence alone.

To this dwelling, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls alway.

“Christ is made the sure foundation,” #645, stanzas 1-2
Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY or REGENT SQUARE
Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

"Built on a rock," #652, stanza 3
Tune: KIRKEN DEN ER ET

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Lord’s Prayer may be prayed by all.

Our Father in heaven,
  hallowed be your name,
  your kingdom come,
  your will be done,
  on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
  as we forgive those
  who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
  and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
  and the glory are yours,
  now and forever. Amen.

or

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,
  forever and ever. Amen.

The final blessing is directed towards those who live in this home, but all may respond.
Dwell here in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.
NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Hymns that may be appropriate and useful include the following.

I Bind unto Myself Today, #450 (especially stanza 4, “Christ, be with me”)
Our Father, by Whose Name, #640 (for a family)
All Are Welcome, #641, stanzas 1, 4, and 5
Lord of All Hopefulness, #765 (for a couple or family)
Now Thank We All Our God, #839, 840

During the procession, or after each area’s prayer
Ubi caritas et amor / Where True Charity and Love Abide, #642

At a table where meals are shared
Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether, #470, stanzas 1 & 3
To the tune of OLD HUNDREDTH (the Common Doxology):
   Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored.
   These mercies bless, and grant that we may feast in Paradise with thee.

Another sung grace that the household knows

In a bedroom
God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven, #564
All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night, #565

In a young child’s bedroom
Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow, #568, stanza 2
Thy Holy Wings, #613
Away in a Manger, #277, 278, stanza 3
Another lullaby or bedtime song with which the child is familiar

In a garden or outdoor space
Lord, Your Hands Have Formed, #554
For the Fruit of All Creation, #679
Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices, #833, stanzas 1, 3, and 5
Beautiful Savior, #838
Another suitable outdoor or camp song that the household knows

In places where a pet sleeps or animals are kept
Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices, #833, stanzas 1, 4, and 5
All Things Bright and Beautiful, With One Voice #767
An animal-specific stanza for the carol “The Friendly Beasts” might be written and inserted into that song; for example:
   “I,” said the cat with the velvet fur,
   “I sniffed at the frankincense and myrrh;
   Then I cheered the child with a friendly purr—
   I,” said the cat with the velvet fur.

The tradition of Epiphany home blessings involves writing an inscription over the lintel of the main door to the outside. The traditional inscription is in the form: “20 + C M B + 08”, where the “2008” is the year the inscription is made, and the initials stand for either the Latin blessing “Christe mansionem benedica,” which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). This tradition can be adapted for any blessing for a home. The inscription can be written with chalk over the door (colored chalk on a white surface). The initials may be replaced or supplemented with the initials of any wise women or men seen as guides by the home-dwellers.
8.3 FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Farewell and Godspeed is a public affirmation of the corporate nature of the baptismal faith, for use when members leave a congregation. It may be adapted for use in other circumstances, for example, when a rostered leader leaves an appointment to service in a setting other than a congregation.

When set within the service of Holy Communion, this order may be used following either the prayers of intercession or the prayer after communion.

A representative of the congregation comes forward with those who are leaving the congregation and addresses the assembly.

Name/s are leaving our congregation, and we wish to bid them farewell.

One of the following or another appropriate scripture passage may be read.

The Lord said, I am going to send an angel in front of your, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. (Exodus 23:20)

or

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. (John 8:12)

The pastor or a representative of the congregation may make brief comments about those who are leaving, recalling the important events which have been shared with the congregation.

The presiding minister continues with these or similar words.

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you came to/were baptized in this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. In this community of faith you have heard the proclamation of the word, which reveals God’s loving purpose for you and for all creation. You have been nourished at Christ’s holy table and called to be witnesses to the gospel. God has blessed you in this community of faith, and God has blessed us through you.

We encourage you to continue to receive and share God’s gifts in name of new congregation as workers with us in the kingdom of God.

The following or another appropriate prayer is said. An assisting minister may lead the prayer.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for name/s and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or especially when this farewell coincides with retirement

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant/s name/s, who have enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends to cheer their way, and a clear
vision of that to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The service continues with the peace or with the blessing.*

**NOTES ON THE SERVICE**
*When appropriate, the following or a similar opening statement may be made by a representative of the congregation.*

Pastor name, on date of call, we called you to be our pastor; to proclaim God’s word, to baptize new members into the church of Jesus Christ, to announce God’s forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebrations of the Lord’s supper. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you [and your family] have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

*The address by the presiding minister may be adapted as desired when this order is used in settings other than a congregational farewell.*
8.4 READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

8.4.1. Anxiety, apprehension, fear
Psalm 4 Answer me when I call
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 91 The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Lamentations 3:55-58 I call on your name from the depths
Matthew 6:25-34 Do not be anxious
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
John 14:1-3 In my Father’s house
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always

Almighty and merciful God, our only source of health and healing, who alone can bring calmness and peace: Grant to us, your children, a consciousness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.1.1.)

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing except losing you, and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that fears and anxieties in this mortal life may not hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.1.2.)

8.4.2. Guilt
Psalm 32 Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven
Psalm 51 Create in me a clean heart
Psalm 103:1-13 Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Isaiah 53 Surely he has borne our griefs
Matthew 9:2-8 Take heart, your sins are forgiven
Luke 18:9-14 God be merciful to me, a sinner
John 3:16-21 God so loved the world
Ephesians 3:14-21 The breadth, length, height, and depth of God’s love
Romans 5:1-5 Justification by faith gives peace with God
1 John 1:5-2.2 If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just
1 John 4:9-21 Perfect love casts out fear

God of mercy, compassion, and healing: You are more willing to forgive than we are to confess. The burden of guilt is heavy upon us. We thank you that you hear us when we pray, that you share our suffering and pain, and that you forgive our sins. Remind us that with you there is mercy, and make us to hear of joy and gladness. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.2.1.)

God of all comfort, quiet our minds that we may make room for your healing forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.2.2.)
8.4.3. Shame
Psalm 6 O Lord, deliver my life
Psalm 25 Teach me your paths
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 102 Do not hide your face from me
Psalm 103:13-18 The Lord shows compassion
Genesis 3:1-15, 21 The eyes of Adam and Eve were opened
John 8:3-11 I do not condemn you
Luke 18:9-14 God be merciful to me, a sinner
John 3:16-21 God so loved the world
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Colossians 1:19-23 All things reconciled to God

Gracious God, as you made garments for Adam and Eve when they hid from you out of shame, so also through baptism you have dressed us in the garment of salvation. Cover us daily with baptismal grace through Jesus Christ, that we, seeing ourselves clothed in his righteousness, may stand before you without fear and may offer ourselves in service to your world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.3.1.)

8.4.4. Loneliness
Psalm 6 O Lord, deliver my life
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 42:1-3 My soul thirsts for the living God
Isaiah 49:14-16a I will not forget you
Jeremiah 20:7-13 The Lord is with me
John 14:1-3 In my Father’s house
John 15:7-11 Abide in my love
Romans 8:18-27 Creation will be set free
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
2 Corinthians 1:3-7 God comforts us in all our sorrows
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always
Hebrews 12:1-2 Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses
1 Peter 1:3-9 Born anew to a living hope
1 Peter 4:12-13 Enduring fiery trials
1 John 5:14-15 God hears in whatever we ask

Merciful God, our Father, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you stand within the shadows, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then deal with us as seems best to you, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.4.1.)

O Lord our God, you see and know and feel the pain of the world. Look upon us in our loneliness and enfold us with your love, that in the midst of pain we may know your presence. To those who attend name give compassionate hearts and healing hands, and give name health again for your mercy’s sake; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.4.2.)

Blessed Lord, in moments of pain we turn to you for strength; in times of loneliness we feel your loving nearness. Grant that your life and love and joy may flow through us for the healing of others in Jesus’ name. (8.4.4.3.)

8.4.5. Desolation, despair
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord?
Psalm 22 Why have you forsaken me?
Psalm 88 My soul is full of troubles
Jeremiah 20:7-13 The Lord is with me
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
2 Corinthians 1:3-7 God comforts us in all our sorrows
Colossians 1:19-23 All things reconciled to God
Hebrews 4:14-16 We have a high priest who sympathizes with weakness
1 John 5:14-15 God hears in whatever we ask

Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your living grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray. (8.4.5.1.)

8.4.6. Depression
Psalm 88 My soul is full of troubles
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
Mark 4:35-41 Jesus stills the storm
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Hebrews 2:14-18 Jesus is able to help those who are tempted
1 Peter 5:6-9a Cast your anxieties on God

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us with your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honor of your name. (8.4.6.1.)

8.4.7. Anger
Psalm 88 My soul is full of troubles
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 39 The measure of our days
Psalm 73 Envy at the prosperity of others
Isaiah 53 Surely he has borne our griefs
2 Corinthians 1:3-7 God comforts us in all our sorrows
2 Corinthians 4:16--5.9 Our outer nature is wasting away
Ephesians 6:10-17 Strength in the Lord
Ephesians 4:26 Do not let the sun go down on your anger
Philippians 2:5-11 The mind of Jesus Christ
1 Peter 5:6-9a Cast your anxieties on God

Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace we pray. (8.4.7.1.)
8.4.8. Gratitude
Psalm 8 How majestic is your name
Psalm 30 Weeping spends the night, joy comes in the morning
Psalm 34 Blessed are those who take refuge in God
Psalm 100 The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever
Psalm 103:1-13 Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalm 145 The Lord is gracious and merciful
Psalm 150 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Blessed is God forever and ever
Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always
1 Peter 1:3-9 Born anew to a living hope

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation and preservation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we may praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all worship and praise, now and forever. (8.4.8.1.)

8.4.9. Guidance, protection
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 87 Glorious things of you are spoken
Isaiah 41:9b-10 Fear not, I am with you
Lamentations 3:22-26 The steadfast love of the Lord
Matthew 11:28-30 I will give you rest
Luke 4:1-12 The temptation of Jesus
John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ
2 Thessalonians 3:3 The Lord is faithful and will guard you
Hebrews 13:5-6 God will never forsake you

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly graven that no prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. (8.4.9.1.)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. I know that you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me. And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone. (8.4.9.2.)

8.4.10. During pregnancy
Psalm 91 The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Isaiah 66:7-14 Rejoice with Jerusalem
Almighty God, your wisdom abounds in the glory of creation and is beyond our understanding. Your love for us and all creatures is as gentle as a father’s and as tender as a mother’s. We give you thanks for creating new life. Our hearts are filled with joy and expectation. We proclaim your greatness and ask your sustaining care for name/s of parent/s, that all of us may grow in wisdom and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.10.1.)

8.4.11. Infertility
Psalm 37:3-7 Trust in the Lord
Psalm 57:1, 7-10 Be merciful to me, O God
Psalm 61:1-5 Hear my cry, O God
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Romans 8:22-30 The Spirit intercedes for us
1 Peter 5:6-9a Cast your anxieties on God
1 John 3:1-3 We are God’s children now

Gracious God, you heard the plea of Sarah, Rachel, and Hannah, and they gave birth. Hear the cries of your servants name and name, whose desire for a child reflects their love for each other. Guide their choices as they seek the blessings of family life, and give them your peace in the face of disappointments, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (8.4.11.1.)

8.4.12. Before childbirth
Psalm 67 May God be gracious to us and bless us
Psalm 103:13-18 The Lord shows compassion
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Ecclesiastes 11:5 The Spirit forms us in the womb
Jeremiah 1:4-5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you
Luke 1:39-55 Mary visits Elizabeth

O God, the creator and sustainer of life, graciously preserve and protect name during childbirth, and safely bring forth in health and wholeness the infant whom you have created; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.12.1.)

O Lord our God, creator of all that exists: We thank you for the joy of watching new life begin and for the privilege of sharing with you in your continuing creation. In your mercy grant that these blessings may continue to us and even to our children’s children, that generations yet unborn may bless your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.12.2.)

8.4.13. Birth of a child
Psalm 8 How majestic is your name
Psalm 100 The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever
Psalm 127 Unless the Lord builds the house
Genesis 21:1-8 The birth of Isaac
1 Samuel 1:19-20 Hannah conceived and bore a son
1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah’s song of praise
Isaiah 66:7-14 Rejoice with Jerusalem
John 16:21 The pain of childbirth gives way to joy
Luke 18:15-17 Jesus blesses the children
John 16:21 The pain of childbirth gives way to joy

O Lord our God, creator of all that exists, we thank you for the joy of watching new life begin and for the privilege of sharing with you in your continuing creation. In your mercy grant that these blessings may continue to us and even to our children’s children, that generations yet unborn may bless your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.13.1.)

Almighty God, giver of life and love, bless name/s of parent/s. Grant them wisdom and devotion in their life together, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. So knit their wills together in your will and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may live together in love and peace all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.13.2.)

8.4.14. Adoption of a child
Psalm 8 How majestic is your name
Psalm 100 The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever
Psalm 113 The barren rejoice over children
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
1 Samuel 1:19-20 Hannah conceived and bore a son
1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah’s song of praise
Matt. 19:14 Let the children come
John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice

Merciful God, because of your love for us in Jesus Christ we have become brothers and sisters, daughters and sons in your family, the church. We thank you for the love which welcomes child's name into this household. As you have blessed name/s of parent/s with this child, give them the joy of caring for her/him, and increase our joy as members of your family in Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.14.1.)

Father of the fatherless, you give your children a home in which to dwell; and like a loving mother you gather us into your household. We give you thanks for the child who has come to bless this family and for the parent/s who have taken this child to be their own. By the power of your Holy Spirit, fill name/s of parent/s with trust, understanding, and affection; and, through this child in our midst, enable us better to know the mystery that we are all your children by adoption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.14.2.)

8.4.15. Releasing a child for adoption
Psalm 113 The barren rejoice over children
Isaiah 54:10 The Lord has compassion on you
Hosea 11:1, 3-4 God leads the people with love
Matt. 19:14 Let the children come
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you

God, whose nature is always to have mercy, look in love on name/s and for the child whom they are releasing for adoption. Keep them in your good care, and give them peace in their hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.15.1.)

8.4.16. Foster care
Psalm 111 The work of the Lord’s hand is faithful
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 145 The Lord is gracious and merciful
Proverbs 22:6 Training a child
Isaiah 31:5 Like a bird, the Lord protects Jerusalem
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Teach children the Lord’s commands
Mark 10:13-16 Let the children come

God of justice, protector of orphans and the poor, we give you thanks for the generosity of name/s who have opened their arms to children in need of a home. Bless this household and make it a place of laughter and love, of safety and security for your child/ren name/s. May the love of this/these foster parent/s so nurture and protect them, that they may heal and grow in body, mind, and spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. (8.4.16.1.)

8.4.17. The care of children
Psalm 78:1-7 Telling the glorious deeds of the Lord
Psalm 103:13-18 The Lord shows compassion
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Teach children the Lord’s commands
Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Teach my word to your children
Proverbs 22:6 Training a child
Mark 10:13-16 Let the children come

Almighty God, with a mother’s love and a father’s care you have blessed us with the joy and responsibility of children. As we bring them up, give us gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior. (8.4.17.1.)

8.4.18. Young persons
Psalm 78:1-7 Telling the glorious deeds of the Lord
Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Teach my word to your children
Proverbs 22:6 Training a child
Mark 10:13-16 Let the children come
Romans 12:1-2 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Give us compassion when they face temptations and experience failures. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Help us to appreciate their ideals and sympathize with their frustrations; that with them we may look for a better world than either we or they have known; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.18.1.)

8.4.19. Young person leaving home
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Genesis 12:1-3 The Blessing of Abraham
Genesis 28:10-16 Jacob’s dream
Exodus 33:14-17 God’s presence goes with us
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Teach children the Lord’s commands
Matthew 28:20b Christ with us always
John 14:1-3 In my Father’s house
Romans 12:1-2 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice
Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our daughters and sons. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. (8.4.19.1.)

8.4.20. Those engaged to marry
Psalm 67 May God be gracious to us and bless us
Psalm 100 The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever
Psalm 127 Unless the Lord builds the house
Psalm 145 The Lord is gracious and merciful
Genesis 1:26-28 Humanity created in God’s image
Genesis 2:18-22 It is not good for one to be alone
Song of Solomon 2:10-13, 16 Arise my love, my beautiful one
Matthew 7:24-27 A house built on rock
Mark 10:6-9 The two shall become one flesh
1 John 4:7-16 Perfect love casts out fear
Ephesians 5:1-2 Love one another as Christ loved us
Colossians 3:12-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart

We praise you, Lord, for your gentle plan draws together your children name and name in love for one another. Strengthen their hearts so that they will keep faith with each other, please you in all things, and so come to the happiness of celebrating their marriage. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (8.4.20.1.)

8.4.21. Families
Psalm 127 Unless the Lord builds the house
Psalm 133 When kindred dwell in unity
Psalm 145 The Lord is gracious and merciful
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Teach children the Lord’s commands
Joshua 24:15b We will serve the Lord
Matthew 7:24-27 A house built on rock
1 Corinthians 12:31--13:7 The greatest of these is love
Colossians 3:12-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart
Ephesians 4:1-6 The unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, honor your parents

Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of husbands and wives to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness; pour out your Spirit on parents, that through them their children may taste your unconditional love; and empower all family members to live in your grace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (8.4.21.1.)

8.4.22. Those who live alone
Psalm 34 Blessed are those who take refuge in God
Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 91 The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Matthew 6:25-34 Do not be anxious
Matthew 28:20b Christ with us always
John 14:23 The Father and Son make a home with us
Romans 8:26-30 *The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words*
1 Peter 1:3-9 *Born anew to a living hope*
1 John 3:1-3 *We are God’s children now*

Gracious God, none who trust in your Son can be separated from your love. Give to those who live alone peace and contentment in their solitude, hope and fulfillment in their love of you, and joy and companionship in their relations with others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (8.4.22.1.)

**8.4.23. Developmental disabilities**

Psalm 28:6-9 *The Lord is my strength and shield*
Psalm 100 *The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever*
Psalm 103.1-5 *Bless the Lord, O my soul*
Isaiah 41:9b-10 *Fear not, I am with you*
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 *God’s power made perfect in weakness*
1 Peter 1:3-9 *Born anew to a living hope*
1 Peter 5:6-9a *Cast your anxieties on God*

Giver of all grace, we pray your peace which passes all understanding for those who live with developmental disabilities. Grant that they may always be sustained in love, their gifts honored, and their difficulties understood, that none may add to their troubles. We ask this in the name of the one who comforted those who were troubled in mind, Jesus our Savior. (8.4.23.1.)

**8.4.24. Physical disabilities**

Psalm 28:6-9 *The Lord is my strength and shield*
Psalm 100 *The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever*
Isaiah 41:9b-10 *Fear not, I am with you*
Mark 10:46-51 *Son of David, have mercy on me*
Luke 7:18b-23 *The Messiah comes to heal*
Luke 14:12-14 *All people invited to the banquet*
2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *Inner nature renewed*
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 *God’s power made perfect in weakness*
1 Peter 5:6-9a *Cast your anxieties on God*

Jesus, Son of David, you welcomed to yourself the man born blind, the woman bent over for eighteen years, those who could not walk. Have mercy on those who live with physical disabilities. Be their strength of hope and their sight of faith and welcome them, and us, to feast at the table in your kingdom, now and forever. (8.4.24.1.)

**8.4.25. Vocation in daily life**

Psalm 104 *God’s greatness in creation*
Psalm 127 *Unless the Lord builds the house*
Genesis 1:26-28 *Humanity created in God’s image*
Isaiah 41:9b-10 *Fear not, I am with you*
Matthew 6:25-34 *Do not be anxious*
Matthew 13:1-9 *A sower went out to sow*
Acts 1:7-8 *You will be my witnesses*
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 *To work our hands*

O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all
enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray. (8.4.25.1.)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening, into the house of God and gate of heaven, that we may dwell in that place where there is no cloud nor sun, no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no foes nor friends, but one equal communion and identity; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity. Keep us, O Lord, so awake in the duties of our callings that we may sleep in your peace and wake in your glory to an unending possession of that realm which your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, has purchased for us with the price of his own blood. (8.4.25.2.)

8.4.26. Entering retirement
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 71 The Lord will revive me
Psalm 92:12-15 Bearing fruit in old age
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season
Isaiah 46:3-4 Carried by God in old age
Philippians 3:12-16 Pressing on to the goal

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant name who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve her/him at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her/him and give her/him what is needed, friends to cheer her/his way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling her/him. By your Holy Spirit be present in her/his pilgrimage, that she/he may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.26.1.)

8.4.27. The elders of the community
Psalm 71:17-24 God will not forsake us in old age
Psalm 90 Our dwelling place in all generations
Psalm 92:12-15 Bearing fruit in old age
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season
Isaiah 46:3-4 Carried by God in old age
Luke 2:25-40 Anna and Simeon look for the consolation of Israel
Philippians 3:12-16 Pressing on to the goal

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth. From everlasting you are God, our dwelling place in all generations. You are the source of holy wisdom, and the fountain of all truth. We give thanks to you for the elders among us. We are graced by their wisdom and seasoning. We are touched by their knowledge and faith. Bless them, O God, as they are a blessing to us. Pour out your Spirit, that our elders may continue to dream dreams and testify to the Light of their salvation, Jesus Christ. May we find inspiration in their years of faithfulness. May we follow their example by serving you with steadfastness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.27.1.)

8.4.28. Entering a long-term care facility
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 31:1-3, 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit
Psalm 71:17-24 God will not forsake us in old age
Psalm 90 Our dwelling place in all generations
Isaiah 46:3-4 Carried by God in old age
John 14:1-3 In my Father’s house
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 God’s power made perfect in weakness
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always
Hebrews 12:1-2 Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses

O Lord God, look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring them isolation, distress, or weakness.
Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; given them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.28.1.)

8.4.29. A birthday
Psalm 100 The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever
Psalm 139:1-17 O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Psalm 145 The Lord is gracious and merciful
Colossians 3:17 Give thanks to God through Jesus

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant name as she/he begins another year. Grant that she/he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen her/his trust in your goodness all the days of her/his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.29.1.)

8.4.30. Friendship
Psalm 133 When kindred dwell in unity
Proverbs 17:17 A friend for all times
John 15:12-17 Jesus lays down life for his friends
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always
Colossians 3:12-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart

Pour into our hearts, O God, the Holy Spirit’s gift of love, that we may share the joy of friendship, human and divine, revealed in the love of Jesus Christ who lays down his life for his friends and in whose name we pray. (8.4.30.1.)

8.4.31. Broken relationship
Psalm 22 Why have you forsaken me?
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 55:1-8, 12-14, 16-22 Betrayed by a friend
Psalm 62 For God alone my soul waits
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you
Ephesians 2:13-22 Christ is our peace

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.31.1.)
8.4.32. Separation or divorce
Psalm 6 O Lord, deliver my life
Psalm 25 Teach me your paths
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 42:1-3 My soul thirsts for the living God
John 8:3-11 I do not condemn you
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you
John 15:7-11 Abide in my love
Ephesians 2:13-22 Christ is our peace
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always
Colossians 3:12-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart

God of compassion and grace, in your steadfast love accompany name/s. As you ever work to restore and renew your people, overcome bitterness with your joy, hatred with your love, brokenness with your life; and give us hope through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.32.1.)

8.4.33. With children at time of separation or divorce
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 36:5-9 Refuge in the shadow of God’s wing
Deuteronomy 6:24-26 The Lord blesses and keeps
Matthew 28:20 Jesus with us always
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you
John 15:7-11 Abide in my love
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always

God of comfort, your child/ren name/s look to you in this time of change and confusion. Calm their fears about the future. Flood the darkness with the light of your love. Fill them with the courage of Christ to face each day and its new challenges, and by your Spirit empower their parents to make sound decisions, to show mutual respect, and to love name/s unconditionally. In the name of Jesus, our Savior and brother, we pray. (8.4.33.1.)

8.4.34. A missing person
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Isaiah 40:27-31 Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength
Isaiah 43:1-3a I have called you by name
John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd
2 Corinthians 4:6-9 Treasure in clay jars
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ

Lord Jesus, our shepherd, in the waters of holy baptism you have found us by your grace and have generously poured out on us your new and abundant life. Bring name safely home and back into our midst once again. In any danger, protect her/him In any conflict, give reconciliation. In any fear, give her/him your peace. (8.4.34.1.)

8.4.35. Those who abuse
Psalm 6 O Lord, deliver my life
Psalm 32 Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven
Psalm 38 My sins have gone over my head
Psalm 51  Create in me a clean heart
Psalm 102  Do not hide your face from me
Psalm 130  Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord
Psalm 143  Deliver me from my enemies
Joel 2:12-14a  Return to the Lord your God
Luke 23:39-43  Jesus forgives the criminal
1 John 1:5-2.2  If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just

Judge of all the earth, God of justice, we bring before you all who abuse others. Turn the hearts of the violent from the way of evil. Bring them to full awareness of the damage they do, to true repentance, and to amendment of their lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.35.1.)

8.4.36. Military or other national service
Psalm 46  God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 91  The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 121  I lift up my eyes to the hills
Jeremiah 20:7-13  The Lord is with me
Lamentations 3:22-26  The steadfast love of the Lord
Luke 4:1-12  The temptation of Jesus
John 10:27-29  My sheep hear my voice
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39  Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Ephesians 6:10-17  Strength in the Lord
Colossians 1:10-14  Strengthened with God’s power
2 Thessalonians 3:3  The Lord is faithful and will guard you

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.36.1.)

8.4.37. Imprisonment
Psalm 25  Teach me your paths
Psalm 88  My soul is full of troubles
Psalm 130  Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Psalm 146  Our hope is in the Lord our God
Luke 23:39-43  Jesus forgives the criminal
John 3:14-18  God so loved the world
1 Peter 5:6-9a  Cast your anxieties on God
1 John 1:5--2.2  If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just

God of justice and mercy, your Son declared release to the captives a sign of God’s reign and promised paradise to the repentant thief on the cross. Give strength and perseverance to your servant name and her/his family and friends. Make known to them the gracious power of forgiveness through your Son’s death and resurrection, that they may support each other throughout this time of separation; and sustain them with the promise of Jesus Christ, through whom all things are made new, and in whose name we pray. (8.4.37.1.)

8.4.38. Time of conflict, crisis, disaster
Psalm 42:1-3  My soul thirsts for the living God
Psalm 46  God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 77  Seek the Lord in the day of trouble
Psalm 91  The shelter of the Most High
Psalm 140  Deliver me from the hands of the wicked
Lamentations 1:1-3  The city weeps bitterly
Ephesians 2:13-22  Christ is our peace
1 Peter 4:12-13  Enduring fiery trials

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.38.1.)

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of ________. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.38.2.)

8.4.39. Creation
Psalm 8  How majestic is your name
Psalm 104  God’s greatness in creation
Psalm 147  God’s work in creation
Psalm 148  All creation praises God
Psalm 150  Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
Genesis 1  The goodness of creation
Genesis 9:8-17  Covenant with Noah and animals
Job 38  The wonder of creation
Romans 8:18-27  Creation will be set free
1 Timothy 4:4  The goodness of creation
Revelation 22:1-4  Leaves of the tree heal the nations

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (8.4.39.1.)

8.4.40. Seedtime, harvest
Psalm 65:9-13  God provides for the earth
Psalm 104  God’s greatness in creation
Psalm 147  God’s work in creation
Genesis 1:11-13  Creation of plants
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  Offering the first fruits
Matthew 13:31-32  Parable of the mustard seed
Mark 4:1-9  Parable of the sower
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  God provides seed and bread

Most gracious God, according to your wisdom the deep waters are opened up and clouds drop gentle moisture. We praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons, for the fertility of the soil, for the harvesting of the crops, and for all other blessings that you in your generosity pour out on all people. Give us a full understanding of your mercy, that our lives may show respect and care for your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.40.1.)
We give thanks to you, O God, for animals that live in our homes, on farms, in the wild, and in havens of refuge. Make us ever aware of our responsibility to these, your creatures, who in so many ways bless us. Help us to be faithful in caring for them, through the one in whom all creation is made new, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.41.1.)

**8.4.42. Praying at meals**

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let your [these] gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed.

Give us grateful hearts, O God, for all thy mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed are you, O Lord God, ruler of the universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bless, O Lord, your gifts to our use and us to your service; for Christ’s sake.

**8.4.43. Congregation meetings**

Bless, O Lord, your gifts to our use and to your service; for Christ’s sake.
Loving God, in holy baptism you have gathered us together across all human divisions, and reconciled us to yourself in one body through the cross. Strengthen us now by your presence, that our thoughts and actions may be rooted and grounded in your love for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.43.1.)

Almighty God, you have called us to labor in your vineyard, and without you we can do nothing. Grant your gracious presence at this meeting, that what we do will build up your whole church. Let your Holy Spirit govern and direct us, that we may consult together peacefully, pleasing you with all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (8.4.43.2.)

Almighty God, you have built your church upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Grant that the people of this parish may be joined together as a holy temple, a place where you dwell. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that, guided by your word and strengthened by your sacraments, we may plan and do things which will be for the good of your Church and the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.43.3.)

Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth: Bless with the Spirit’s grace and presence those who participate in this council/congregation, etc. meeting. Keep us/them steadfast in faith and united in love, that we/they may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (8.4.43.4.)