

A Celebration of New and Mutual Ministry

Concerning the Service

This form is appropriate for the welcoming of a new rector or vicar into a congregation. The words ‘rector,’ ‘vestry,’ and ‘congregation’ will be used throughout for the sake of ease. In the first few months of the rector’s time in the congregation, the rector and congregational representatives meet and together decide which options to use.

This service is based in a baptismal theology that recognizes and honors the gifts of every person, declaring every gift a vital part of the life of a congregation. With this understanding, the ministry that clergy and congregation share is one where every person brings their unique gifts to share equally - and that sharing of ministry is the celebration that follows here.

Although it may seem a practical consideration to include Confirmation and Reception with this service, the practice is discouraged. Each of these occasions is a time for celebrating our life together as a church. When we combine them, we dilute the celebration inherent in each service. The bishop will find another time for a regularly scheduled visitation (every 3 years) that includes Confirmations and Receptions, or you may join a regional celebration for those rites.

This liturgy specifically discourages the giving of tangible gifts in favor of the naming of specific ministries and spiritual gifts.

The signing of the Letter of Institution is an appropriate occasion for the bishop to sign the Mutual Ministry Agreement worked out between the Rector and Vestry.

Suggested Propers for this service are:

- *Proper of the Day*
- *For All Baptized Christians*
- *At Baptism*
- *For the Mission of the Church*
- *Feast of Title or Patronal Feast*

Hymns and anthems should reflect themes of the lessons.

In places where gendered language is used, you may choose to use other choices such as: “One God, Creator of all” OR “God the Mother of all” that are theologically suitable to the liturgical context.

Gathering the Community

A hymn, psalm or anthem may be sung.

The people standing, the Bishop says

Bishop Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

or this

Bishop Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

or this

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

During Advent

Bishop Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

In Lent and on other penitential occasions

Bishop Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Bishop continues

People There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Bishop Let us pray.

The Bishop prays the following collect or a collect that matches the chosen readings for the day.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. ¹

The people are seated. The Bishop welcomes the congregation and addresses them regarding the purpose of this gathering.

If the congregation and the diocese have had a strained relationship, an acknowledgment of a relationship in need of renewal may be inserted here. See [Appendix A](#).

Presentation of the New Rector

Two options are offered for the Presentation of the New Rector. Please choose from [Appendix B](#) or [Appendix C](#).

Litany for the Church

The Litany for the Church is introduced by, and follows from, the Presentation of the New Rector. Two choices are offered for a Litany for the Church. Please choose from [Appendix D](#) OR [Appendix E](#).

The Bishop concludes the litany with the following prayer

Everliving God, strengthen and sustain the ministers of this congregation, lay and ordained, that they may faithfully follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, proclaiming in word and deed the good news of your reign of justice and love; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. ²

¹ Collect for Ordinations, Book of Common Prayer, page 528.

² Diocese of Georgia, adapted from prayer on BCP p. 560

The Liturgy of the Word

The Reading of Holy Scripture

See 'Concerning the Service' for instructions about selecting Propers for this service.

The Homily

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Bishop invites the Renewal of Baptismal Vows with these or other appropriate words,
As we remember the many and various gifts we received from the Holy Spirit at our baptisms, let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A baptismal hymn, psalm or other song may be sung. The congregation may be asperged.

The Covenant of Mutual Ministry

Two options for establishing the covenant of ministry between priest and congregation are offered. Choose from either [Appendix F](#) (Covenant of Mutual Ministry) or [Appendix G](#) (Induction).

At the conclusion of the chosen covenant, the Congregation expresses its approval. Applause is appropriate. The Bishop greets the new Rector.

The Peace

Rector The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The new Rector greets other members of the clergy, family members, and the congregation. The People greet one another.

The Liturgy of the Table

Any Eucharistic Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer or Enriching Our Worship 1 may be used.

It is right and good, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy God, source of all that is. In the midst of our lives you call us to the life-giving truth of eternity in you, that, assembled together we might be a clear reflection of the reconciling love of your son, Jesus Christ, in our church, our communities, and our world. ³

It is right and good, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy God, source of all that is. Throughout time you gather your children together, of every age, nation, and ability, to proclaim and witness to the reconciling love of Jesus Christ in our place and time. ⁴

All four orders of ministry should be present at the Table and participate in sharing the Eucharist with the people.

After Communion

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen. ⁵

Bishop

We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. N.,
I commend to your love and care the people of _____. My brothers and sisters in Christ,
I commend to your love and care your new *Rector*, colleague and friend, N.

Blessing

The bishop, or the priest, may bless the assembly.

Closing Hymn

Dismissal

³ Written by the Reverend Laura Murray, 2019. *A pointed version of this preface is found in Appendix H.*

⁴ Written by the Reverend Laura Murray, 2019. *A pointed version of this preface is found in Appendix I.*

⁵ *Enriching our Worship 1*, page 70.

Appendix A. Acknowledgement of a relationship in need of renewal.

The Wardens and Rector stand before the Bishop.

Senior Warden Bishop Rickel, the People of _____ welcome you to this *parish*. We acknowledge that our relationship with you, our Bishop, has been strained in these last days. We thank God for the mending of our bonds of friendship. We pray that our relationship may continue to heal so that together we might bear good fruit for the kingdom of God.

Bishop People of _____, I agree that our relationship has been strained, and I own my part in that. I pray with you for on-going reconciliation and healing in the days to come.

Bishop Let us pray.

The Bishop prays one of the following collects.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; so that we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ⁶

OR

Almighty and everlasting God, source of every good and perfect gift: Send down upon us your people, lay and ordained, your whole and holy Spirit of grace; and, that we may truly please you, pour upon us the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen. ⁷

⁶ Adapted from Collect for the Unity of the Church, *Book of Common Prayer* 1979, Prayers #14, page 818.

⁷ Adapted from Collect for Clergy and People, *Book of Common Prayer* 1979, Prayers #14, page 817.

Appendix B. Presentation of the New *Rector*.

The Presentation

The Wardens stand before the Bishop.

Bishop For this day, you have reflected on your ministry and discerned your choice for a new *Rector*.

Wardens We have chosen and called N.N.N. to be our *Rector*, and *she* has accepted.

For a mission congregation, the following may be substituted for the preceding sentence

Wardens With your guidance, we have chosen and called N.N.N. to be our Vicar, and *she* has accepted.

Bishop I commend your choice and affirm this call. Are you, the people of _____, ready to continue in your ministry, with N. as your priest?

People We are.

Bishop Let us then offer our prayers to God for all God's people and especially for N. and the people of _____.

Appendix C. Presentation of the New *Rector*.

The Presentation

The Rector and Wardens stand before the Bishop and say together

Bishop N., on behalf of the people of _____, we present ourselves to you and the gathered church to receive God's blessing as we begin a new ministry together.

Bishop

Dear N., Wardens, and the good people of _____, do you commit yourselves to lively proclamation of the gospel through the work of this congregation and the larger church, working together in love and harmony and in mutual respect for the ministries of all the baptized?

The Rector, Wardens, and members of the congregation We do.

Bishop

Let us then offer our prayers to God for all God's people, and especially for N. and the people of _____, that the Church of God may be renewed and strengthened for its mission in our day.

Appendix D. Litany for the Mission of the Church. ⁸

All stand as able.

Deacon Let us pray to Jesus Christ the Giver of life that the Church of God may be renewed and strengthened for its mission in our day.

Silence

Intervessor Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
People Have mercy on us.

Intervessor Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
People Have mercy on us.

Intervessor Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
People Have mercy on us.

Intervessor Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,
People Have mercy on us.

Intervessor From blind [*stone*] hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,
People Savior, deliver us.

Intervessor From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,
People Savior, deliver us.

Intervessor From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,
People Savior, deliver us.

Intervessor From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,
People Savior, deliver us.

Intervessor O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry.
Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

⁸ *The Book of Occasional Services 2018*, p. 252

People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous, and unresponsive places.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Intervessor Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.
People Hear us, O Christ.

Appendix E. Litany for the Renewal of the Church.⁹

All stand as able.

Deacon Let us pray to Jesus Christ the Giver of life that the Church of God may be renewed and strengthened for its mission in our day.

Silence

Intervessor That the Church, with Love recovered in its midst, may teach us to love one another, that all peoples may dwell together in helpfulness and friendship, reconciled and redeemed,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That we may forsake that love of party which keeps us from loving one another; that coming together in friendship, we may find the overpowering love of God that knits us together as one united Church,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That her scholars may have learners, her prophets hearers, her saints imitators, and her innovators disciples to follow their steps,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That her councils and conventions may go forward filled with wisdom and courage, eager to continue revealing God's reign of justice and love,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That her bishops, filled with the Holy Spirit, may venture great things, not exercising dominion, but serving as true leaders of the people,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That her clergy may be good and wise, strong and courageous, competent in their work, and faithful in their witness,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That all her members, living no longer for self alone, being practitioners of forgiveness and self-sacrifice, may seek and find their true selves in grace-filled union with God and one another,

People Receive our prayer.

⁹ Adapted from Jeffrey W. Rowthorn, *The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer* (Church Publishing, 2007), p. 185.

Intervessor That the old may dream dreams, and the young see visions; that her sons and daughters [*children*] may prophesy, that all may perceive the Good News of God's deeds of power,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That the Church may be worthy of her liberty, persistent in reform, and active in benevolence,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor That the Church may become alive again with the fire of her first charity, fearless of danger and reckless unto death, in the splendor of that Life which is the light of the world,

People Receive our prayer.

Intervessor Father [*Creator*], be with us all.

Christ, be with us all.

Holy Spirit, be with us all.

People Be with us, Holy God, now and evermore.

Appendix F. Covenant of Mutual Ministry.¹⁰

The congregation stands, while visitors remain seated. The Rector and Vestry stand facing the Bishop.

The Bishop reads the following charge to the members of the congregation

Bishop Good people of _____, through Baptism you have been adopted into the community of faith, the Body of Christ, the Church. Together with your *rector*, you have been called to share in the Church's mission to reconcile all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. As your bishop, I remind you that in Baptism, you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise ministry in Christ's name, with mutual affection and respect, within this *congregation*, in the Diocese of Olympia, and in the wider community.

Having covenanted in Baptism to do this work, remember that each of you has resources and gifts for ministry. Join your *rector* in prayer, in discerning a vision for this *congregation*, and in calling forth the leadership, resources, and talents to carry out that vision.

As you love and serve God's people, remember to love, support, and nourish your *rector*, *their family*, and the members of the staff here at _____.

When difficulties arise and anxieties heighten, when you become discouraged or upset, refrain from gossip and anger, choosing instead the pathway of light through listening, humility, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Do you commit yourselves to this noble work of the church?

Members We do, by God's grace.

Bishop May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

*Members of the congregation and the Vestry remain standing as the Bishop reads the Letter of Institution for the new Rector.*¹¹

Bishop N.N.N., Presbyter of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow Presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher, and to take your share in the councils of the Church. Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been called to serve God at _____ in the Diocese of Olympia. This charge is a sign that you are fully empowered and

¹⁰ Used at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. at the Celebration of New Ministry on 30 April 2017.

¹¹ The Letter of Institution of a Minister is found on page 557 in the *Book of Common Prayer*. The text of the Letter is specified in the Canons of The Episcopal Church, and may not be changed.

authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words and actions, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, empower them for ministry, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come. Do you commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Rector I do, by God's grace.

Bishop May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

All present are now invited to stand along with members of the congregation.

Bishop Will you members of the local community and the wider church, who witness this new beginning, support and uphold the priest and people of this congregation in their ministry together?

All We will, by God's grace.

In the presence of the congregation, the Rector signs the Letter of Institution. The Rector remains in the midst of the congregation. The wardens stand at the front, facing the congregation, and address the new Rector.

Wardens With deep gratitude to God, and on behalf of the congregation of _____, we welcome you as our new *rector*. We thank you for accepting the call to join us in ministry. As you bring your gifts, so we bring ours, that together we may offer them to God, to each other, and to the world around us.

Bishop N. and the people of _____, may God bless the ministries we share in this place, in the Diocese of Olympia, and in the world.

All Amen.

Appendix G. Induction.

The Induction

The Induction invites and reveals the whole body of Christ's participation in the mission of the church. As each ministry is named, appropriate members stand and recite their response. They remain standing afterwards. Categories that do not apply can be removed, renamed, or adjusted to match the ministry of the congregation. Where there are many people who will recite a shared response, it is prudent to identify one person beforehand who will lead the response boldly. Ministries may be added, deleted, or changed, as is appropriate to the congregation.

Bishop People of _____[Congregation name], we are all called to join in the one work of living and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Who will join me in baptizing, presiding at the Eucharist, and performing the sacramental rites of our church?

New Rector [and any other associate clergy]

I/We will join you, reverently officiating the Holy Mysteries of God for this place.

Rector Who will join me in leading worship in the church: Preparing the altar, administering the chalice, singing and making music, and proclaiming the Word of God?

Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir/Musicians, Readers

We will join you, that the beauty and holiness of God would be known through our worship.

Bishop Who will join me as a deacon in this congregation, serving all people – particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely?

Deacon I will join you as your deacon, making Christ and his redemptive love known.

Deacon Who will join me in seeking the dignity and stability of those who are vulnerable and overlooked in our midst?

Outreach and Pastoral Care [Could be separated]

We will join you, knowing that when we care for those society ignores, we encounter Christ.

Rector Who will join me in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ to our neighbors?

- Evangelism* We will join you in word and service that the world may see and believe in God's redemption.
- Deacon* Who will join me in seeking the renewal of creation?
- Creation Care* We will join you in this work, that all God's creation may flourish.
- Rector* Who will join me in leading this congregation, seeking a wise and faithful pathway forward?
- Vestry* We will join you as the *vestry*, serving this congregation with integrity and dedication.
- Senior Warden* Who will join me in the careful administration of the church's finances and property?
- Treasurer, Finance Committee, Stewardship, and Building & Grounds*
We will join you as faithful stewards of God's property that it may make manifest the Kingdom of God.
- Treasurer* Who will join me in pledging your financial support of this *parish*?
- Pledgers* We will give to God what belongs to God, that all may know the abundance of God.
- Rector* Who will join me in leading spiritual formation in our church community, that young and old alike might grow in their identity as image-bearers of God?
- Christian Formation*
We will teach and we will model what we have discovered to be true of the Kingdom of God.
- Rector* Who will join me in creating a spirit of inclusion, hospitality, and friendship in our church?
- Ushers, Welcome and Fellowship*
We will join you, that all who come may feel the love of God in this place.
- Rector* Who will work with me in creating a reliable and stable work environment?
- Staff* We will join you, supporting this congregation as *they* seek to serve one another and the world around them.
- Senior Warden* Who will encourage us in this work that stands before us?

Friends/Colleagues/Neighbors

We will stand with you and pray for you, that you may truly shine as a beacon of hope and justice in this world.

Bishop You have commended your gifts to God for the ministries of this congregation. Will you commit to one another in trust that when difficulties arise and anxieties heighten, when you become discouraged or upset, you will refrain from gossip and anger, and work together to instead choose the pathway of humility and listening, forgiveness and reconciliation?

All We will.

Bishop Behold, O God, these people assembled for your work and service. Be among them by your Spirit, caring for them in all the ways they seek to care for one another and this world. *Amen.*

All remain standing as the Bishop reads the Letter of Institution for the new Rector ¹²

Bishop N.N.N., Presbyter of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow Presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher, and to take your share in the councils of the Church. Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been called to serve God at _____ in the Diocese of Olympia. This charge is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words and actions, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, empower them for ministry, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come. Do you commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Rector I do, by God's grace.

Bishop May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

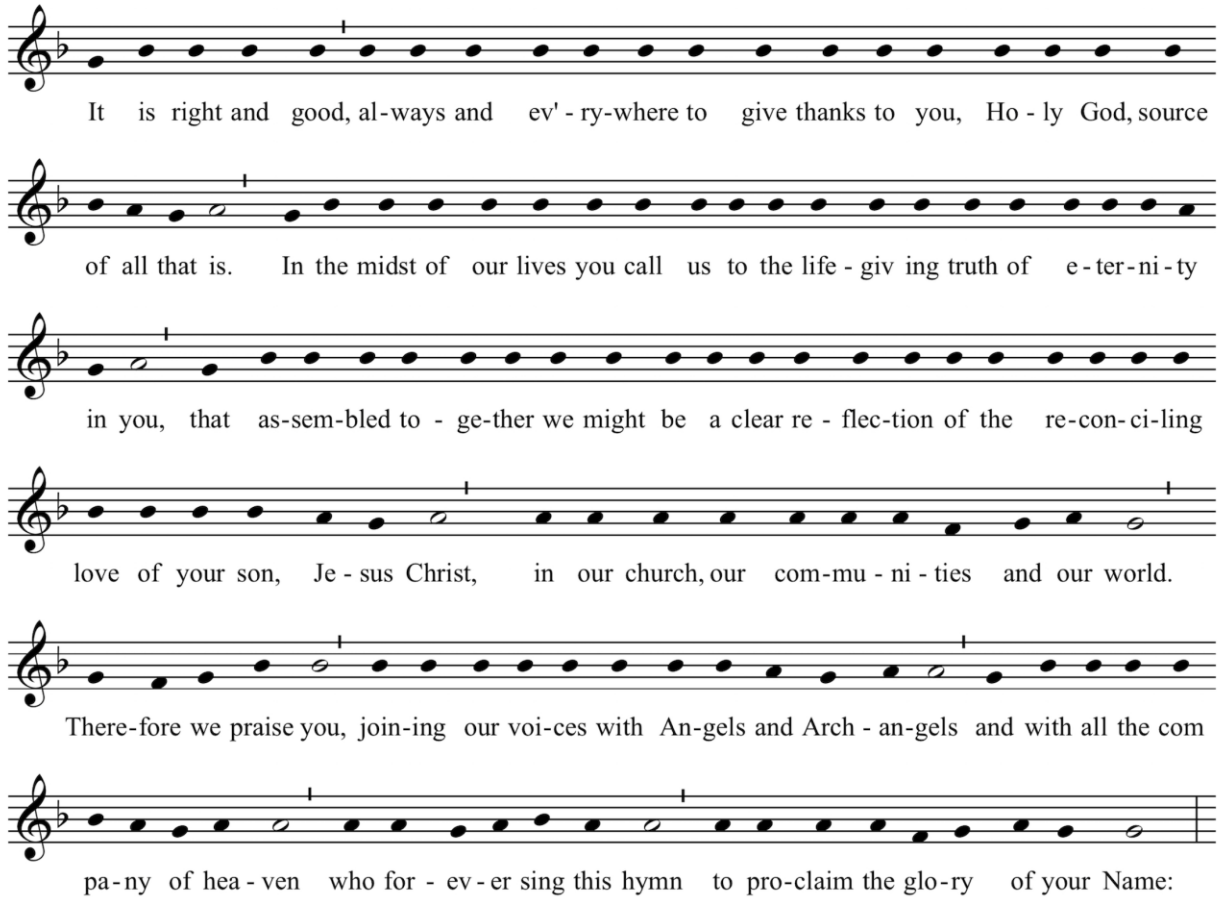
In the presence of the congregation, the Rector signs the Letter of Institution.

¹² The Letter of Institution of a Minister is found on page 557 in the *Book of Common Prayer*. The text of the Letter is specified in the Canons of The Episcopal Church, and may not be changed.

The Bishop then presents the new minister to the congregation, saying as appropriate

Let us welcome ____, your new *rector*; ____, n.'s spouse; and ____ and ____, their children.

Appendix H. Proper Preface 1, pointed for singing.



It is right and good, al-ways and ev'-ry-where to give thanks to you, Ho-ly God, source
of all that is. In the midst of our lives you call us to the life-giv-ing truth of e-ter-ni-ty
in you, that as-sem-bled to-ge-ther we might be a clear re-flec-tion of the re-con-ci-ling
love of your son, Je-sus Christ, in our church, our com-mu-ni-ties and our world.
There-fore we praise you, join-ing our voi-ces with An-gels and Arch-an-gels and with all the com
pa-ny of hea-ven who for-ev-er sing this hymn to pro-claim the glo-ry of your Name:

Appendix I. Proper Preface 2, pointed for singing.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with vertical bar lines indicating the end of phrases. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with measure numbers 6, 12, 18, 24, and 28 marked on the left side.

It is right and good, always and ev' - ry-where to give thanks to you, Ho - ly God, source of
6
all that is. Through-out time you ga-ther your chil-dren to-ge-ther, of ev'-ry age, na-tion, and a-
12
bi - li - ty, to pro-claim and wit-ness to the re-con-ci-ling love of Je-sus Christ in our place
18
and time There-fore we praise you, join-ing our voi-ces with An-gels and Arch - an-gels and
24
with all the com - pa - ny of hea - ven who for - ev - er sing this
28
hymn to pro - claim the glo - ry of your Name: