

Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call

The order follows the post-communion canticle (or prayer if no canticle is sung)

Address

A representative of the congregation addresses the pastor whose call is concluding

A pastor

L: *Name*, on *date* we of *Congregation Name* called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim

God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. 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, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

A deacon

L: *Name*, on *date* we of *Congregation Name* called you to serve among us as a deacon. *Here a description of the particular ministry may be included.* Sharing our joys and sorrows, you [and your family] have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

Prayer

L: Let us pray for the saving presence of our living God:
In your world, **be present God.**
In this congregation, **be present God.**
In this community, **be present God.**
In this synod, and the whole church, **be present God.**
In the homes and hearts of all your people, **be present God.**

L: Let us pray for the mercy of God:
For work begun but not completed, **God have mercy.**
For expectations not met, **God have mercy.**
For wounds not healed, **God have mercy.**
For gifts not shared, **God have mercy.**
For promises not kept, **God have mercy.**

L: Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:
For friendships made, for joys celebrated
and for times of nurture and growth, **thanks be to God.**
For wounds healed, expectations met,
gifts given and promises kept, **thanks be to God.**
For our fellowship in Jesus Christ,
and for the love of God which has sustained us, **thanks be to God.**

Dissolution

L: People of God, members of Name of Congregation, do you release Name from service as our pastor / deacon

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The leader addresses the person whose call is concluding.

L: Name, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Name of Congregation ?

I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Thanksgiving and Sending

L: Let us pray....Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Name among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:

bless this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:

keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:

prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;

heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.

Help Name [and her/his/their family] and all of us, to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

L: As *he/she/they* has been a blessing to us, so now send *him/her/them* forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The service continues with the benediction

When a representative of the synod leads this order, that person may address the person whose call is concluding, and the assembly, with these or similar words. This address may precede the benediction:

L: Your siblings in Christ of the Sierra Pacific Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared. We promise you our continued support and prayer. rejoicing in the blessings of God in Name of Congregation and in the ministry of Name. With hope in God's abundant grace in years to come, I announce that Name's service as position in Name of Congregation is now concluded.

"Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call" from *Occasional Services for the Assembly* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009), 111-113. Prayers are from *Book of Occasional Services: A Liturgical Resource Supplementing the Book of Common Worship*, 1993 (Louisville: Geneva Press, 1999), 245-6.