

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC MINISTRY Order for a Leader of the Church's Song

Leader: *Today we give thanks to God for _____ and for her/his faithful service [of ___ years] in the ministry of music. Called in baptism and equipped with musical gifts, _____ has led God's people in singing the new song of eternal life in Jesus Christ.*

*Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
There is no end of his greatness
One generation shall praise your works to another
And shall declare your power.
All your works praise you, O Lord,
And your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom
And speak of your power;
That the peoples may know of your power
And the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
(Psalm 145:1-4, 10-12)*

One or more of the following may be read:

In First Chronicles we read that King David first organized Israel's music ministry. David commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy. Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in music, was to direct the music, for he understood it. So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres. (I Chronicles 15:16, 22, 28)

In Colossians we read that, when Christ's Word lives in us, we sing with gratitude. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:14-17)

Martin Luther wrote that music proclaims the Word of God. Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise...the fathers and prophets wanted nothing else to be associated as closely with the Word of God as music...After all, the gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music, namely, by proclaiming [the Word of God] through music and by providing sweet melodies with words...When [musical] learning is added to all of this and artistic music which corrects, develops, and refines the natural music, then at last it is possible to taste with wonder (yet not to comprehend) God's absolute and perfect wisdom in his wondrous work of music. (Luther's Works, Vol. 53, pp. 323-24.)

Words of appreciation by the pastor and others may be shared.

STAND

People of God, has your faith been nurtured by the musical gifts of _____? AMEN!

Has _____ served the Lord faithfully by proclaiming the power and comfort of God's Word through music? AMEN!

Will you continue to support _____ as an ambassador of the Lord, called through baptism to be a worship leader among us? WE WILL!

Will you give thanks to God for the new song of resurrection that has inspired _____ in a ministry of music for the sake of the church? ALLELUIA!

A Hymn of Thanksgiving is sung.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by your death and resurrection you have transformed our lives. In the waters of baptism you have gifted us for ministry in your church and in the world. We give you thanks for the ministry of music and faithful service of your child, _____. To all whom he/she has inspired in the arts, bring your blessing. Strengthen her/him in every future endeavor and bring to fruition his/her work to enliven your Word in us through music. Empower us to sing your resurrection song with fervor and to regard music as a lively expression of your gospel and a gift of your making. To you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is due, both now and forever. Amen

All join together:

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be with all your servants who make art and music for your people, that with joy, we on earth may glimpse your beauty, and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection, which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader: _____, may Almighty God bless you with every good gift and strengthen you in your baptism, until that day, when we will join saints and angels in the song of life that never ends. Amen

The people sit. A certificate of recognition and other gifts may be given. If not done so before, the pastor and other congregational representatives may extend a personal greeting. The assembly may respond in thanksgiving to God with applause. The honoree may offer a word of appreciation.

NOTES ON THE LITURGY

–This liturgy may be led from the font by the pastor after the prayers and before the offering.

–Participants should include representatives of the church and its musical organizations.

–Readers should be persons associated with the congregation's ministry of music, including, where possible, a member of a children's or youth choir.

–The people should sing an appropriate hymn of thanksgiving such as "Voices Raised to You," "Now Thank We All Our God," (verses 1 and 3); "Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices" (verse 1).

–Expressions of gratitude may be made by the pastor and representatives of the church, i.e., a choir member, the church council president, chair of the worship and music committee, a representative of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), a church-wide representative.

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Order for Parish Musicians

Leader: *Today we give thanks to God for our parish musicians and for their faithful service in the ministry of music. Called in baptism and equipped with musical gifts, they have led the people of God in singing the new song of eternal life in Jesus Christ.*

Sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;

Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations

And his wonders among all peoples.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

(Psalm 96:1-3, 6, 9)

One or more of the following may be read:

In First Chronicles we read that King David first organized Israel's music ministry.

David commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy. Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in music, was to direct the music, for he understood it. So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres. *(I Chronicles 15:16, 22, 28)*

In Colossians we read that, when Christ's Word lives in us, we sing out of gratitude.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *(Colossians 3:14-17)*

Martin Luther wrote that music proclaims the Word of God.

Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise...the fathers and prophets wanted nothing else to be associated as closely with the Word of God as music...After all, the gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music, namely, by proclaiming [the Word of God] through music and by providing sweet melodies with words...When [musical] learning is added to all of this and artistic music which corrects, develops, and refines the natural music, then at last it is possible to taste with wonder (yet not to comprehend) God's absolute and perfect wisdom in his wondrous work of music. *(Luther's Works, Vol. 53, pp. 323-24.)*

Words of appreciation by the pastor, director of music (cantor), and others may be shared.

STAND

People of God, has your faith been nurtured by the musical gifts of these brothers and sisters in Christ? AMEN!

Have they served the Lord faithfully by proclaiming the power and comfort of God's Word through music? AMEN!

Will you continue to support them as ambassadors of the Lord, called through baptism to be worship leaders among us? WE WILL!

Will you give thanks to God for the new song of resurrection that has inspired them in a ministry of music for the sake of the church? ALLELUIA!

A Hymn of Thanksgiving is sung.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by your death and resurrection you have transformed our lives. In the waters of baptism you have gifted us for ministry in your church and in the world. We give you thanks for the ministry of music and faithful service of these your children. To all whom they have inspired in the arts, bring your blessing. Strengthen them in every future endeavor and bring to fruition their work to enliven your Word in us through music. Empower us to sing your resurrection song with fervor and to regard music as a lively expression of your gospel and a gift of your making. To you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is due, both now and forever. Amen

All join together:

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be with all your servants who make art and music for your people, that with joy, we on earth may glimpse your beauty, and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection, which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader: Children of God, may the Almighty One bless you with every good gift and strengthen you in your baptism, until that day, when we will join saints and angels in the song of life that never ends. Amen

The people sit. A certificate of recognition and other gifts may be given. The pastor and director of music (cantor) may offer words of appreciation if not done so before. The assembly may respond in thanksgiving to God with applause.

NOTES ON THE LITURGY

–The liturgy may be led from the font by the pastor after the prayers and before the offering.

–Participants should include representatives of the church's leadership.

–Readers should be persons who give oversight to the congregation's music, i.e., chair of the worship and music committee, church council president, the pastor.

–The people should sing an appropriate hymn of thanksgiving such as "Voices Raised to You;" "Now Thank We All Our God," (verses 1 and 3); "Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices" (verse 1).

–Expressions of gratitude may be made by the pastor and representatives of the congregation, and, if possible, by a representative of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM).

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Permission is granted to congregations to revise for their local context.