

# FORM FOR THE ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD



Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ

We have repeatedly made known to you the name of our brother [NAME], here present, following his call to serve as pastor and teacher in this church. No one has presented a lawful objection against his person or teaching. And therefore, we shall now proceed, in the name of the Lord, to ordain him. It is necessary however that you, brother [NAME], and all of us present should first listen to what the Word of God teaches us about the institution and the office of the pastors or ministers of the Word.

Eph 4:11-12

We believe that Jesus Christ calls people to special offices in his church. Therefore, he gives apostles and prophets to his church; others he gives as evangelists, still others as pastors and teachers, in order to equip the believers for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Acts 20:28

As pastor and teacher, you, beloved brother, have been called to care for, guide and protect the flock that God has entrusted to your care. You are to do this by preaching the Word, administering the sacraments, the ministry of prayers and helping with the government of the church.

### **Your work as office-bearer is thus the following:**

Tit 1:9

1. You must thoroughly examine the Word of God and proclaim it to the church in a pure and simple manner. As a shepherd, you must hold firmly to the trustworthy Word, in accordance with sound doctrine, and faithfully proclaim it. In the worship services and at home visitations, you must teach and comfort, admonish and rebuke the members according to the demands of each one's circumstances. Paul says: "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

2 Tim 2:15

2 Tim 4:1-2

Mt 28:19

2. You must administer the sacraments which the Lord has instituted as signs and seals of his covenant of grace. From Christ's command to his church it is clear that baptism must be administered and that his death must be commemorated in the Lord's Supper.

1 Tim 2:1

3. You must call upon the name of the Lord in the worship service with confession of sin and with praise and thanksgiving, and you must intercede in prayer for all people.

Jn 21:15

4. You must instruct covenant children in the knowledge of the Word of God, remembering Christ's command to Peter: "Feed my lambs."

Mt 16:19

5. Together with the elders, you must oversee the church and ensure that everything is done in an orderly manner. The church must be protected against heresy, and members should not live sinful and wicked lives like unbelievers. For this purpose, the keys of the kingdom of heaven were entrusted to the apostles and in them to the overseers, of whom you are one.

Mt 28:19

Lk 15:1-10

6. It is also your calling to proclaim the gospel to the world and to encourage the believers to profess the name of the Lord Jesus before the people. You must also seek out those

who have strayed in order to bring them back into the community of the church.

2 Cor 5:18-20

You see therefore that the minister of the Word has a glorious calling and service, but also a great responsibility. Keep in mind these words of the apostle: "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

### Questions

NAME SURNAME, you have heard what your task is. We ask you now to answer these questions in all sincerity:

1. Are you convinced in your heart that you have been lawfully called to this holy service by the church of God, and therefore by God himself?
2. Do you believe that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and contains the complete doctrine of salvation, and do you reject all teachings that contradict them?
3. Do you promise to discharge the God-given duties of your office faithfully and with diligence, in accordance with this doctrine?
4. Do you promise to conduct your life in accordance with this doctrine?
5. Do you promise to submit yourself to the admonition and discipline of the church, if you should deviate in doctrine or life?

What is your answer?

To this he should answer

Yes.

*The officiating minister and other ministers of the Word should then lay their right hands upon him\* and say:*

*\* Only when a proponent is ordained*

May God, our heavenly Father, who has called you to this service, enlighten you with his Holy Spirit, strengthen you with his hand, and so govern you in your ministry that your life and work will be to the glory of his name and the expansion of the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Thereafter the officiating minister should admonish the newly ordained minister and also the whole church from the pulpit, saying:*

Beloved brother and fellow servant:

1 Pet 5:2-3

You must love Christ and as shepherd feed his sheep, look after them – not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not lording it over those whom God has entrusted into your care, but with the sincere desire to be an example for the flock.

1 Tim 4:12-15

1 Tim 4:16

2 Tim 2:3

Set an example for the believers in word, in life, in love, in spirit, in faith and in purity. Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and to teaching. Immerse yourself in these matters, so that all may see your progress. Do not neglect the gifts of grace that have been given to you.

Keep a close watch over yourself and your teaching, persist in this, for by so doing you

1 Pet 5:4 will save both yourself and your hearers. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. And when the Chief Shepherd appears you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Isa 52:7 And you, beloved church, receive your minister of the Word with joy. Show him due respect. Consider that God himself speaks to you through him. Let the coming of him who brings the good news be beautiful and pleasant to you. Remember him in your prayers.

1 Th 5:25

2 Th 3:1

Heb 13:17

Mt 10:41

Obey those that go before you, for they keep watch over your lives and will have to give account to God. If you do these things, the peace of God shall enter your homes; and you who receive this brother, who is a prophet, shall receive a prophet's reward; and because you believe in Christ through his word, you will inherit eternal life through Christ.

*Since no one is of himself sufficient for these things, let us call upon the name of God with thanksgiving:*

### **Prayer**

Merciful Father, we thank you that you have given a faithful minister to this church. We pray that, through your Spirit, you will enable him more and more for the task that you have prepared him for and to which you have called him. Enlighten his mind to know the truth of your Word. Give him the words to proclaim the mystery of the gospel with boldness. Give him the wisdom and insight to rightly oversee the church together with the elders, and to preserve Christian peace, so that the church will increase in number and in virtue under his ministry and through his example. Give him courage for all the difficulties that he may encounter in his service. Strengthen him through the comfort of your Holy Spirit, so that he may be steadfast until the end and one day be received in the joy of the Lord together with all the faithful servants.

Grant to this church also your grace to conduct themselves as they should towards their pastor. Let them acknowledge him as one who has been sent by you and let them subject themselves to his teaching and exhortation, so that they may believe in Christ through his ministry of the Word and may share in eternal life. Hear us, o Father, through your beloved Son. Amen.