



Good Stewards of God's Grace

DEACONS AND RULING ELDERS AS WORSHIP LEADERS

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Overview of This Webinar

- ▶ What Is Your Charge? (1 Peter 4:7–11)
- ▶ The Ministry of Deacons
- ▶ The Ministry of Ruling Elders
- ▶ General Guidelines
- ▶ The Service for the Lord's Day
- ▶ Extended Service of Communion
- ▶ Other Services of Worship

What Is Your Charge?

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED [AND/OR INSTALLED]

Those who are newly ordained and/or installed may remain standing to receive the charge. At the ordination and installation of deacons and ruling elders, the charge is given by the clerk of session or pastor. At the ordination [and installation] of a minister of Word and Sacrament, the charge is given by a member of the presbytery's commission.

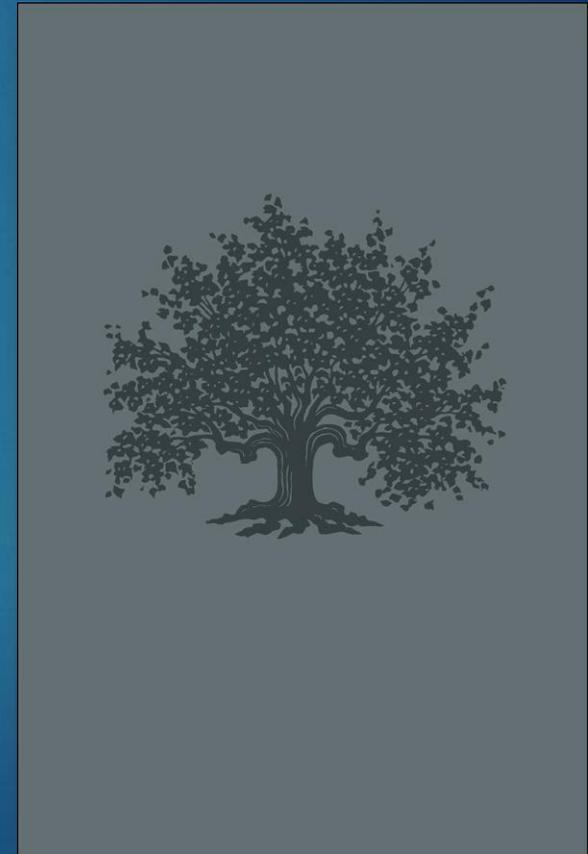
One or more of the following texts may be used.

For Deacons and Ruling Elders

1 Peter 4:7–11
2 Timothy 2:15
Matthew 9:35–38
Matthew 11:28–30
Hebrews 12:1–4, 12–14

For Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Psalm 96
Matthew 28:18–20
John 21:15–19
Acts 20:28–32



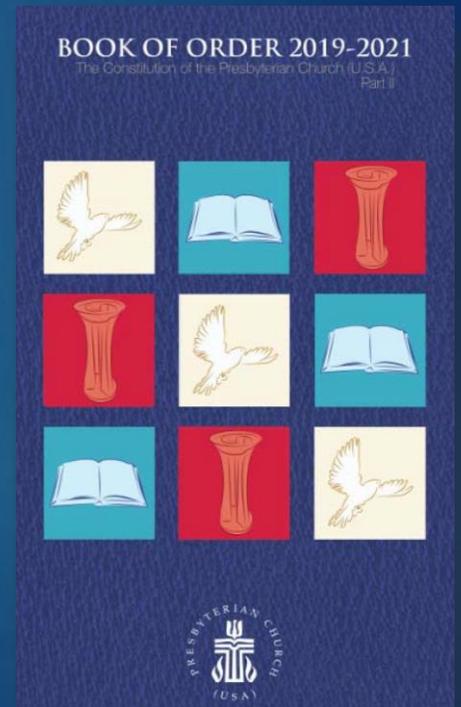
1 Peter 4:7–11

⁷ The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹ Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To [God] belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Ministry of Deacons

Form of Government: Deacon Defined (G-2.0201)

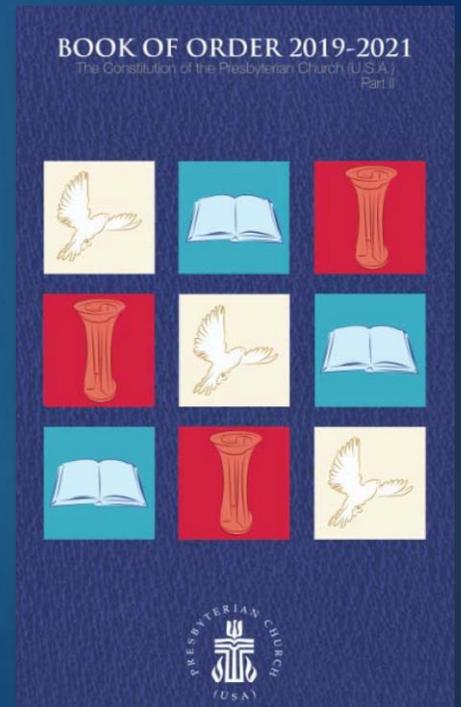
- ▶ The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.



The Ministry of Deacons

Directory for Worship: Deacons (W-2.0302)

- ▶ Deacons are called to lead the congregation in compassion, witness, and service, representing the ministry of the church in the world and the presence of the world in the church. While deacons have no particular responsibilities for the ordering of worship, the session should ensure that deacons (where present) have regular opportunities to lead in worship, and that their ministries of compassion, witness, and service are reflected in the public services of the church.

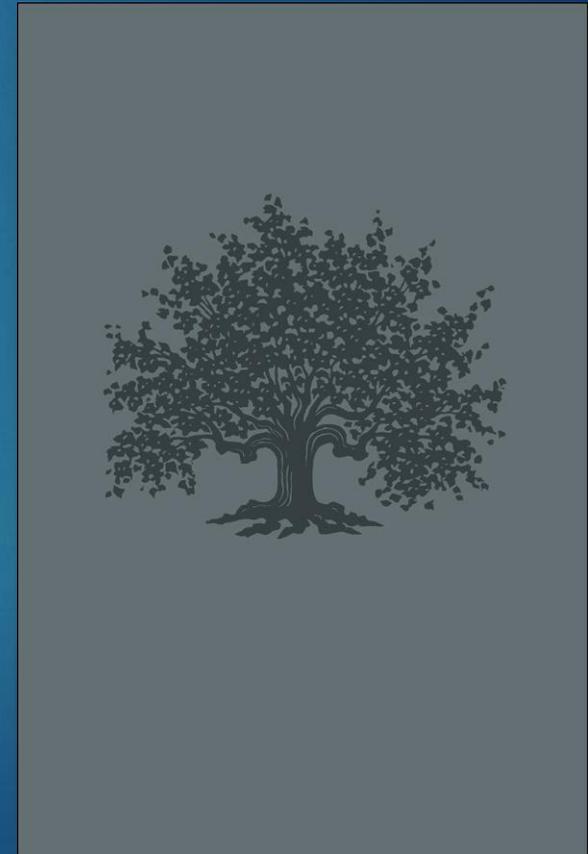


The Ministry of Deacons

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

For Deacons

Will you be a faithful deacon,
teaching charity, urging concern,
and directing the people's help
to the friendless and those in need,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**



The Ministry of Deacons

For Deacons

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on N. [and N.],
that *they* may be faithful deacon(s) in the church.

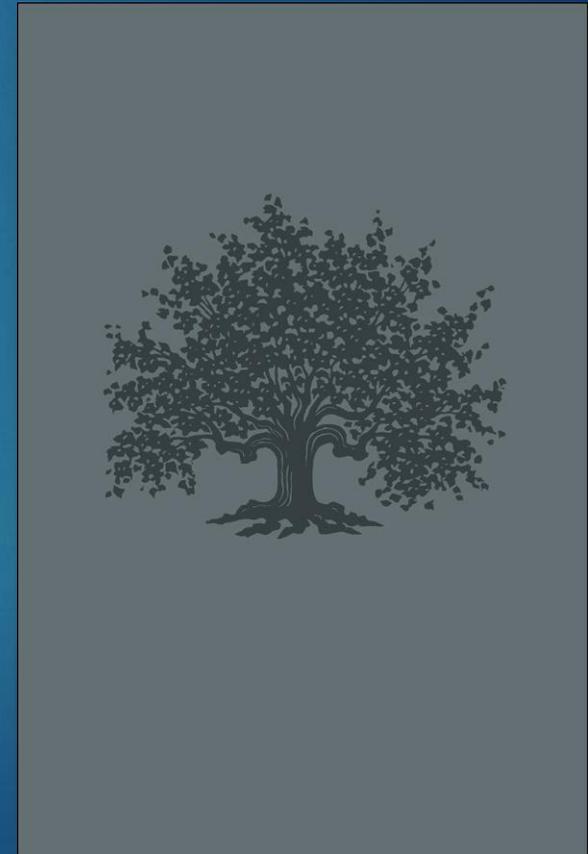
Give *them* openness to the Holy Spirit's leading
that *they* may see and serve wherever there is need.

Train *them* in the school of prayer
that *they* may express the compassion of Christ
for the poor and the friendless,
the sick, the grieving, and the troubled.

Equip *them* with courage
to bear the gospel into the halls of power,
and to communicate your presence and might
among those who are powerless.

In everything, give *them* the mind of Christ,
who did not grasp at greatness
but emptied himself, to become a servant of your reign.

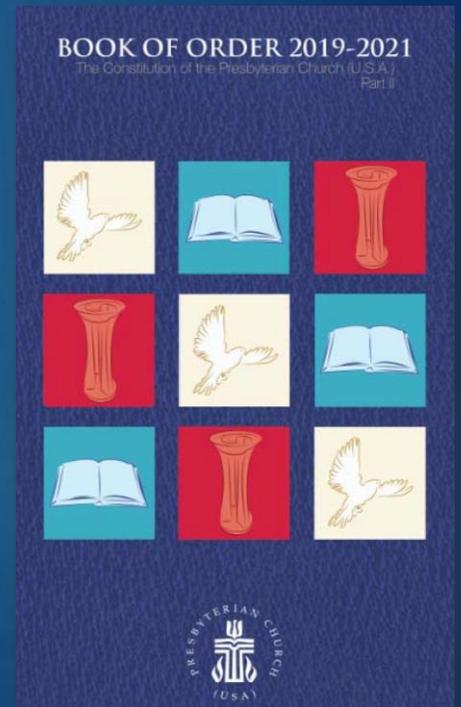
Give *them* joy in the walk of faith
and a sure sense of your abiding presence
for the work of ministry.



The Ministry of Ruling Elders

Form of Government: Ruling Elder Defined (G-2.0301)

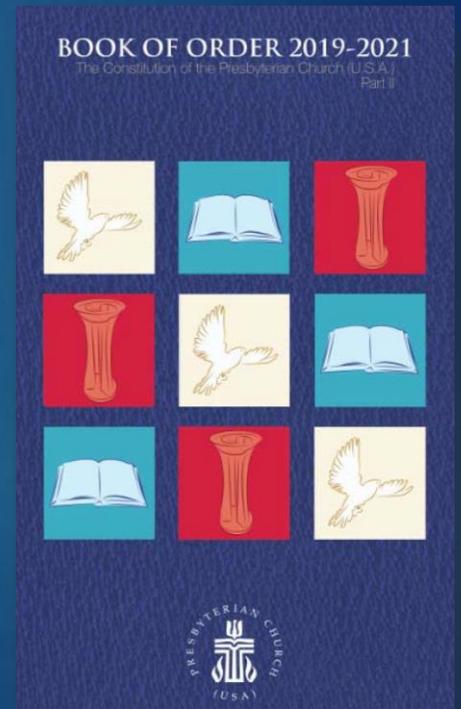
- ▶ As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. ...



The Ministry of Ruling Elders

Form of Government: Ruling Elder Defined (G-2.0301)

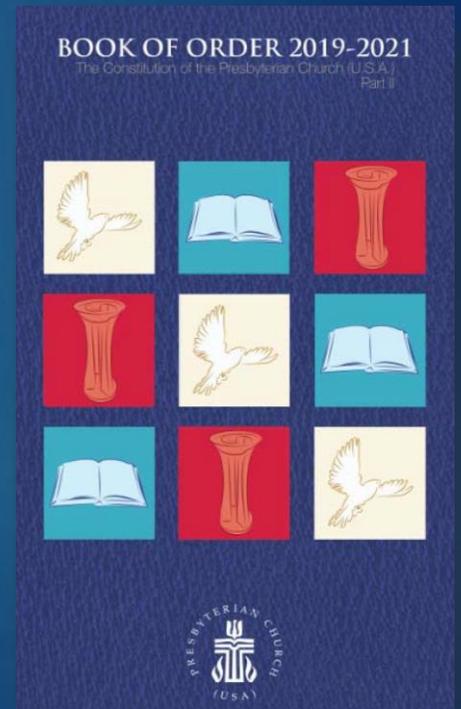
- ▶ ... Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.



The Ministry of Ruling Elders

Directory for Worship: Ruling Elders (W-2.0303)

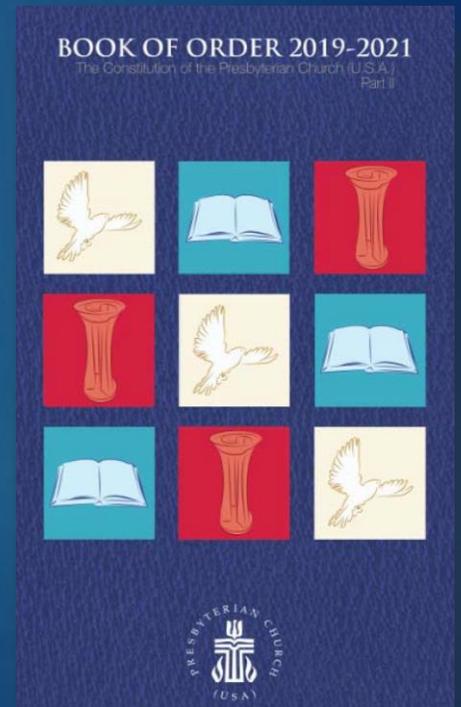
- ▶ Ruling elders are called to nurture the common life of the people of God through their gifts of discernment and governance. They should also cultivate an ability to teach the Word when called upon to do so. When appropriately prepared and commissioned by the presbytery, ruling elders may proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments in a particular congregation (G-2.1001). ...



The Ministry of Ruling Elders

Directory for Worship: Ruling Elders (W-2.0303)

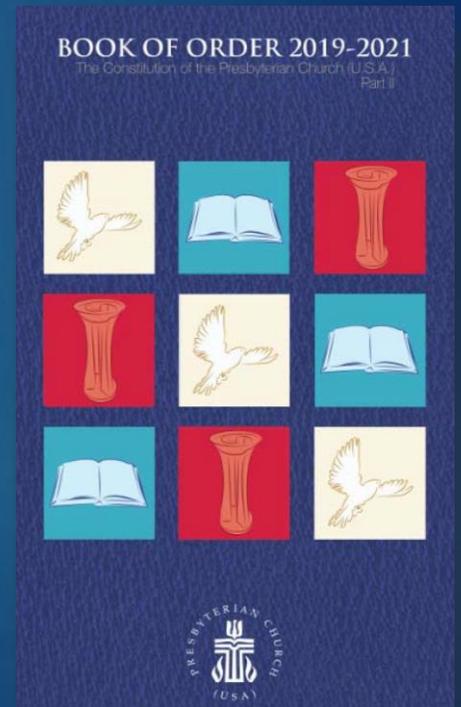
- ▶ ... In a particular congregation, ruling elders shall provide for the church's worship and encourage the people's participation. Specifically, when serving together on the session, ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament: make provision for the regular preaching of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments, corporate prayer, and the offering of praise to God in song; ...



The Ministry of Ruling Elders

Directory for Worship: Ruling Elders (W-2.0303)

- ▶ ... oversee and approve all public worship in the congregation, with the exception of responsibilities reserved for the minister of the Word and Sacrament; determine occasions, days, times, and places for worship; and have responsibility for the arrangement of worship space, the use of special appointments (flowers, candles, banners, paraments, and other objects), and the ministries of music, drama, dance, and visual arts.

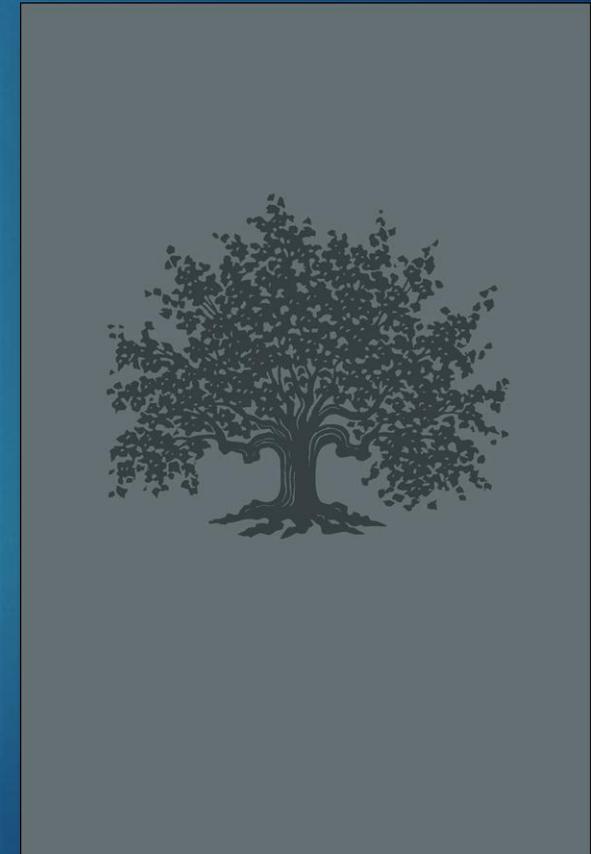


The Ministry of Ruling Elders

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

For Ruling Elders

Will you be a faithful ruling elder,
watching over the people,
providing for their worship, nurture, and service?
Will you share in government and discipline,
serving in councils of the church,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**



The Ministry of Ruling Elders

For Ruling Elders

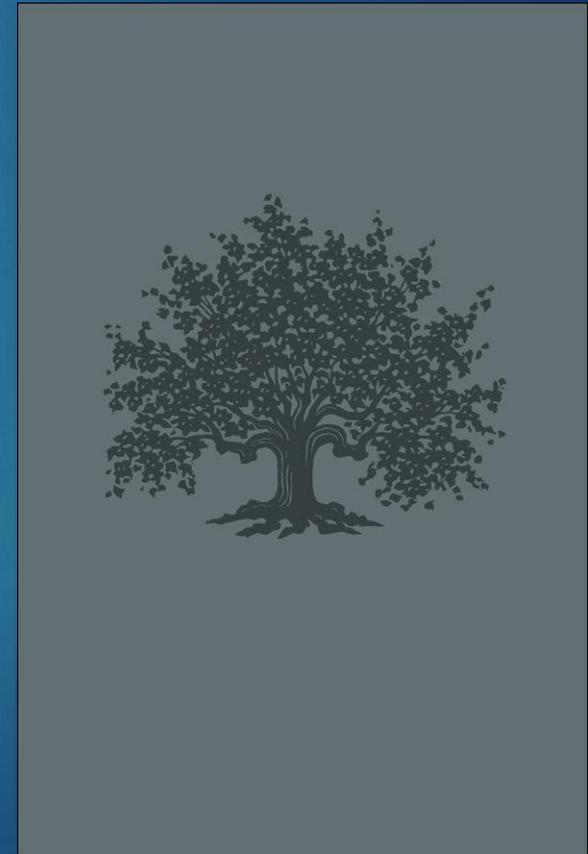
Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on N. [and N.],
that *they* may be your faithful elder(s) in the church.

Give *them* prudence and sound judgment,
wisdom and courage
to order the life of the church
in obedience to your Word.

Nourish *them* in the life of the Holy Spirit,
that *they* may exercise the ministry of discipline
with humility and compassion.

Guide *them* in governance,
on this session and in every court of the church,
that *they* may be servant leaders following Christ
who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.

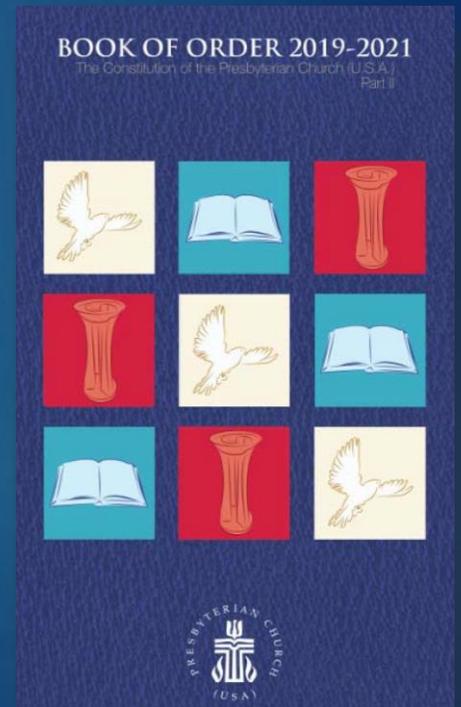
Give *them* joy in the walk of faith
and a sure sense of your abiding presence
for the work of ministry.



General Guidelines

Directory for Worship: Gifts for Service (W-2.0301)

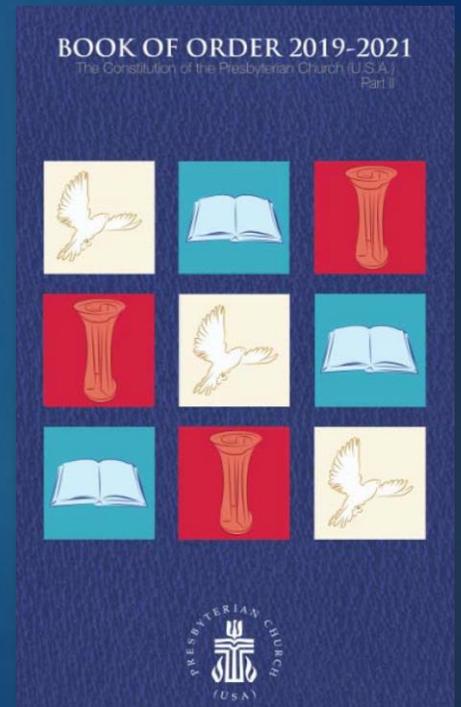
- ▶ God pours out the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon each Christian in Baptism, and all are called to use these gifts for the glory of God. Therefore it is appropriate for any member of the church to pray, read Scripture, or assist in worship in other ways according to his or her gifts. ...



General Guidelines

Directory for Worship: Gifts for Service (W-2.0301)

- ... By their gifts and training, some are called to particular acts of leadership in worship and have particular responsibilities for ordering the service. These specific roles and responsibilities are undertaken in service to God and to the congregation, and should in no way diminish the leadership of other members or overshadow the primary participation of the worshiping assembly.

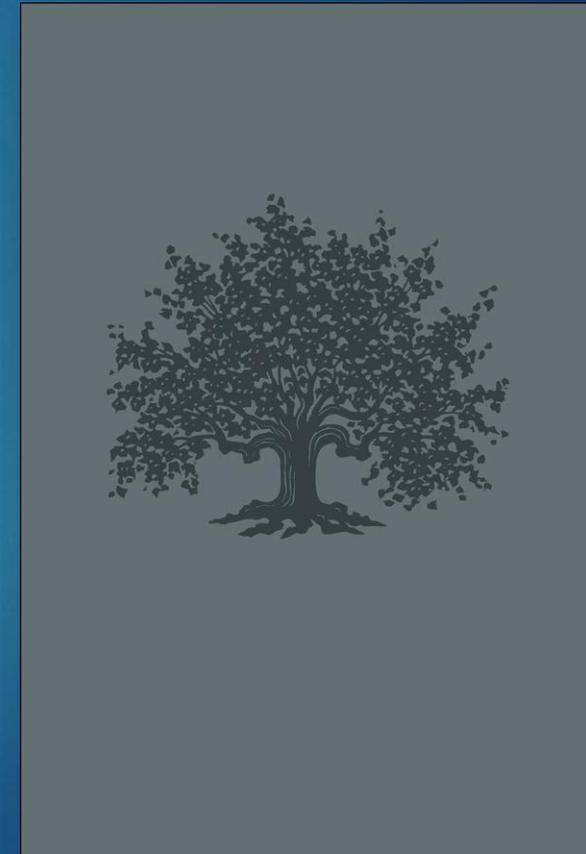


PC(USA) Book of Order

General Guidelines

“How to Use This Book” (2018 BCW)

- ▶ Learn from existing patterns of worship
- ▶ Use your wisdom and experience to adapt
- ▶ Prepare carefully for worship leadership
- ▶ Understand the deep structure of worship
- ▶ Pray and embody (vs. recite and perform)
- ▶ Proclaim the good news with grace
- ▶ Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit



General Guidelines

“Principles for Presiding,” Theology and Worship

- ▶ A presider is called by God through the church
- ▶ Presiding is servant leadership, pointing to God
- ▶ Worship is prayerful action of the body of Christ
- ▶ Multiple presiders can send mixed messages
- ▶ There are no “magic” words, actions, or people
- ▶ Our primary form of participation is prayer
- ▶ Worship should reflect shared responsibility
- ▶ Goals are faithfulness, vitality, responsiveness



General Guidelines

Resources for Commissioned Ruling Elders

- ▶ Presiding at the Sacraments
 - ▶ Presiding at Baptism
 - ▶ Presiding at the Lord's Supper



The Service for the Lord's Day

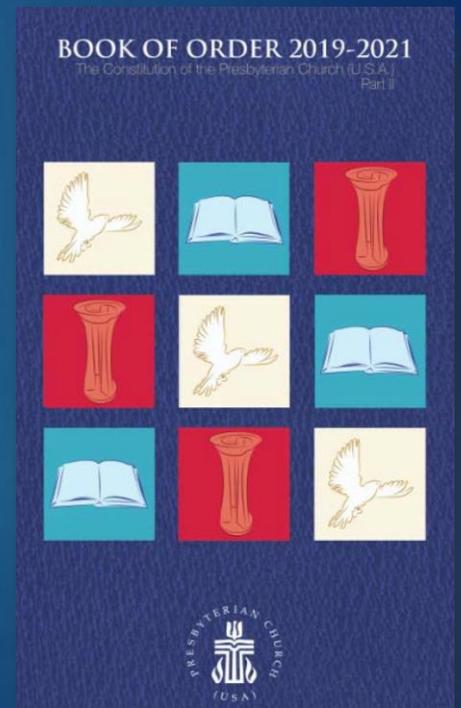
Important Roles for Deacons and Ruling Elders

- ▶ Reading Scripture
- ▶ Prayers of Intercession
- ▶ Receiving the Offering
- ▶ Serving Communion
- ▶ Charge to Service

The Service for the Lord's Day

Directory for Worship: Scripture (W-3.0303)

- ▶ The public reading of scripture is to be clear, audible, and attentive to the meaning of the text. Reading from the church's Bible conveys a sense of the permanence and weight of the word of God, and demonstrates the communal nature of the biblical story. ... Because deacons are charged with the ministry of witness to the gospel and elders are responsible for the proclamation of the Word, it is fitting for a deacon or elder to read scripture. The session will ensure that all readers are prepared for this important ministry.



The Service for the Lord's Day

SCRIPTURE

Readings from the Old and New Testaments are normally included.

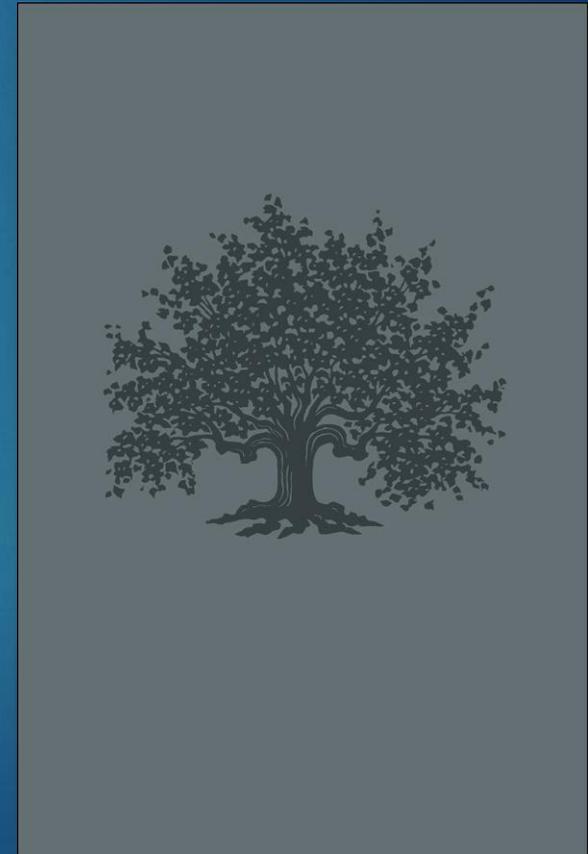
The Revised Common Lectionary (157–400) provides three readings and a psalm: (1) the first reading, from the Old Testament or Acts (in Easter); the psalm or canticle, sung as a response to the first reading; (2) the second reading, from a New Testament epistle; and (3) the Gospel reading. It is particularly appropriate for a deacon or elder to read the Gospel from the midst of the congregation.

Before each reading, the reader may say these words or similar (70):

A reading from _____.

After each reading, the reader and people may say:

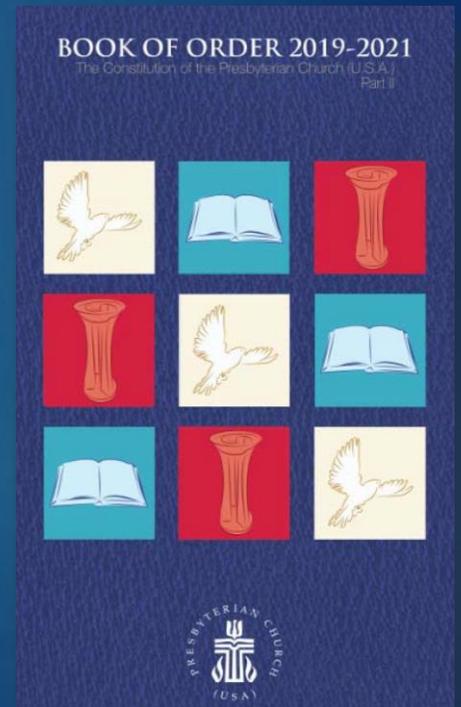
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|----------|--|----------|--|
| 1 | The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God. | 2 | Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God. |
|----------|--|----------|--|



The Service for the Lord's Day

Directory for Worship: Prayers of Intercession (W-3.0308)

- ▶ Because pastors are called to serve as good shepherds for God's people, it is fitting for a pastor to lead the prayers of intercession and supplication. Because deacons are responsible for ministries of compassion and elders are charged with the nurture of the congregation, it is also fitting for a deacon or elder to lead these prayers. Other persons with a gift for prayer may be invited to lead the intercessions.



The Service for the Lord's Day

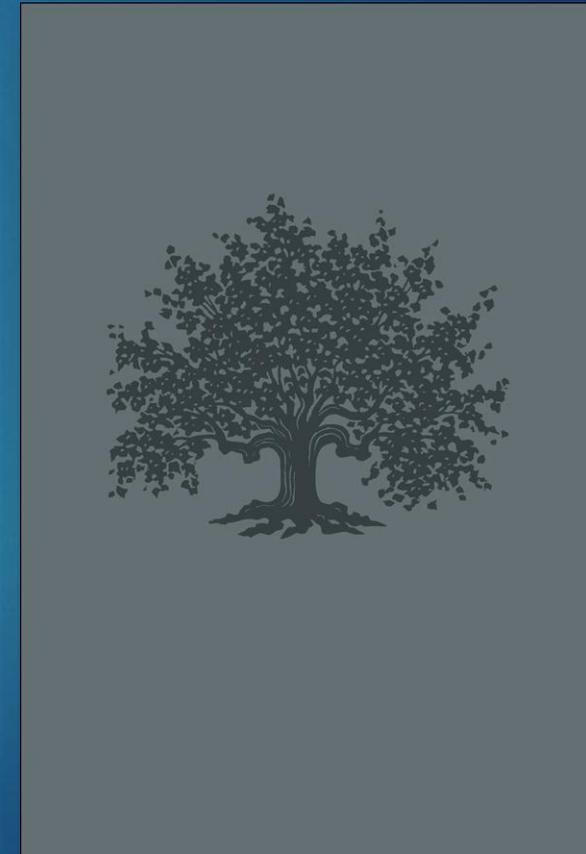
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

It is particularly appropriate for a deacon or elder to lead the prayers of intercession (92) from the midst of the congregation or from the Lord's Table. Worshipers may respond with specific prayers, aloud or in silence, as bidden.

For the church, the world, and all in need,
let us pray to the Lord, saying:

After each petition, one of the following or another response (114) may be said:

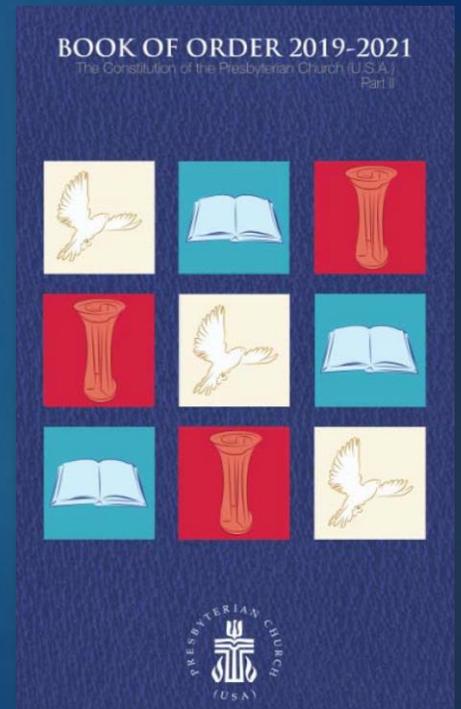
- | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer. | 2 | God of grace,
hear our prayer. |
|----------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|



The Service for the Lord's Day

Directory for Worship: Offering (W-3.0411)

- ▶ Tithes and offerings are gathered as an act of thanksgiving to God. Gifts of food for the poor may also be collected at this time, and the table may be prepared for the Lord's Supper. All of these gifts are received with a prayer of dedication to God, spoken or sung. Because ruling elders and deacons are charged with the stewardship of the church's resources and leadership in ministry to the poor, it is fitting for a ruling elder or deacon to lead this prayer.



The Service for the Lord's Day

OFFERING

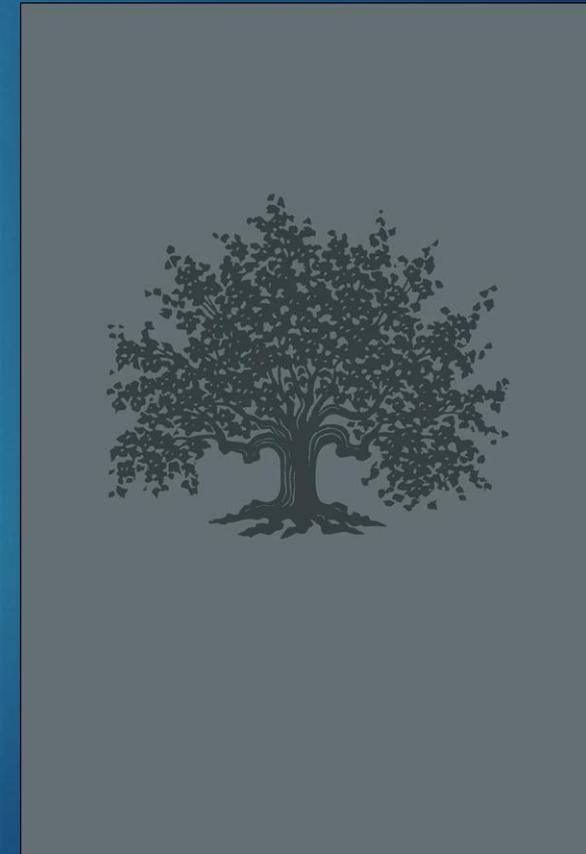
One of the following, or another invitation to offering (118), may be said.

- 1 The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, Ps. 24:1
the world, and those who live in it.
- 2 Freely you have received, freely give. Matt. 10:8

Then the leader says:

Let us return to God the offerings of our life
and the gifts of the earth.

As offerings are gathered, an anthem may be sung or other appropriate music may be offered. The presider and elders or deacons prepare the table. The people's offerings, which may include food for people who are hungry, are brought to the table. A song of praise may be sung.



The Service for the Lord's Day

As the offerings are presented, the following may be said:

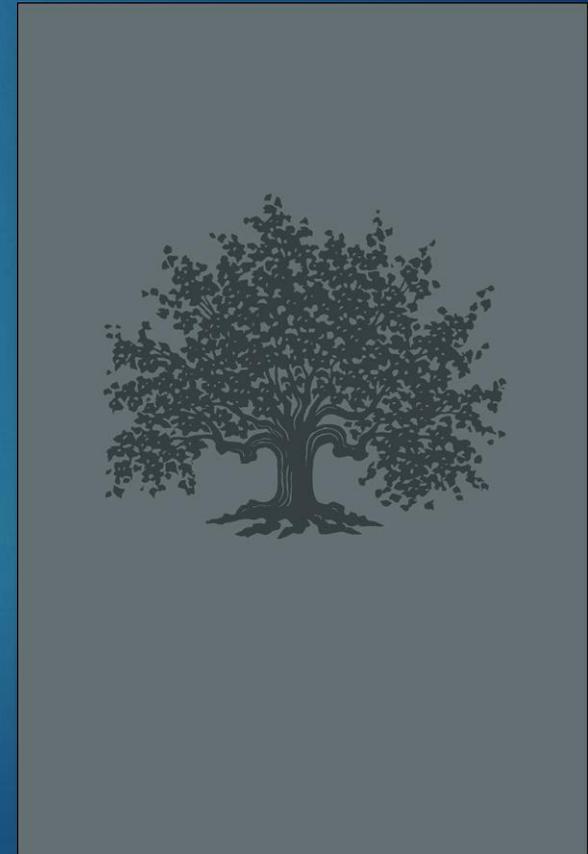
Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,
and of your own we give you.

1 Chr. 29:11, 14

An elder or deacon may then pray:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness
you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.

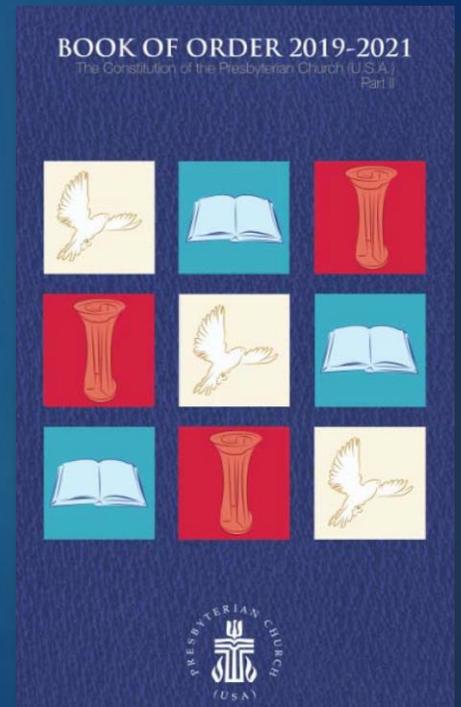
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love;
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**^{ELW}



The Service for the Lord's Day

Directory for Worship: Communion (W-3.0414)

- ▶ Worshipers may gather at the table, come forward to meet the servers, or receive the bread and cup where they are. The bread may be broken and placed in people's hands or they may receive pieces of bread prepared for distribution. They may drink from a common cup, receive individual cups, or dip the broken bread into the cup. Ordinarily ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament serve the bread and cup; the session may authorize other church members to do so.



The Service for the Lord's Day

COMMUNION

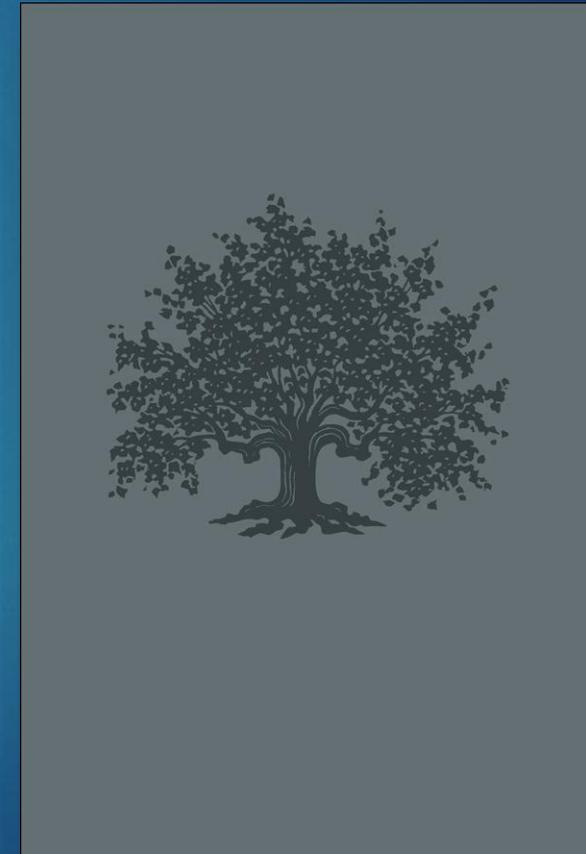
During the communion of the people, hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs may be sung (GTG 494–538; PH 500–521), or other appropriate music may be offered.

In giving the bread, the server says:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | The bread of heaven. Amen. | 2 | The body of Christ,
given for you. Amen. |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|

In giving the cup, the server says:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | The cup of salvation. Amen. | 2 | The blood of Christ,
given for you. Amen. |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|



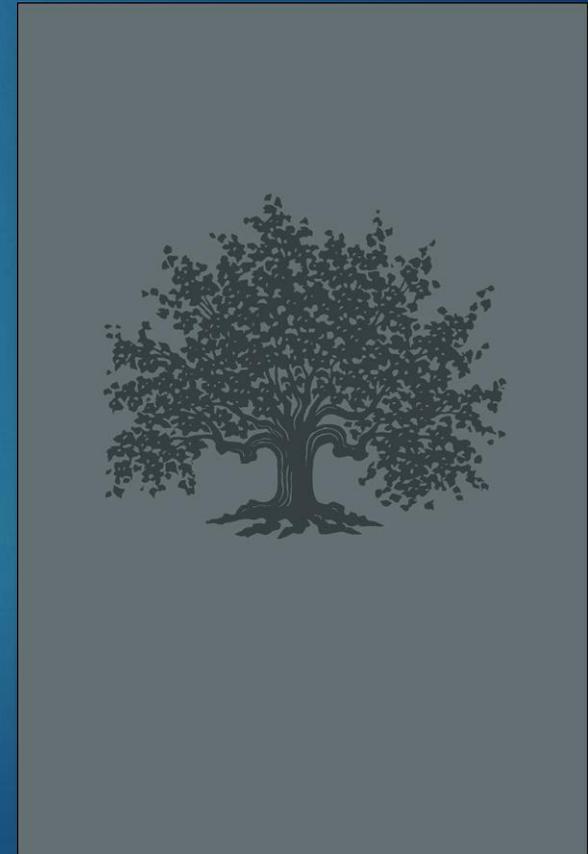
The Service for the Lord's Day

Deacons and/or elders may be commissioned to extend the celebration of the Lord's Supper to those unable to gather with the worshipping community (745). The presider and people say:

We send you out with this bread and cup 1 Cor. 10:17
to share the feast of the risen Lord.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.**

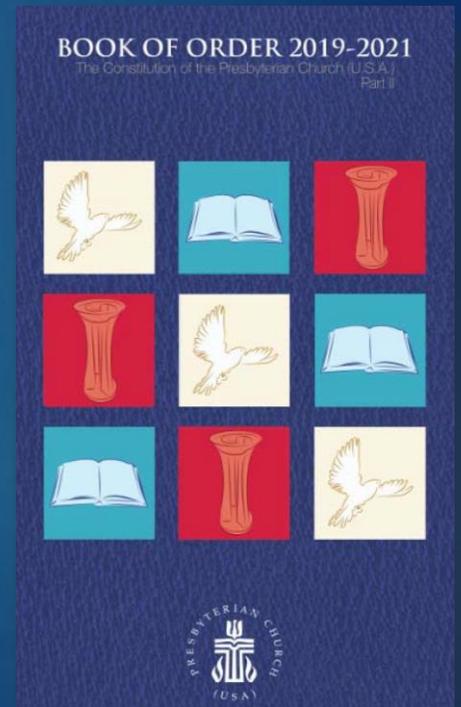
Those commissioned for the extended serving of Communion depart immediately.



The Service for the Lord's Day

Directory for Worship: Blessing and Charge (W-3.0502)

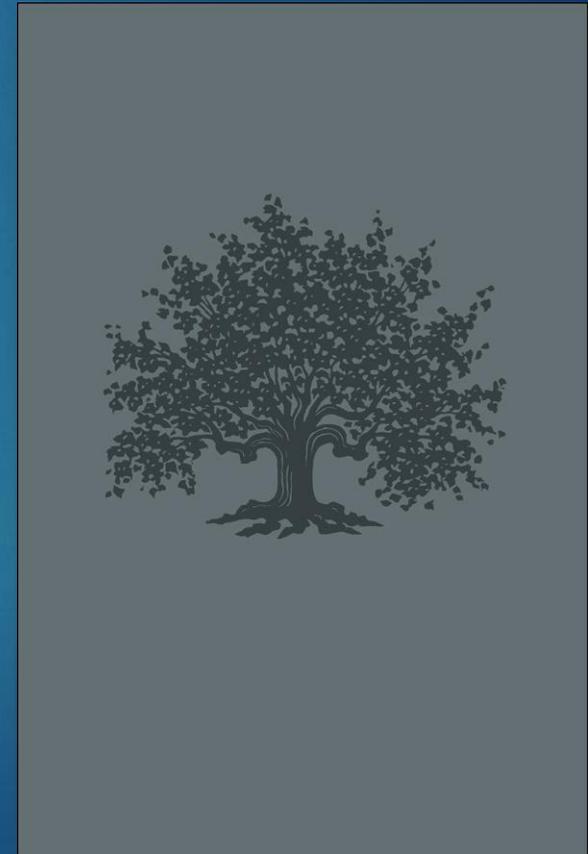
- ▶ We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. The charge calls the church to go forth as agents of God's mission in the world. Because deacons are responsible for the church's ministry of witness and service, and ruling elders have oversight of the church's faithfulness to God's mission, it is fitting for a deacon or ruling elder to speak the charge.



The Service for the Lord's Day

A deacon or elder may share God's summons to service from the font, table, or door of the church, using one of the following, or another charge (154).

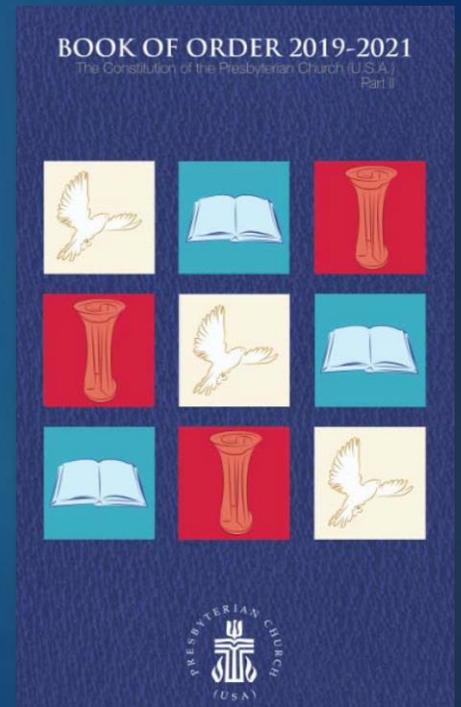
- 1 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. or Thanks be to God.
- 2 Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold onto what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
support the weak;
help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. or Thanks be to God.



Extended Service of Communion

Directory for Worship: Communion (W-3.0414)

- ▶ As soon as possible after the service (ordinarily on the same day), the bread and cup may be shared with absent, homebound, or hospitalized members by two or more persons in ordered ministry. Those who carry out this extended service of communion shall be authorized by the session; equipped with the necessary theological, pastoral, and liturgical gifts and resources; and instructed to maintain the unity of Word and Sacrament through the reading of Scripture and offering of prayers.



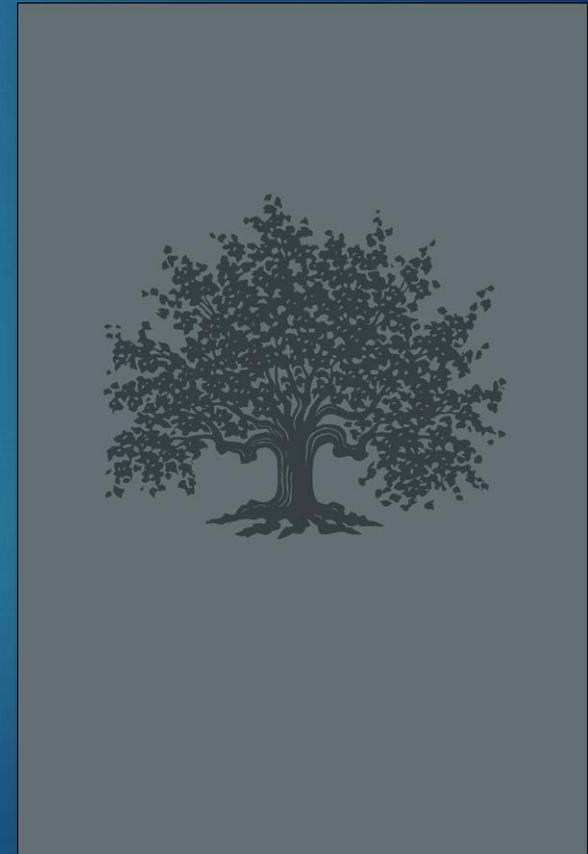
Extended Service of Communion

Extended Communion of the Church

The order of worship suggested here is provided for the use of elders and deacons who take Communion to the homebound immediately after the community's weekly worship. Modeled on the Service for the Lord's Day, the order is brief but maintains the vital link between the Word and the Sacrament. Because the Lord's Supper is a celebration for the whole church, this order allows those who are unable to attend worship to be included in the worship of the whole church. Other elements may be added to the service to reflect the practices of particular congregations.

Particular attention must be given to the physical condition of each communicant as well as to age and level of comprehension. Team members should be alert for signs of fatigue, discomfort, or inability to swallow and should adapt the service accordingly.

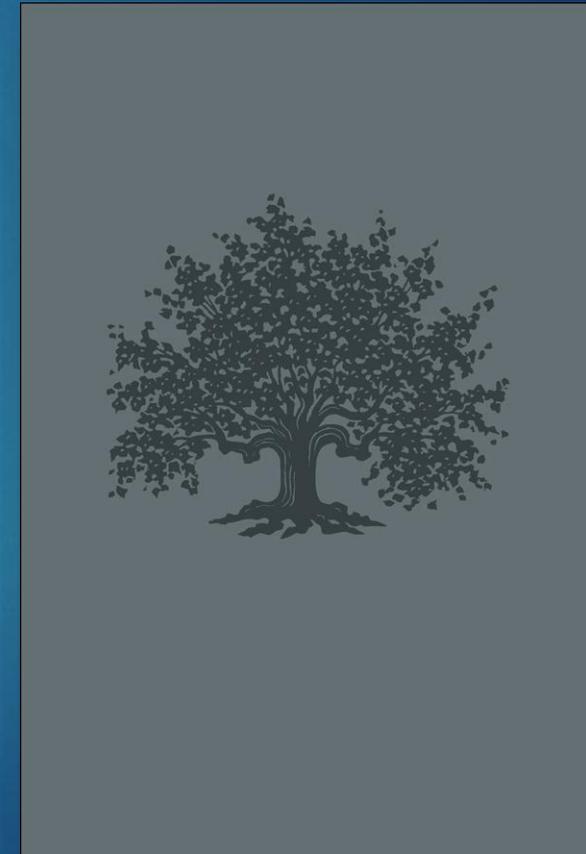
Elders who memorize the declaration of forgiveness and the blessing will be able to deliver these significant words with authenticity and confidence.



Extended Service of Communion

Prior to the extended service team leaving the church, the presider may pray these or similar words:

Loving God,
as you sent the angel to minister to Elijah
with the bread of heaven,
send us out in this ministry of love and grace.
Strengthen and nourish all who celebrate this sacrament
that through our communion
in the body and blood of Christ,
we all may know the comfort
of your eternal presence. **Amen.**



Extended Service of Communion

Presider and people may say:

We send you out with this bread and cup
to share the feast of the risen Lord.

1 Cor. 10:17

**We who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.**

Those commissioned for the extended serving of Communion depart immediately.

Upon arriving at the home or hospital, team members should always identify themselves by name with these or similar words:

We are N. and N. from N. Church, here to visit
and to enable you to share in the communion of your church.

Elders and deacons should take time to visit with the communicant, listening for concerns and joys to remember in prayer.

When all are ready for Communion, the elements are prepared by uncovering the bread and pouring the cup. Elders and deacons may invite others present to join in this service.



Extended Service of Communion

OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.

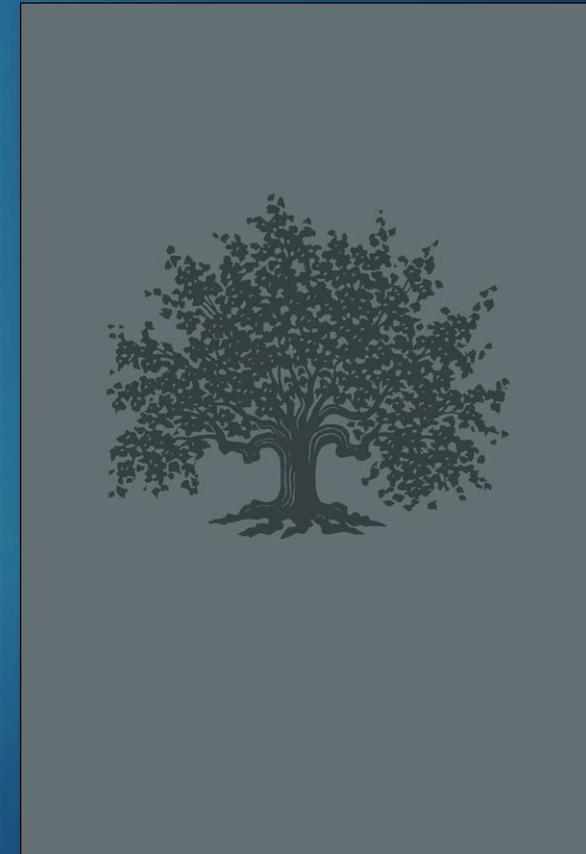
Ps. 124:8

EXTENDING THE LORD'S TABLE

An elder says these words:

When our congregation gathered this morning
for the celebration of the Lord's Supper,
we heard again the story of God's mighty acts of love,
embodied in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
With thanksgiving we remembered that:

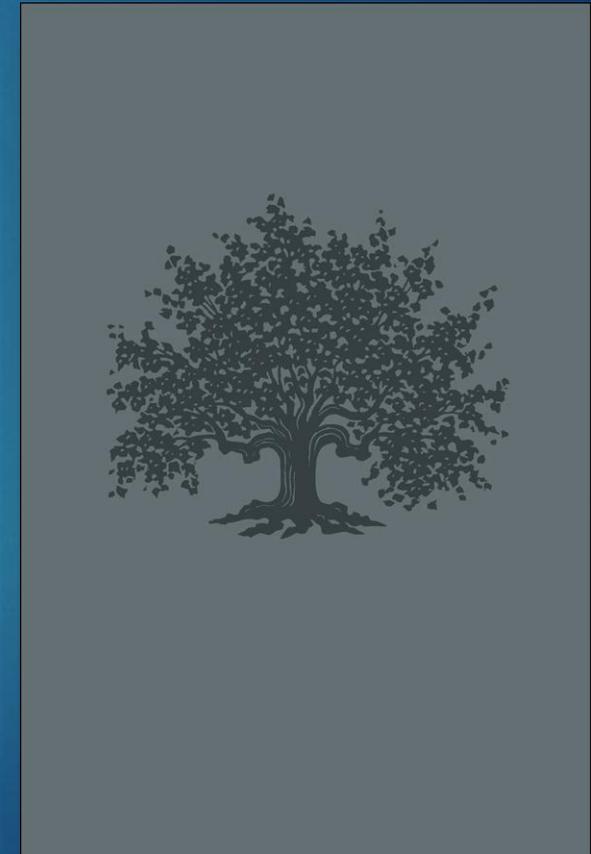
On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.



Extended Service of Communion

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

We were also given assurance of the Lord's presence
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Now we bring you this same bread of life
and this same cup of blessing,
that you may be strengthened through our communion
in the body of Christ.



Extended Service of Communion

CONFESSION AND PARDON

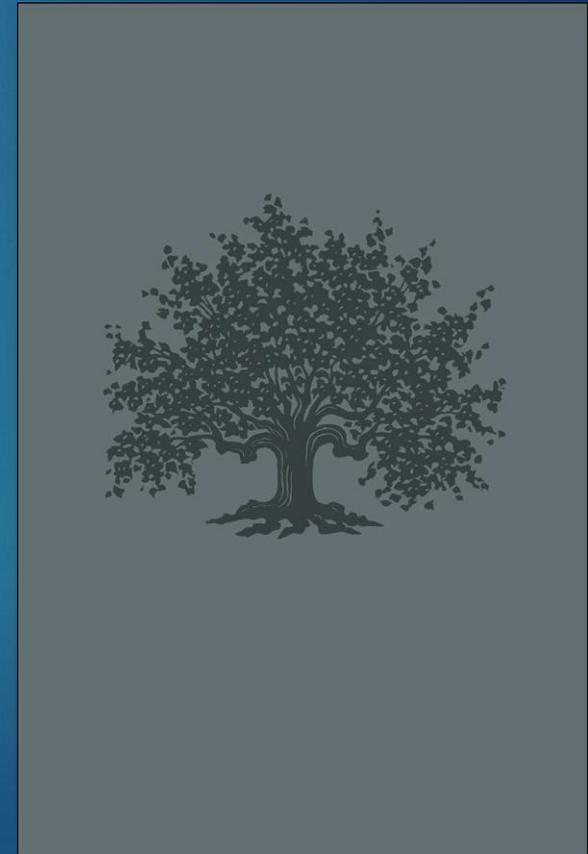
An elder says:

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

This or a similar prayer of confession (57–61) may be said:

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light,
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.



Extended Service of Communion

An elder says:

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone: a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.
Amen. or Thanks be to God.

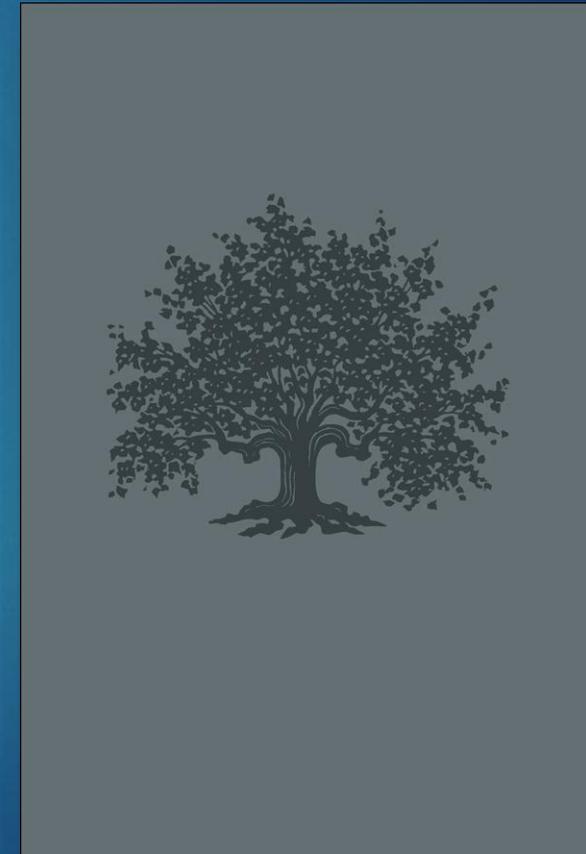
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE

One or more of the texts from the morning's service may be read. It is fitting for a deacon to read the scripture.

INTERPRETATION OF THE WORD

The day's preacher may send a brief synopsis of the morning's sermon, or teams may offer their own recollections of the proclamation of the Word.



Extended Service of Communion

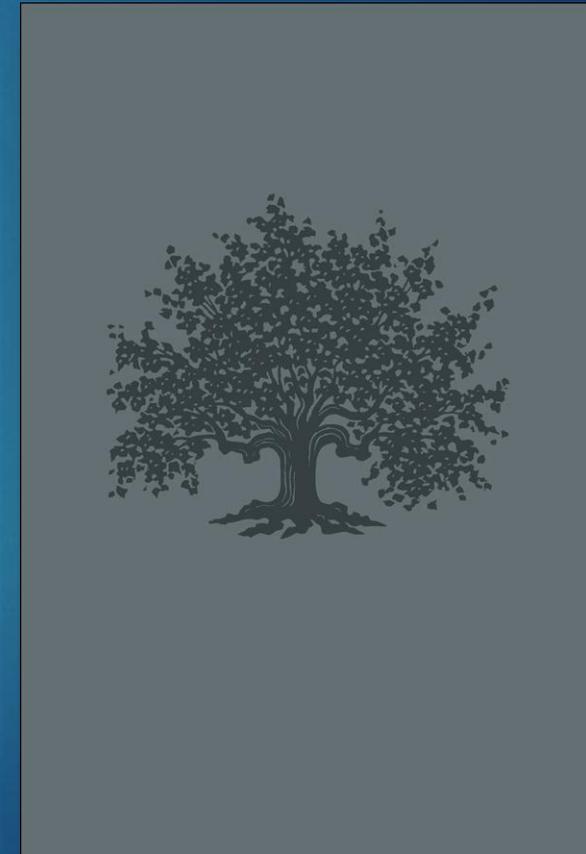
THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

All may join hands. A deacon may lead this or a similar prayer. Specific prayers for the individual or the church may be added.

Mighty God of mercy,
we thank you for the resurrection dawn
bringing the glory of our risen Lord
who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you for
the mission and ministry of the church . . .
every service that proclaims your love . . .
the people and relationships that sustain us . . .
our calling to daily discipleship . . .
signs of new life and hope . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited.



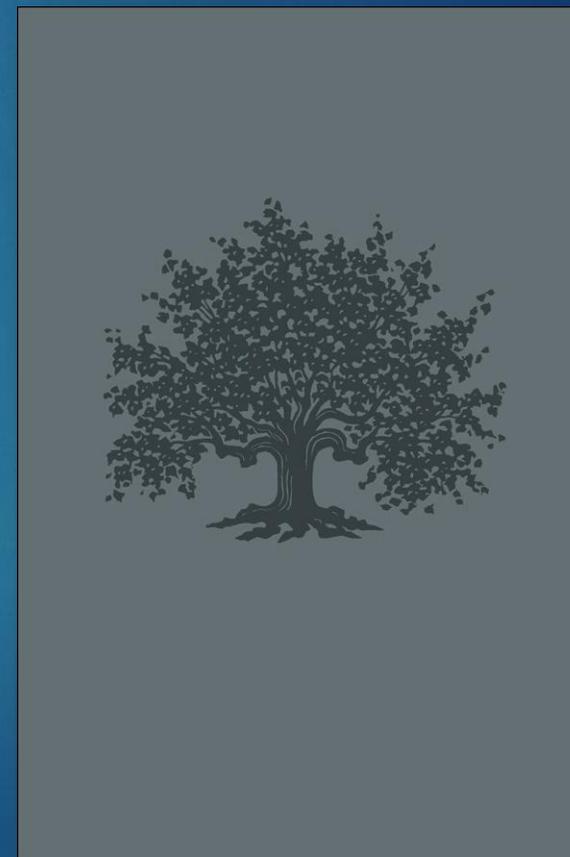
Extended Service of Communion

Merciful God of might,
renew this weary world,
heal the hurts of all your children,
and bring about your peace for all
in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for
the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .
the stewardship and healing of creation . . .
friends and family members . . .
neighbors in special need . . .
the wisdom of your Spirit for this day . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited.

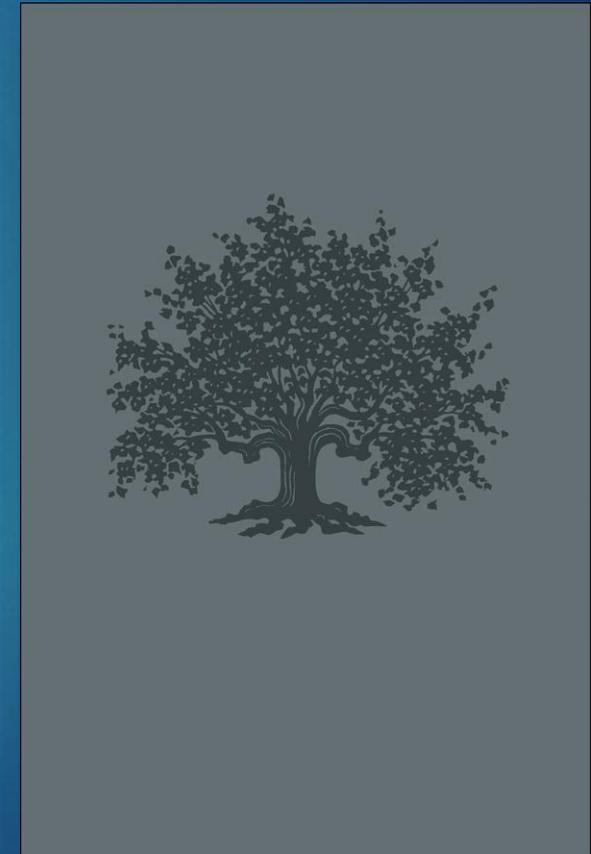
There may be silent prayer.



Extended Service of Communion

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
be our starting point and our haven,
and accompany us on each day's journey.
Use our hands
to do the work of your creation
and use our lives
to bring others to the new life
you give to this world;
in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **Amen.**

With the confidence of God's children,
let us pray the prayer our Savior taught us: **Our Father . . .**



Extended Service of Communion

COMMUNION

The bread and cup are given, saying:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Those receiving the elements may say:

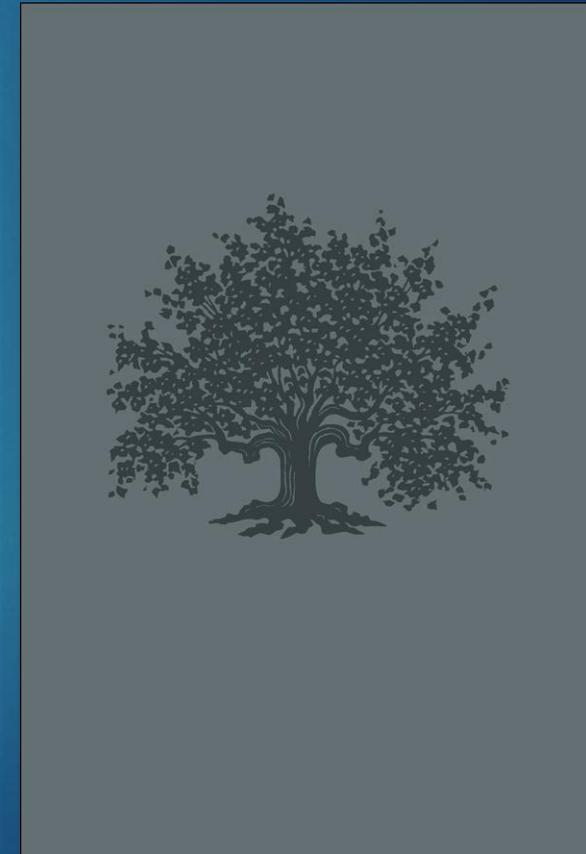
Thanks be to God. *or* Amen.

BLESSING

An elder says:

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace. **Alleluia! *or* Amen.**

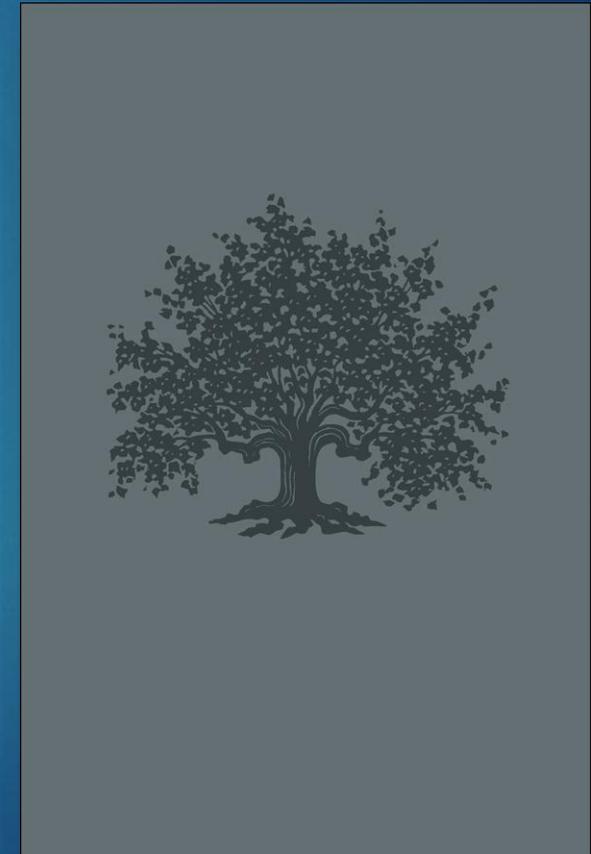
Upon leaving, leaders may identify the next date the team will return with Communion.



Other Services of Worship

Significant Roles for Deacons and Ruling Elders

- ▶ Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning
- ▶ Thanksgiving for Faithful Service
- ▶ Constituting a Congregation
- ▶ House Blessing
- ▶ Prayer at the Time of Death
- ▶ Services of Daily Prayer



Questions and Comments



Closing Prayer

For Deacons in the Church

God of love and compassion,
you poured out your life in service
in your Son, Jesus Christ.
By word and example he taught us
to find fulfillment in giving ourselves,
and greatness in serving others.
Bless those called to be deacons,
who lead us in service and caring.
Empower them by the grace of your Spirit,
that your whole church may give its life
for the sake of the world,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served, but to serve. **Amen.**



Closing Prayer

For Ruling Elders in the Church

God of righteousness and truth,
you brought us into your church
to show in our life together
something of the orderliness of your creation,
and the love of Jesus Christ.
Bless those called to be elders,
that they may govern wisely and fairly.
Give them full measure of your Spirit,
that they may refresh your people
along the journey of faith,
discerning, teaching, and sharing the Word of life,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

