



Service of Installation for  
Reverend David C. Zimmer

**Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church**

A congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

May 17, 2020

+ INSTALLATION OF A PASTOR +

*The pastor-elect is presented before the altar. The presiding minister, standing before the altar, says:*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the congregation:*

P Beloved in the Lord, through the Church's usual order, the Reverend David Zimmer has been called by the Lord of the Church to be pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church.

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O almighty God, by Your Son, our Savior, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds to guide and feed Your flock. Therefore we pray, make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and to administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**Hymn: 644 The Church's One Foundation**

*sts. 1, 5*

1 The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

5 Yet she on earth has union  
With God, the Three in One,

And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won.  
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us,  
May see You face to face.

*Text: Public domain*

*The presiding minister turns to the pastor-elect and says:*

P Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

### **The Institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry**

A Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

A Jesus said to them again, “Peace be to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.<sup>1</sup>”

### **The Responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry**

P Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

A 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: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be

sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- A       <sup>1</sup>The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

### **The Strength and Promise in the Office of the Holy Ministry**

- P       Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the strength and promise God gives to those in the Office of the Holy Ministry.
- A       Continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*The presiding minister addresses the pastor-elect:*

- P       Dear brother in Christ, the Lord grant that you receive and keep these words in your heart so that you may be strengthened and encouraged in your labors.

God gathers His Church by and around His Holy Gospel and thereby also grants it growth and increase according to His good pleasure. That this may be done, He has established the Office of the Holy Ministry into which you have been called by the Church and have been ordained and consecrated by prayer and the laying on of hands. It is fitting that you should again acknowledge the responsibilities of this holy office in which you are to

serve as the pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church.

In the presence of these congregational representatives and before our Lord God to whom you must give an account now and at the Last Day, I now ask you:

Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

R *I do.*

P Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R *Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*

P Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R *Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all the errors they condemn.*

P Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

R *Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.*

P Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?

R *Yes, I promise, with the help of God.*

P Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living?

R *Yes, I will, with the help of God.*

P Finally, will you honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life? Will you be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions? And will you be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care?

R *I will, the Lord helping me through the power and grace of His Holy Spirit.*

### **Sermon: Preach the Word**

+ INSTALLATION OF THE PASTOR OF A CONGREGATION +

*The presiding minister and the pastor-elect turn to face the congregation. The presiding minister says:*

P Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture says, “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

P You have heard the solemn promise of him called to be your pastor. Will you receive him, show him that love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that you owe to the shepherd and teacher placed over you by your Lord Jesus Christ, and will you support him by your gifts and pray for him always that in his labors he may retain a cheerful spirit and that his ministry among you may be abundantly blessed? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C **We will, with the help of God.**

P Will you honor and uphold your pastor as he serves Christ in all his God-pleasing responsibilities? Will you aid him as he cares for his family? Will

you be diligent to “put the best construction on everything,” recognizing that “love covers a multitude of sins”? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.

**C We will, with the help of God.**

**P** The almighty and most merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

*The presiding minister asks the pastor-elect:*

**P** Are you willing and ready to assume this public trust and responsibility?

**R** *I am.*

**P** Rev. David Zimmer, I install you as a pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn: 681 Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit**

1 Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit  
On Your servant now, we pray;  
Let him prove a faithful shepherd  
That no lamb be led astray.  
Your pure teaching to proclaim,  
To extol Your holy name,  
And to feed Your lambs, dear Savior,  
Make his aim and sole endeavor.

2 You, O Lord, Yourself have called him  
For Your precious lambs to care;  
But to prosper in his calling,  
He the Spirit’s gifts must share.  
Give him wisdom from above,

Fill his heart with holy love;  
In his weakness, Lord, be near him,  
In his prayers, Good Shepherd, hear him.

- 3 Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish  
All our children with Your Word  
That in fervent love they serve You  
Till in heav'n their song is heard.  
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow  
On his faithful toil below  
Till by grace to him be given  
His reward, the crown of heaven.

*Text: Public domain*

*The newly installed pastor may kneel.*

- P Let us pray.  
Merciful God and Father, You have graciously promised that, through the preaching of the crucified Christ, those who believe in Him will be saved. By Your Holy Spirit grant grace to David, whom You have given to be pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. Grant him readiness and steadfastness in this ministry, patience, understanding, and great zeal. Support and strengthen him in Your service that by Your Word Your Church may be built and increased; through Your Son, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**
- P Almighty and most merciful God and Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have established Your Church to be a temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks that You continue to provide shepherds to feed and serve Your flock in which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers. We humbly implore You ever to strengthen the labors of Your ministers, that through their ministry of Word and Sacrament Your people may increase in Your knowledge and service and grow up into Him who is the head, even Jesus Christ, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all glory now and forever.
- C **Amen.**



P Go, therefore, and be a shepherd of the Good Shepherd's flock. Preach the Word of God; administer the holy Sacraments; offer prayer for all the faithful; instruct, watch over, and guide the flock over which the Holy Spirit has placed you. Do it not for earthly gain but with great joy, for you have been called not to lordship but to serve His flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

### **Hymn: 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.
  
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.
  
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

*Text: Public domain*

### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.