CONCERNING THE INSTITUTION OF A RECTOR

The Bishop holds spiritual oversight as chief Pastor for all the churches in his Diocese. From the earliest days of the Church, the Bishop has delegated spiritual and canonical authority to ministers who lead Congregations.

The Institution should occur early in the Rector's tenure. Because the liturgy may be scheduled some weeks or months after the Rector begins the new ministry, the Bishop may wish to provide initial conveyance of authority, either by private prayer or written instrument, to the new Rector.

The Bishop may adapt the Letter of Institution (page 514) and this liturgy as needed, particularly for a Vicar or other person exercising primary pastoral authority.

N.N., Presbyter of the Church of God, we hereby install and institute you as Rector of _____*Church*, [*City, State/Province*]_____, and we give you full power and authority to carry out the ministry of Rector of this Congregation, performing those duties as prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America and the Diocese of _____. We pray that Almighty God will enable you to fulfill this sacred responsibility.

Heed the words of Holy Scripture:

> Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 PETER 5:2-4

We hereby reserve to the Bishop of the Diocese of _____, and his successors, full power and authority to revoke these presents whenever under the Canons he shall have just cause to do so.

Given under my hand and seal, in the City of _____, on the _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord 20___, and in the _____ year of my consecration.

(*Signed*) _____

Bishop of _____

THE INSTITUTION *of a* RECTOR

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

THE ACCLAMATION

The People standing, the Celebrant says this or a seasonal greeting.

Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant prays (and the People may be invited to join)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Congregation sits.

The Wardens and the new Rector stand before the Bishop.

The Bishop says

Dearly beloved in the Lord, we have assembled in the presence of God for the purpose of instituting the new Rector of this Congregation.

The Wardens present the new Rector to the Bishop, saying

Reverend Father in God, on behalf of _____ Church, we present *N.N.* to be instituted as Rector. We believe that *he* is well qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

The Bishop reads the Letter of Institution.

The Bishop gives the Letter to the Rector. The Rector then says

I, *N.N.*, receive this letter from thy hands and recognize thine episcopal authority. I promise to be a faithful shepherd to thy flock, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop says

Let us then offer our prayers to God for all his people, for this Congregation, and for *N.* their Rector.

The Litany for Ordinations (page 510) is sung or said.

At the end of the Litany, the Bishop stands and says

The Lord be with you
People **And with thy spirit.**
Bishop Let us pray

Most gracious Father, the giver of all good and perfect gifts, who of thy wise providence hast appointed leaders for the mission of thy Church; Give thy grace, we beseech thee, to thy

servant, to whom the charge of this Congregation is now committed; and so replenish *him* with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue *him* with innocency of life, that *he* may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Lay persons read the Old Testament Lesson and the Epistle. The Deacon (or a Priest) reads the Gospel. Selections are ordinarily made from the following list; but on a Major Feast, Sunday, or Feast of Dedication, selections may be made from the Propers of the Day.

JOSHUA 1:7-9 *or* NUMBERS 11:16-17, 24-25A
PSALM 43 *or* 132:1-9, *or* 146 *or*
133 AND 134 *(especially suitable for use in the evening)*
ROMANS 12:1-18 *or* EPHESIANS 4:7-16
JOHN 15:9-16 *or* LUKE 10:1-2 *or* JOHN 14:11-15

The People sit. One or more Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from _____.

A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After each Lesson the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Or the Reader may say Here endeth the Reading.

Silence may follow.

A psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each reading.

All standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *(page 501)*

A hymn may be sung.

SYMBOLS OF THE PASTORAL OFFICE

Representatives of the Congregation and clergy, standing before the Bishop and new Rector, may present symbols of the work to which the Rector is called. The principal symbols point to leadership in divine worship (Bible and bread and wine), in Christian formation (Book of Common Prayer, and Catechism) and in Congregational mission (keys and water). Additional symbols may be considered as local circumstances dictate.

The Bishop says

Let the symbols of this office now be presented.

The Bible is presented.

N., receive this Book, that thou mayest preach the Word at all times, and so let it guide the common worship and life of this parish. **Amen.**

Bread and wine are presented.

N., receive this Bread and this Wine, that thou mayest celebrate the holy mysteries, and lead this parish in our prayers, praises, and thanksgivings, as is our bounden duty. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer is presented.

N., receive this Book, that thou mayest be diligent in prayers, and build up the people as lively stones of a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

The Catechism is presented.

N., receive this Catechism, that thou mayest teach the people committed to thy cure and charge, and make them witnesses of God unto the uttermost part of the earth. **Amen.**

Keys to the buildings used by the Congregation for its life and mission are presented.

N., receive these Keys of the House of God, as the pledges of thy institution, and of our parochial recognition, that thou mayest be a faithful shepherd and call the sheep by name. **Amen.**

The Bishop presents a vessel of water.

N., receive this Water, that thou mayest make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

After all symbols are presented, the Bishop concludes

N., let these symbols be the rule of thy conduct in dispensing the divine Word, in leading the devotions of the people, and in exercising the discipline of the Church; and be thou in all things a pattern to the flock committed to thy care. **Amen.**

The new Rector may kneel in the midst of the church and pray

O Lord my God, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; yet thou hast honored thy servant with appointing him to stand in thy House, and to serve at thy holy Altar. To thee and to thy service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit, with all their powers and faculties. Fill my memory with the words of thy Law; enlighten my understanding with the illumination of the Holy Ghost; and may all the wishes and desires of my will center in what thou hast commanded. And, to make me instrumental in promoting the salvation of the people now committed to my charge, grant that I may faithfully administer thy holy Sacraments, and by my life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word. Be ever with me in the performance of all the duties of my ministry: in prayer, to quicken my devotion; in praises, to heighten my love and gratitude; and in preaching, to give a readiness of thought and expression; in worship, increase my zeal for godly preparation; and grant that by the clearness and excellency of thy holy Word, all the world may be drawn into thy blessed kingdom. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. **Amen.**

The family of the Rector may be presented at this time.

The Bishop then says to the People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

If there is no Communion, the service continues after the Peace with the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Concluding Prayer and the Blessing.

If there is to be Holy Communion, the Bishop is chief celebrant, assisted by the newly instituted Rector. The service continues with the Offertory. The following Post Communion Prayer is used.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty Father, we thank thee for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of thy Son, and for uniting us with him in the fellowship of thy Holy Spirit. We thank thee for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of thy Word and Sacraments. We beseech thee that *N.* may be unto us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with *him*, may serve thee now, and always rejoice in thy glory; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING PRAYER

After the Post Communion Prayer and before the Blessing, the Bishop may say

O Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone; Grant that, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, all Christians may be so joined together in unity of spirit, and in the bond of peace, that they may be an holy temple acceptable unto thee. And especially to this Congregation present, give the abundance of thy grace; that with one heart they may desire the prosperity of thy holy Apostolic Church,

and with one mouth may profess the faith once delivered to the Saints. Defend them from the sins of heresy and schism. And grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; that so they may walk in the ways of truth and peace, and at last be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting; through the merits of the same thy blessed Son Jesus Christ, the gracious Bishop and Shepherd of our souls, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS

The Collect of the Day or another prayer suitable to the occasion may be used.

The Sermon may be preached by the Bishop, the newly instituted Rector, or some other person appointed by the Bishop.

When the new Rector has recently come from another Diocese, the diocesan Canons may be presented, after the presentation of the keys, with these words: "Obey these Canons, and be among us to share in the councils of this Diocese."

The Preface of Apostles and Ordinations is ordinarily used for this service.