**Concerning the Liturgy**

*Portions of this liturgy may be adapted for buildings other than a church.*

**Ground Breaking for a Church**

*Before the service, four stakes are set in the ground, at the corners of the proposed building. Three cords are prepared, two to extend diagonally from corner to corner, a third to enclose the space. A spade is placed at the site of the Holy Table.*

*The Bishop is normally the officiant. Having prepared nearby, the ministers, with the people, go in procession to the site of the building. The Great Litany is sung or said during the procession.*

*The Litany concludes with the Kyrie, followed by the Salutation and Collect.*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Bishop* Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

*Then a person appointed reads*

Genesis 28:10-17

*A sermon or address may follow.*

*While the following psalm is sung, persons appointed stretch two cords diagonally across the space, from the northeast to the southwest, and from the southeast to the northwest, securing them to the stakes, thus forming the Greek letter X (chi), the symbol both of the cross and of the name of Christ.*

Psalm 132:1-9(10-19)

*During the following psalm, persons appointed stretch the third cord completely around the four stakes, enclosing the area. They move clockwise, beginning and ending at the southeast corner. The ministers and people may follow in procession.*

Psalm 48:1-3,7-13

*Then the Bishop, standing at the proposed site of the Holy Table,*

Forasmuch as the faithful people of God gathered here desire to build a house of prayer dedicated to the glory of God [to be known as \_\_\_\_\_\_], on this ground now marked with the symbol of Christ;

*Then, taking the spade, and breaking the ground, the Bishop continues*

Therefore, I break ground for this building, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Gospel be preached, the Sacraments administered, and prayers and praises offered in this place, from generation to generation. *Amen.*

*The Bishop then says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Bishop* Let us pray.

*Bishop and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name, hallowed be your Name,**

**thy kingdom come, your kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven. on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, And forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us. who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, Save us from the time of trial,**

**but deliver us from evil. and deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, For the kingdom,**

**the power, and the power,**

**and the glory, and the glory are yours,**

**for ever and ever. Amen. now and for ever. Amen.**

*Bishop* O God, you are wonderful in your holy places;

*People* **The God of Israel will give strength and power to his people.**

*Bishop* O be favorable and gracious unto Zion;

*People* **May you build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

O Lord God of Israel, the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are pleased to dwell in the midst of your people, and have moved us to set apart a space on which to build a house of prayer: Accept and bless the work which we have now begun, that it may be brought to completion, to the honor and glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The office concludes with the Grace, or the Bishop may dismiss the people with a blessing.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14T*