

Welcome of the Bishop-Elect

Note: This optional rite may be considered for use at the installation of a bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The leadership of the welcome elements may be shared by individuals other than the presiding minister (presiding bishop) as appropriate. The former synod bishop may be invited to lead the initial greeting.

Gathering song(s) may precede the welcome.

The presiding minister/former synod bishop addresses the assembly.

People of God,
I greet you in the name of Christ.
Grace and peace be with you.
And also with you.

Dear friends, we have come together from many places to mark a new season of ministry in the life of this church and in the synod as we install our next bishop.

Let us enter this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now, as we pray that this servant may fulfill God's purpose in *their* ministry among the whole people of God.

Let us [go to] welcome our bishop-elect.

The assembly joins in singing the gathering song. During this singing the leaders may process to an entrance door where the bishop-elect is waiting. Or the welcome continues directly, omitting the words "go to" in the preceding line, and the gathering song follows the welcome.

Representatives of the congregation or ministry site introduce the bishop-elect.

Dear friends in Christ, we bring before you the Reverend full name, who has served among us faithfully as our bishop, chief pastor, and sibling in Christ. With gratitude for *their* ministry with us, we send *them* forth to serve as the bishop of the synod.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in welcoming the bishop-elect.

Name, pastor/bishop in the church of God,
we have looked forward to your coming with great joy.
In the name of Christ, we greet you.
In the name of Christ, we greet you.

The bishop-elect responds:

*With all my heart, I thank you for your welcome.
I hope to serve among you in Christ's name and in the joy of the Spirit.
May the peace of God be upon this house and upon this assembly.*

The presiding minister continues.

Name, in your baptism you were clothed with Christ,
and you are now called by God through the voice of the church
to enter upon the ministry of presiding bishop.

**We remember with joy our common calling
through baptism to serve Christ,
and we celebrate God's call to you.**

The bishop-elect responds:

*Beloved in Christ, as we begin this new season of ministry,
may our celebration recall us to the unity
that is given in baptism and nurtured at the Lord's table.
May we rejoice in the many gifts enriching the life of our church
and be strengthened to proclaim the good news of Christ in the world.*

Amen.

A Thanksgiving for Baptism may follow.

Additional gathering songs(s) may precede and/or follow the thanksgiving.

Welcome of the Bishop-Elect adapted from liturgical texts prepared by the ELCA's Episcopal and Presbyterian full communion partners as well as the Consultation on Common Texts. It is offered for optional use at the installation of bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.