

DEDICATION OF A NEW CHURCH BUILDING

The congregation shall be assembled outside the door of the new building where the Pastor shall say:

“Having been prospered by the good hand of our God, and who enabled us by His Grace and Power to complete this House of Worship to be used to the Glory of God, we stand before these doors and His Holy Presence to dedicate this building to Him.

To the glory of God our Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift;

To the honor of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and King;

To the praise of the Holy Spirit, our source of light and life,

People: Amen.

Before the opening of the doors, the Pastor shall say using Psalm 24:7ff:

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates, be lifted up, you ancient doors;

People: That the King of Glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of Glory?

People: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Pastor: Lift up your head, O Gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors!

People: That the King of Glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is He, the King of Glory?

People: The Lord Almighty, He is the King of Glory.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

READING GOD’S WORD: Genesis 28:16-19 and 22

(The keys to the main entrance shall be presented by the General Contractor [or Architect] to the Chair of the Building Committee, who shall present same to the President of the Trustees, who, in turn, presents them to the Pastor, who shall open the Church doors.)

Pastor: Since by the grace of God and under His good providence, this House of Worship has been provided to us that it may be set apart for its proper use as a House of the Lord, a dwelling place for God’s Glory, and a house of prayer for this people, we now open these doors in the name of God, the Creator, God, the Son and our Savior, and God, the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

President of the Official Board/Ministry Council: Peace be to this House and to all who enter there. The Lord bless our coming in and our going out from this time forward and forever. Amen.

People: I was glad when they said to me; let us go to the House of the Lord.

If a bell is installed, or a carillon, it shall be rung. If not, an organ “fanfare” may be used here.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

God Of Grace and God of Glory
OR The Lord Our God Alone is Strong
OR Come, Father, Son and Holy Ghost

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION:

Almighty God, whom the heavens cannot contain, but whose will it is to have a house on earth where Your honor dwells, and where people may continually call on Your Holy Name, be pleased to enter into this house which we now consecrate to Your Name. We set this house apart from all common and worldly uses as a sanctuary of Your presence, where we may gather for worship and fellowship; where we may celebrate new life through the sacraments; where we may confess our sins and receive your forgiveness; where we may study your Holy Word; where we may administer the business of your church; where we may dedicate our lives, our time, our talents, our treasures for the advance of Your kingdom; where we may meet together as your family, to enjoy Your gifts and blessings; where we may come in quiet meditation, in prayer and with mutual love, and experience Your Presence and Glory as you dwell among us in wisdom and truth, we pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READING FROM GOD’S WORD: (suggested) – Psalm 122, Isaiah 62, John 17, any other.

Choir Anthem or other musical selection – or a Hymn may follow

DEDICATORY SERMON

A LITANY OF DEDICATION:

Trustees: Recognizing that the Almighty God does not dwell in houses made with hands, that heaven is His throne and the earth His footstool, and that He cannot be contained in the heaven of heavens, much less this house cannot contain Him, we follow the admonition and directive given to Moses who built a Tabernacle in which His Name would be recorded and His honor dwell, and wherein His glory was sanctioned, we now consecrate this building as a House of Worship. We designate this sacred place as (name of local church) located in (city, town) to our Triune God where together we will gather for worship, praise, thanksgiving, and prayer. Here may His inspired Word be shared, His sacraments be administered, His people be blessed so as to serve Him well within this community and with a vision for the salvation of the world to

increase His Kingdom as souls are saved by faith in the Saving Lord, Jesus Christ, we now accept this building for its intended use, with thanksgiving to God.

Bishop (or other): We are gathered to dedicate and set apart this building which God has prospered this people build for His glory. This shall be a place where the Gospel of salvation shall be shared through the ministry of God's Word and where Christian lives shall be developed toward spiritual maturity through Christian fellowship.

People: With joy and grateful hearts we join in this act of dedication for this building.

Bishop: To God, Everlasting Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, and from whom comes every good and perfect gift, and by whose mercy and grace we are saved;

People: We do now with reverence and gratitude dedicate this House of Worship.

Bishop: To Jesus Christ, our crucified, resurrected, living and coming again Lord, who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins and who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

People: We gratefully dedicate this, our Church building to His glory.

Bishop: To the Holy Spirit, source of life and light, comforter of all those born again, and the one who alone can apply the finished work of Christ to the soul and give the new life of faith in the Son of God to all who would receive Him.

People: We prayerfully dedicate this Church building.

Bishop, Conference Minister, or Pastor: O God, You who are present in all place of Your Dominion, to accept the services of all Your people: hear us, we humbly pray and by Your Holy Spirit consecrate this house we now dedicate to You for the worship of Your Holy Name, the ministry of Your Word and the administration of Your Sacraments.

People: We dedicate this house.

Pastor: For comfort to those who mourn, for strength to those who are weak, for help to those who are tempted, for guidance to those who have lost their way,

People: We dedicate this house of God.

Pastor: For the sanctity of the family, for the purity and guidance of children and youth, for the renewal of fellowship and the building of Christian character,

People: We dedicate this building.

Pastor: As a tribute of gratitude, of faith and hope and love, an offering of thanksgiving and praise from those who have found salvation and experienced the riches of God's grace.

People: Gratefully, we dedicate this house of the Lord.

Pastor: For the privilege to send forth the gospel into all the world, the giving of hope and courage to all who labor in service to the Lord,

People: We dedicate this building, and we now by consecrating ourselves anew, dedicate this building as a temple for the Worship and Praise of Almighty God, in the spirit and name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

DEDICATORY PRAYER:

Almighty and Eternal God, be pleased to dwell in this place now dedicated to Your Name and to bless us who have gathered together to give this place and ourselves to You this day. Let this house and every part of it be used to glory You, O God; let it be devoted to Your service. Let it be a place where Your Presence dwells and Your glory is revealed as we use it to prepare Your people for the abundant life here which You have promised, but as well, for the life that is to come for all eternity. May this people continue to praise and worship in spirit and in truth as we consecrate ourselves this day to building your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

OR Now Thank We All Our God – or other appropriate

BENEDICTION AND DOXOLOGY