ORDER FOR LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF A CHURCH BUILDING

*The service may begin with a hymn, votum, appropriate sentences from Scripture, and a salutation, after which the minister may say:*

Dearly Beloved, we are here assembled in the name of the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to lay the cornerstone of a house to be devoted to his honor, service, and praise. Within its walls, his holy name is to be worshiped, his holy Gospel proclaimed, and his holy Sacraments celebrated. Knowing that our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth, let us lift up our hearts to him in humble supplication for his blessing.

Prayer

Let us pray.

O almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone, direct us in this our undertaking with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our work begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter and Gloria Patri

An appropriate selection of the Psalter may be read, followed by the Gloria Patri. A suggested selection is number 130 or 131.

Scripture Lesson(s)

From the Epistles may be read 1 Peter 2:1-10 or 1 Corinthians 3:10-17, and from the Gospels, Matthew 7:24-27. A hymn or anthem may be sung after the Epistle lesson.

Then the minister may lead the people in a confession of Faith, saying:

Let us make confession of our most holy Faith, in the words of the Apostles’ (or Nicene) Creed.
Laying of the Cornerstone

*Any such historical or descriptive document as may have been prepared to be de-posited in the cornerstone may be read, and while the minister places his hand on the stone, which has been set in its place, or strikes it thrice with a mallet, he may say:*

I lay the cornerstone of a house to be devoted to the service of almighty God; in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.  

*Romans 13:11*

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.  

*Psalm 127:1*

Prayer

Let us pray.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that it has pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to build a house, in which thy name will be worshiped, the glad tidings of salvation proclaimed, and thy holy Sacraments celebrated. Prosper us, O Lord, in this our undertaking. By thy providence keep and preserve to the end the work which is now begun in thy fear. Bless the industry and skill of the workmen. Shield them from accident and danger. Grant to them, and to all of us here present, the guidance of thy Spirit, so that we may become, in soul and body, living temples of the Holy Spirit, and be prepared for that eternal city which has foundations, whose builder and maker thou art. All this we ask through the abundant merits of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. And now, as our Savior has taught us to pray, we make bold to say:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

*A sermon or address may be given here, after which an offering may be received and dedicated.*
Hymn

Benediction