ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

The first Order of Morning Worship may be followed through the Doxology. For the responsive reading Psalm 24 or 84 may be used. Appropriate Scripture lessons may be read: from the Old Testament one of the following, Exodus 40:17-38, 1 Kings 9:1-9, Haggai 1:1-11, or 1 Kings 8:22, 23, 27-30; from the Epistles either Hebrews 13:10-21 or Ephesians 2:11-22; and from the Gospels, Matthew 16:13-20.

Dedication

The minister shall then say:

Dearly Beloved in the Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has in his grace brought to its consummation our work of preparing a house for his worship and the honor of his name. Within these walls his Gospel is to be proclaimed and his Sacraments are to be celebrated. We are now gathered in his presence for the purpose of devoting this church by a solemn act of worship to its proper and sacred use and of dedicating it to the honor of his most holy name. I ask you now to arise, and before the Lord to unite in this act of dedication.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,

**to thee we dedicate this house.**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father who art in heaven,

**to thee we dedicate this house.**

Son of God, the only begotten of the Father, Head of the Body, which is the Church; Head over all things to the Church; Prophet, Priest, and King of thy people,

**to thee we dedicate this house.**

God the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son; given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter; Lord and Giver of Life,

**to thee we dedicate this house.**
Prayer

After the congregation is seated the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, Maker of heaven and earth, who dwells not in temples made by hands, we humbly adore thee for thy revelation in Jesus Christ. We bless thee that from of old thy way has been in the sanctuary. We give thanks that thou hast put it into the hearts of thy servants to build this house for thy worship and praise, that it may be a witness to thy presence and that thy glory may be seen in thy sanctuary.

Grant, we pray thee, that when thy people assemble here, thy Holy Spirit may rest on them; that they may worship thee with clean hands and pure hearts; that thy ministers may proclaim the Gospel of thy grace with boldness and strength; and that thy holy Sacraments may be so celebrated that they may be effectual means of grace to thy people.

May the doors of this house be open wide to all sorts and conditions of men. May it truly be a house of prayer, the gateway to heaven, where thou dost speak to thy children and they, hearing, respond in faith and obedience. Grant that the service of thy Word and Sacraments may arouse us to a passionate desire to do thy will, that thy kingdom may come in and through us in our several callings.

Bless also, we pray thee, thy holy catholic Church. Bring us every day continually to a larger experience of the communion of saints. And, finally, we pray thee, bring us and all who love thy appearing to that City wherein there is no temple, of which the Lamb is the light. And unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be glory, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

General Prayers

The General Prayers should be concluded with the Lord’s Prayer if it has not been used previously in this Order.

Hymn
Benediction

In case the service of dedication is used in another place in the Order, it should be concluded with the Prayer. The service of worship will then continue to follow the Order to the end.