

Litany of Thanksgiving for Ministers in the Church

adapted from the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel

We are truly blessed by God and enriched in our fellowship by the many people of this congregation who give their time and talent in small and large ways for the benefit of this church and for the advancement of the gospel of Christ in this place. St. Paul tells us that there are varieties of gifts and varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good. There is no insignificant work that is done among us. All efforts—from maintaining our property, to cleaning the church, to leadership, to visiting the sick, to praying for one another and for our ministry—all are important efforts through which we are mutually blessed and by which our ministry prospers.

At the same time, Paul teaches us to give thanks always to God through Christ in whom God has given us every blessing, including the blessing of one another. It is therefore appropriate on this day that we should recognize the work that is done by so many faithful and dedicated people, giving thanks to one another and to God for making the Spirit manifest among us in such a variety of ways.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have called us into fellowship as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place, and you have blessed us and enriched our lives through your Holy Word and Sacraments. You strengthen us and inspire us with your Holy Spirit to live lives of mutual love and service in the world. For all this, and, above all, for the gift of your Son and our salvation, we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who lead and those who follow; for officers and vestries and staff and team leaders, for teachers and mentors:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For ushers and greeters, for chalice bearers, and readers, for acolytes and sound techs, for altar guilds and schedulers, for musicians and choirs:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For cleaners and dusters, for maintainers and fixers, for those who cook and those who eat:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For administrators and helpers, for counters and record keepers, for newsletter folders and envelope stuffers:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who give and those who pray, for those who plan and those who guide; for those with wisdom and those with inspiration:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For children and youth, for parents and grandparents, for aunts and uncles, for loving sisters and brothers in Christ:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Rector: For our past and for our future, for the many ways that we embody Christ for the world, for mission and ministry, for your purpose for the Church:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Keep us ever close to your Word and Holy Sacraments, that we might find strength to endure to the end:

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Bind us to your love, and through that love, to one another, for the sake of the gospel:

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Make us cheerful givers and faithful workers for the kingdom of your Son:

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Make us one in the body of Christ, that we may acknowledge with gratitude the importance of all our members and all our gifts for the mission that you give us:

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Holy God, Blessed Lord, we thank you for all the good people of faith that you have raised up among us for the work of the gospel. Multiply our gifts by your Holy Spirit. Be in our hands and our minds and our words, that we might bring your love to the world. May our work blossom to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.