

Dedication of Pledges

This service is designed for use at the time of the offering at the Eucharist. Pledge/commitment cards may be placed in offering baskets as the congregation assembles, or a separate plate may be passed for them during the offertory. Alternatively, members of the congregation may file past the altar to place their cards upon it individually (see rubrical note for this option). Provision should be made for the presentation of cards from those unable to be at the liturgy that day. It is appropriate that the cards be presented by representatives of the congregation to the rector/vicar, wardens and/or stewardship chairperson.

(Several options are provided using different thematic emphases.)

Option A: Catechism theme

Cel Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are called by our Lord into the new covenant in his blood and promised fullness of life in God's kingdom. Our duty as Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.
In joyful obedience we now bring before God these tokens of our covenant commitments for the year ahead.

The pledge/commitment cards are presented with these words:

Accept these pledges of support for the mission of the church, that all people may be restored to unity with God and each other in Christ.

V: Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise;

R That is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name.

Cel: We acclaim you, Lord, source of all goodness, giver of life. It is no longer we who live but Christ in us. We dedicate our selves and our substance to you. We ask that you use us to spread the good news of your kingdom. We are no longer our own, but yours.

All: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

Cel: Let the covenant which we affirm here on earth be ratified in heaven and sealed in the sharing of this Holy Eucharist.

Option B: Baptism theme

Ccl: Dear People of God, we are baptized into the body of Christ, turning to him in trust and obedience and renouncing all that would lead us in the way of sin and death. We have promised to grow into the likeness of Christ, and to continue his work in the world. . In fulfillment of our baptismal covenant we here recommit our selves to Christ and signify our intent to use bur lives and resources in his service.

The Pledge cards are presented with these words: "

Accept these pledges as symbols of our vow to follow Chnst as Lord and share in his ministry through the work of this congregation.

V. Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving

R. And make good your vows to the Most High.

Cel O Lord, you have made us your children through the sacrament of new birth and marked us as Christ's own for ever. It is no longer we who live, but Christ in us. We dedicate our selves and our substance to you. We ask that you use us to fulfill your gracious will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

All I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

Cel Let the covenant which we affirm here on earth be ratified in heaven and sealed in the sharing of this Holy Eucharist.

Option C: Creation

Cel: Dear Friends in Christ, we are formed in the image of God who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. Even as we are God's creatures and children, we are called to be God's partners in the care of all creation, ruling and serving with love and discernment as a reflection of God's bountiful grace. As faithful stewards, knowing the account we must one day give, we bring before God these symbols of our commitment to use all that we have and all that we are to God's glory and for the good of the church and the world.

The pledge/commitment cards are presented with the following words:

Accept these pledges of our intent to share the gifts which God has given us and to grow into the likeness of Christ.

V: All things come of thee, O Lord;

R: And of thine own have we given thee.

Cel: Blessed are you O Lord our God, for you bring forth all good things for our use and delight and honor us with the stewardship of all creation. Let us ever be your instruments in this world.

All: Lord ma.ke.us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, 'light;'where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Cel: Let the covenant which we affirm here on earth be ratified in heaven and sealed in the sharing of this Holy Eucharist.

Option D: Christian Community theme

Cel: My Sisters and Brothers, we are members together of Christ's family of faith in this place. Bound together by our Lord's command to love one another as he has loved us, we give and receive nurture and support and are enabled to respond to God's call in our lives. Thanking God for the blessings we have through this community, we give of ourselves and our substance to uphold the life of this congregation and assist its growth in mission and ministry.

The pledge cards are presented with these words:

Accept these pledges as tokens of the life, labor and love of this congregation, offered to the glory of God and for the work of his church in the world.

Cel: But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,

All: For such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Cel: Lord Jesus, you have taught us that whoever does the will of God is your brother and sister. Help us now to dedicate our whole lives to God's glory and service even as you gave yourself completely to fulfill God's gracious will.

All: Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us we pray as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Cel: Let the offering we make here on earth be accepted in heaven and sealed in the sharing of this Holy Eucharist.

Option E: Individual spirituality theme

Cel: Dear Friends in Christ, we are formed by God, each one unique and precious, and called to be fully ourselves as God's children, reflecting the image of Christ in our individual lives and ministries. We are to develop and share the particular gifts God has given us with gratitude and generosity. Moved by the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, we now make our personal commitments of time and treasure, symbolized these cards.

The pledges are presented with these words:

Accept these pledges as an expression of our life and faith, offered to the glory of God and in fulfillment of our call to be stewards of God's bounty.

V: Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion;

R: For God loves a cheerful giver.

Cel: We come with joy before our Lord, asking him to take and receive our offering of self and substance which is our willing tribute to his love and grace.

All; Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will — all that I have and possess. You have given it all to me; to you, Lord, I will return it. Everything is yours; dispose of it according to your will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me.

Cel: Let the offering we make here on earth be accepted in heaven and sealed in the sharing of this Holy Eucharist.