

ORDER FOR THE CLOSING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

This order follows the benediction.

P: We are a people whom God has called to fulfill our baptismal vocation in this academic setting. As the academic year ends, therefore, it is appropriate that we give thanks to God for its learnings and growth-producing experiences, for its opportunities to witness to the Gospel and to serve God's people, and for God gracious presence and strengthening throughout its duration.

A: Let us pray:

O God you are the Giver of the gift of the mind, the Source and Revealer of all knowledge and truth, and the One who calls us to witness and to serve wherever we are.

1: We are grateful for another year of learning, for the new ideas that have stimulated and challenged us, and for the new interests and concerns to which our studies have led us.

2: We are grateful also for the many kinds of experiences which we have had this year and for the relationships which have enriched our lives.

3: Thank you for having guided, supported, and blessed all who have learned on this campus and all who have taught.

4: Thank you especially for your steadfast and loving presence, which has been mediated to us, in particular, through the worship and the fellowship of this community of faith.

5: We lay before you our stewardship of the year now past. For our successes, we give you the glory; for our failures, we commit ourselves to your compassion and mercy.

P: Go with us, O God, now that the year has ended. Remain with us and continue to support and direct us, wherever we are—still in this place, at home, in a summer internship or job, or beginning a career. Inspire us, in whatever context and circumstance, to take up again the mission and the ministry to which you have called us and the whole Church, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Hymn: LBW #534, *Now Thank We All Our God* (or another suitable song)

P: We close this academic year in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God*

(This order was developed by Pastor Lloyd Kittlaus, campus pastor to Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois)