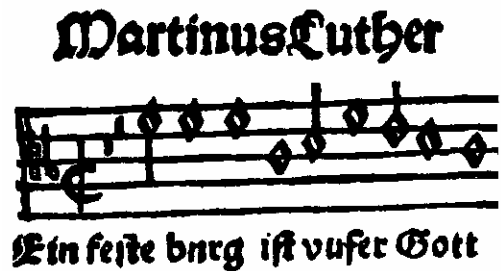


Liturgy, Hymnody, & Pulpit

in the Church of the Augsburg Confession

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Introducing the Service of Prayer and Preaching to Your Congregation



About a year ago, I began speaking with our congregational musicians about something *big*: learning a new musical setting of the Divine Service for the first time since 1946, the year the congregation I serve was founded. Throughout April and May, they played the music of this new setting (*Lutheran Service Book* DS4, p. 203) as part of their preludes, offertories, and postludes. In June and July we patiently taught the congregation one melody at a time. Eventually we were able to do either the entire first half or the last half of DS4 with the other half being their familiar setting, DS3. By late August, we sang the whole thing. We used DS4 all Fall to get the words and music in the minds and on the lips of as many in the congregation as possible. Now our congregation alternates (on a seasonal basis—see *LHP* 3.10) between two settings: DS3 and DS4.

Matins had been the usual “companion” morning service (in lieu of *TLH* p. 5) to DS3, old “page 15.” Recently, I spoke with our musicians about a “companion” non-communion service for DS4: *LSB*’s Service of Prayer and Preaching.

LHP 2.1 had the following to say about this service:

The Service of Prayer and Preaching in *Lutheran Service Book* is the only truly “new” service in *LSB*. It is, however, based upon catechetical services of the past and would serve congregations well in that way today.

“Following a hymn, seasonal versicles lead in to an Old Testament Cantic. The congregation should be taught the antiphon (which is sung four times) and a choir or soloist would best introduce the rest of the cantic, based upon Isaiah 12:2b-6.

Service of Prayer and Preaching recommends psalms, hymns, or choral music between the Readings from Holy Scripture. A seasonal Responsoy follows the Readings.

One or more parts of *Luther’s Small Catechism* may be spoken next, which then receive further treatment in the Sermon or Catechetical Instruction.

The Prayer is according to the ancient pattern of St. Ambrose of Milan. The Collect of the Day, Collect for the Word, and either Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer from the *Small Catechism* conclude the prayers.

A New Testament Cantic from 1 Corinthians 5 and 15 and Romans 6 and a blessing conclude Service of Prayer and Preaching. As with the OT Cantic, the congregation should be able to easily learn the repeated antiphon. A choir or cantor should introduce the rest of the cantic.

Here’s how we’re planning to introduce the service:

- ✚ During Lent, our choir will work on the Old Testament and New Testament canticles. Audio recordings are available to help! Before the release of *LSB*, a CD/DVD was sent to every LCMS congregation. The New Testament Cantic is track 23. When your congregation’s free sample copy of *LSB* arrived, another audio CD was provided. The Old Testament Cantic is track number 10.
- ✚ During the Easter Season, these Canticles will substitute for the Gradual. The New Testament Cantic will be sung on Easter Sunday through the Fourth Sunday of Easter. The longer Old Testament Cantic will be sung the Fifth Sunday of Easter through Epiphany. What if you pray Matins on non-communion Sundays? Keep

the Te Deum after the sermon and have the new canticle sung after the readings and Responsory and just before the sermon.

- ✠ We will take a gradual approach based on how quickly the congregation is picking up each canticle. Making use of the repeated refrain in each canticle aids in teaching, especially to children. At first, a soloist/cantor (the pastor?) sings the verses while the choir sings the refrain. The congregation is invited to sing the refrain. Next, the congregation sings the refrain while the choir sings the verses. Later, as they learn the verses, the congregation is invited to sing the whole thing. Brass instruments could be used to teach the melody of the refrain, then later the melody of the verses.
- ✠ By Holy Trinity Sunday, we would be ready to put all the pieces together. I'll select very, very, very familiar hymns. The rest of Service of Prayer and Preaching is spoken. The first text of the service is already familiar to many:

☐ This is the day which the Lord has made;

☑ **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Prayerfully, by August 2008, *LSB's* second birthday, our congregation will feel at home in another service.

For more suggestions on how to introduce this or any other service setting in *Lutheran Service Book*, contact us or review *A Guide for Introducing Lutheran Service Book*, a slender white volume you received at the *LSB* Introductory Workshops.

Coming Soon to a Prayer Desk Near You... Concordia's *Treasury of Daily Prayer*

LHP is happy to announce the late 2008 release of a breviary companion to *Lutheran Service Book*. The following is reproduced (with permission) from this project's development wiki website.

Introduction

Concordia's *Treasury of Daily Prayer* will be a comprehensive Lutheran resource for daily devotions. It will bring together under one cover Scripture readings, prayers, psalmody, hymnody, and devotional readings from the church fathers. The chief benefit of this resource is that everything for daily prayer and meditation on God's Word will be available in a single book, with all the "propers" for each day provided together in the same place in the book.

This resource was one identified by the LCMS Commission on Worship as a needed resource for the Church. They have formally turned the project over to CPH for development. The heart of *Treasury of Daily Prayer* will be the "Daily Readings and Writings." Each day's section will contain: (1) the full text of the two Scripture readings appointed for the day according to the Daily Lectionary (*LSB* p. 299ff). Using this plan nearly all of the New Testament, and about a third of the Old Testament, is read each year. (2) Psalmody and (3) Hymnody that captures the content, subject or theme of the appointed readings. (4) A devotional writing from a church father or the Lutheran Confessions; (5) on the days where a feast, festival, or commemoration falls, a brief biography of the person (or event) being commemorated will be included. (6) Finally, a brief prayer will be included that will reflect (in as much as is possible) (a) one of the two readings, (b) the season, or (c) the festival or commemoration applicable to the day.

Treasury of Daily Prayer will be designed to be equally useful for individuals, families, and small groups with the inclusion of the four brief orders of Daily Prayer for Families and Individuals first popularized in *Hymnal Supplement '98* and several CPH devotionals, and now found in *Lutheran Service Book*. In addition, for those who choose to use them, the order of Matins, Vespers and Compline will be included in the center of the volume.

In addition to the Daily Readings and Writing and the Orders of Daily Prayer, the book will contain a section of daily and occasional prayers, the Litany, the common canticles of the Church, Luther's Small Catechism, all 150 Psalms, and several other resources for daily prayer and piety.



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