

Sing to the Lord A New Song

The history behind the making of *Christian Worship:
A Lutheran Hymnal*

Brian Eggers
Senior Church History

Sing to the Lord a New Song

As of summer of 1993 we as a synod will come to an end of a very important era in the history of the WELS. *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* will be published and ready for use in our congregations by the fall of '93. This ends a long history of hard work and dedication by many in our synod for the purpose to encourage and enhance and promote a meaningful and vibrant worship life in the WELS. A good theme for this paper would be "Sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous things, Sing to the Lord and proclaim his salvation day after day." The Lord has done marvelous things for our Synod: first and foremost he has given us his son to be our Savior; that truly is marvelous. But he also has given us the opportunity to worship him, communicate with him in prayer and song and listen to him and receive comfort through his Word and Sacrament.

A popular definition of worship right now is "A joyful concern with God." That also aptly describes also the work of the Commission on Worship, of whom most of this paper is about. They show a concern for the worship life of the WELS. They show a concern for the worship of a changeless God in a changing society. In this paper I would like to trace a history of the Commission on Worship as it pertains to the eventual development of our new hymnal *Christian Worship*. I would like to highlight the work that this commission has done in the past years since its formation in 1965 and look at its work in recent years up to about the time of the beginning of the hymnal project in 1983. Then let us take a look back into the history of worship in the WELS from 1965 to about the present time.

Formation of the Commission on Worship

The origins of revising TLH actually began in 1953 with the LCMS. The origins of our Commission on Worship came later in 1959 when the LCMS invited us to join them in the continuing revision process of TLH. The revision they came up with is better known as *The Worship Supplement*. The first men invited to help in this task were Rev. Kurt Eggert and Prof. Martin Albrecht. As they began their work with Missouri our synod was entering troubling times with our big sister synod. In 1961 our synod broke our ties with LCMS and the Synodical Conference but these gentlemen still sat in as observers on the LCMS commission on Worship. In 1965 the synod resolved in convention to form its own commission on Worship (better known as the Commission on Liturgy, Hymnody and Worship). A leading factor in this decision also was that in 1965 Missouri discontinued its work at revising TLH and began work at producing a pan-Lutheran hymnal inviting all the Lutheran church bodies to join in this endeavor. Because of fellowship principles we could not as an active member contribute to its making. The Synod had other things to tend to.

The sixties were a very turbulent time in our nation's history. There were the race riots, the Vietnam War, decaying morals and rebellion against authority of all kinds. The Synod and the commission felt these changes in their areas of work as well. The Synod knew that some change in our worship and in our hymnal was needed and necessary to better be able to communicate with the youth and the changing society. So through this commission they called the members to work at updating, enhancing and encouraging sound Lutheran Worship. Included in their work generally was to encourage the members of the synod with musical and writing talents to use them in producing hymns, prayers and alternate services which may be used in our worship. But also this commission had some very important and influential specific projects to undertake as well.

Projects for the Commission

In 1965 when this commission was formed it was given the duty to begin work on Synod's own supplement called the *Worship Companion* for TLH. But the basic work overall which was the farthest reaching work was the commission's task of addressing language change on our worship. TLH was all written in Elizabethan language which was far outdated. In order to appeal to a wider variety of people and to address them where they are a serious look at language revision was necessary.

One of the first projects which related to the *Hymnal Companion* was a revision of the propers and introits for p.5/15. These portions of the service had become increasingly cumbersome and difficult to understand written in the old language. In 1971 the Synod resolved to make a study of the possibility of revising the propers. "Whereas a desire has been expressed that Introits, Graduals, Collects for the church year should be made more understandable; and whereas our Synod has been memorialized regarding this same matter: therefore be it 'Resolved that we encourage the Commission on Liturgy, Hymnody and Worship to implement the study and revision of the Introits, Graduals and Collects for the church year.'" The commission asked Prof. Gawrisch of Mequon and Prof. Eickman of Watertown to study the propers of the Easter season in order to see what revisions were possible, retaining the style of the King James version. Prof.'s Hartwig and Backer were asked to develop a new set of Introits and graduals also for the Easter season. (*Focus on Worship*, p.2 v. 1)

Another project taken on by the commission was to create a Pastor's Pocket Agenda. This book would contain formulas for Baptism, private communion, prayers and readings for the sick, marriage orders, burial orders and services for special groups. A subcommittee, consisting of E.C. Pankow, Rev. Winfred Nommensen, Arnold Schroeder and F. Heidemann, was formed to undertake this big project. This project took several years to complete but it was a book longed for by many if not all the pastors in WELS. Hopefully with the new hymnal a committee will be assigned to make a revision of the very helpful little book.

A continuing project in the early years of the commission was to have worship workshops in the different districts of the Synod. These workshops helped the pastors, musicians and others involved with worship in the congregations to keep informed about worship and how to keep it Lutheran and how to keep worship a vibrant, scriptural and edifying experience for God's people.

Christian Worship Seminar

A major activity taken on by the commission was the Christian Worship Seminar. With the aid of an AAL grant of \$8,000, the commission was able to host a very important event in the worship history of the WELS. On April 14-16, 1970, at DMLC about 70 people from the then nine districts, assembled to discuss Christian worship in the WELS. It turned out to be a very enlightening and informative few days for those who attended. Many different topics were discussed such as 'A Survey of Christian Worship in the Second Half of the 20th Century'; 'New Testament Guidelines for Worship'; 'Bach and Bartok in the Keyboard Preparation of Church Musicians'; 'The Search for New Hymns and Translations'; 'The Use of 20th Century Language in Worship'; 'The Evaluation of our Heritage of Church Music'. Also panel discussions and a symposium of meeting the contemporary needs in Christian Worship. I would like to include an insert from one of the Symposium topics to show what kind of work went on at this Seminar. This excerpt comes from pt.3 of the Symposium. This part was entitled 'Accent on Variety', and it was presented by our very own Prof. Balge.

The liturgy offers a framework in which the Christian congregation can receive and respond to the Good News in an organized and united way. If they are to do this in a united manner—if they are to use the liturgy well—it ought to be familiar. But over-familiarity—monotony will undermine the purpose of liturgy. We live in a time when people have very little patience for the over familiar. for what is "old." After all, they are able to tune out, to switch channels, to turn off the set. They don't have to listen all day to one person, one kind of music, one program. They don't have to listen at all. I have a feeling that this shortens people's willingness to, "stay with" anything that even begins to seem monotonous. So, let us assume that some variety is desirable if the liturgy is to serve its purpose.

The Christian Year, with its propers, affords considerable variety. I certainly agree with the criticisms that are offered with regard to the archaic words which appear in many Introits and Graduals and the complexity of the sentences in many of the collects.... (Worship Seminar booklet, 70)

In this Seminar the participants saw that a basic problem in our worship was the finding of a Bible translation to replace the King James Version, which they admitted was too difficult for the average present day Christian. The consensus of the seminar was that the arrangement and order of our services were adequate but the language needed to be revised. Also it was suggested that men should be commissioned to study and revise the introits and collects. Also this seminar encouraged the commission to continue to give encouragement to those gifted in writing hymns, making modern translations of older hymns and composing new melodies. (Reports and Memorials to Synod Conv. 1971, 168). Also in 1971 the commission published all of the essays, sermons, and discussions from the Seminar in a book called appropriately enough "Christian Worship Seminar". A very helpful book for every pastor concerned about the worship life of his church.

The Worship Companion

Work continued on the *Worship Companion* through the late sixties and early 70's. In 1973 the Synod convention was given some more heavy assignments. Resolutions called for the revision of all the service books of the Synod and to create the Worship Companion. Synod resolved that this Companion have the revision of the propers, additional orders of worship, litanies, and other liturgical resources which would make possible increased variation and enrichment of our present liturgy. The companion would also include new hymn texts and melodies.

But also the Commission was also resolved to make a study of the new three year lectionary that the ILCW (Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship) just produced. They were to look at it to see if it could be implemented into our worship services. The ILCW three-year series added a third reading (OT) and changed the church year in Epiphany and Trinity. The "Gesima" Sundays were removed and the Epiphany season lengthened and the Trinity Season would find its starting point with Pentecost Sunday and would be called the Pentecost Season. The commission urged all the districts to make a study of the new series in its upcoming district conventions and in the pastoral conferences of the coming year. (*Focus* 73, 2) They wanted as much input from the Synod at large to gain an understanding of what pastors of the Synod thought of the new series. Also a special committee was formed to make an in depth study of the ILCW's work. In 1977 a new service was introduced to the Synod. It was called the *Service of the Word* (predecessor to our present one for CW). It was an alternate service without communion. This was sent out to be field-tested. Some revisions were made but eventually the service was printed and distributed to whoever wanted it for use in their congregations. The Commission intended to put this service into the Worship Companion as an alternative to 5/15.

Focus on Worship

In 1971 the Commission on Worship discontinued its worship workshops and replaced them with a publication entitled *Focus on Worship*. Its purpose was to help pastors, organists, choir directors etc. to plan worship in their respective congregations. This became the official magazine of the Commission. The editor of the magazine, which came out bi-annually, was Rev. Kurt Eggert. His original editorial committee consisted of F.H.O. Jungkuntz, and Clarence Kremer. To fill each issue the Commission would have its report from the chairman Prof. Martin Albrecht. Also they would ask others to write articles concerning worship. Some of the topics covered were concerns for organists and choir directors in a column called "Choir loft and Console." The editor had his "Grace Notes" and also many other articles were contributed by various professors and pastors and music people in the WELS. "Focus" focused on the wedding and gave appropriate advice in choosing music and themes. *Focus* produced informative articles on the seasons of the church year and interesting insights on the worship issues affecting our Synod's worship life.

An overriding emphasis in every issue was keep worship alive, Christ centered and focused on giving God all the glory. Time and again in every issue of *Focus*, the editor and contributing writers encouraged creativity, scriptural advice on how worship should be done. They encouraged organists and directors to try new music to better aid the worshippers in communicating with God. This magazine has been a major influence on the worship life of the WELS. This little magazine has served us well in enriching our worship life and heritage.

Focus on Worship served as the vehicle of the commission to discuss the major issues of the Synod's changing worship. It is there that the new language changed was discussed. The prospects of a new hymnal or using LW received a lot of press and deservedly so. It put in front of all pastors of the synod the pressing needs and changes desired for enriching worship life.

WELS at a worship crossroads

In 1978 the pan-Lutheran Hymnal which Missouri had begun was published and titled *Lutheran Book of Worship*. But there was one strange thing Missouri no longer supported this hymnal because of doctrinal reasons. So immediately LCMS began to make its own hymnal and as quickly as possible. The Synod became very interested in the whole affair. Could LW serve the synod well as a new hymnal? Or should we print our own hymnal? Again the commission was put to work to evaluate Missouri's new hymnal-in-the-making, *Lutheran Worship*. They were to take a look at all aspects of this book and evaluated whether or not it would be wise for us as a synod to use this new hymnal. Many studies were made of it. Many feelings on the subject were expressed. The problems were laid out and the pros and cons of *Lutheran Worship* were voiced. Finally in 1983 the synod in convention voted against *Lutheran Worship* and for creating a completely new hymnal of our own. It a lot of faith in the Lord's guidance to undertake such an endeavor but the Synod saw the real need for a hymnal of its own expressing the needs and concerns and desires of the WELS and ELS.

The synod voted that the Commission on Worship would head the project and a project director should be selected. On April 24, 1984 Rev. Kurt Eggert was installed as the project director of the new hymnal. Ten years later and many headaches later and one sampler later our new hymnal is just about ready to be printed.

The past ten years have been pretty quiet for the commission on Worship. The hymnal project was divided into various committees focusing on different parts of the new hymnal. In one way or another the commission has been involved on the various committees. With the raw completion of the hymnal the commission will concern itself with the revision of the service books to complement *Christian Worship*. Also the commission would be very involved in the introduction of the new hymnal and as always looking for ways to keep the worship of the WELS as vibrant, varied and Christ centered as ever.

The history of the commission is not a long one but it a very detailed and interesting history. The worship life of the WELS from the 60's through the 90's deserves many papers written about it. A lot has transpired and a lot has changed in the worship life of the WELS. But thanks be to God that the Lord gave us men on the commission who never lost their focus that worship is a joyful concern with God. They never forgot that worship is communicating with God and encouraging each other in the faith through God's Word and Sacrament. May God bless the future of the Commission may it always remain faithful to its mission to praise God and preach his name through all the world.

Bibliography

Commission on Worship, April 1971 "*Christian Worship Seminar*", publ. by Commission on Worship, April 1971.

Eggert, Kurt Rev. ed., "*Focus on Worship*", Milwaukee, Northwestern Publishing House, publ. by The Commission on Worship, 1971-1992.

Eggert, Rev. Kurt, "*Enriching our Worship Heritage*", essay presented to the Conv. 6 N.Wis. Dist. of WELS June 1986

Eggert, Rev. Kurt, "*Progress Report on the New Hymnal*", Essay presented to the Metro-North Conf. SEW 1985

Eggert, Rev. Kurt, "*WELS and Lutheran Worship*", Essay prepared for the Metro North Conf. SEW May 1982
WELS Synodical Reports and Memorials to Synod and districts, 1971, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983.

A Service of the Word

Authorized by the
Commission on Worship, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Graphic Arts Center
Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota

This Service of the Word was planned as an order of worship for Sundays when Holy Communion is omitted. Its three parts show what happens when the Christian congregation meets for worship. The people confess their sins and God forgives them. He feeds them with His Word, and they bring Him their needs and thanksgiving. This Service enriches such action between God and His people by retaining the Confession, by adding another reading from the Word, and by giving the people more opportunity for prayer and praise. This Service draws on forms and expressions of worship that the church has inherited through the ages. At the same time it allows the use of contemporary forms and expressions. While preserving what is good from the past, it also makes use of what is good today. This is good Lutheran practice, in harmony with the message and spirit of God's Holy Scriptures.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. (Phil. 4:8)

Preparation

The Congregation sings

A Hymn

The Congregation rises or kneels for

The Confession

(In the event of a baptism, the congregation remains seated and uses the Order of Baptism on page 11 in place of the Confession.)

V: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

R: Almighty Lord God, we have come together to stand in your presence, to hear your Word, and to worship you.

V: But who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

R: He who has clean hands and a pure heart: he shall receive blessings from the Lord.

V: O holy and righteous God, you alone can make us clean. We have rebelled against you and become worthless. But your mercies never end; they are new every day. At your command and promise, therefore, we come to you and confess our sins.

R: O holy and most merciful Father, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But at your gracious Word I come to you, and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ I plead: God, have mercy on me a sinner!

V: Having heard your confession, I as a called minister of God's Word assure you that our gracious Father in heaven has heard your prayer, and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of
of
the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (t). Peace be with you.
Amen.

The Congregation remains standing and sings

Christmas Cycle (L.H. 237)

All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended.
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness!

Trinity Cycle(L.H. 293)

O Holy Spirit, grant us grace
That we our Lord and Savior
In faith and fervent love embrace
And truly serve Him ever,
So that when death is drawing nigh,
We to His open wounds may fly
And find in them salvation.

Easter Cycle (L.H. 201)

Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
Freely God doth aid dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

(On Good Friday use hymn for Michaelmas Cycle.)

Michaelmas Cycle

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

The Congregation is seated.

The Minister says

The Sentence for the Day

(see page 25 to 32)

The Old Testament

The Minister says

Today is (Sunday of the Lord's Year). The Old Testament Scripture is written in_____.

After the Scripture the minister says:

Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and with encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The Congregation sings:

Christmas Cycle

Here is my servant whom I have chosen.
I will put my Spirit upon him.
A bruised reed he will not break,
And a smoldering wick he will not
quench.
In his name the nations will put
their hope.

Easter Cycle

I saw the Lord always before me,
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
My body also will live in hope,
Because you will not abandon me to the grave,
Nor will you let your Holy One undergo
Decay.
You have made known to me the paths
of life.

Trinity Cycle

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your riches.
You send forth your Spirit: they are
created;
And you renew the face of the earth.
I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live,
I will sing praise to my God and be glad in the Lord.

Michaelmas Cycle

In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my spirit in those days,
And they will speak God's Word
Before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Epistle

The Minister says:

The Epistle is written in_____.

After the Epistle the Minister says:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for training in righteousness, to equip the man of God for every good work.

The Congregation sings:

Christmas Cycle

O Lord our God! You have spoken to us by your Son.
He is the radiance of your glory. Praise we the Lord!

Easter Cycle

O Christ our Lord! You were put to death on a cross for our sin;
But God raised you up from death to life. Praise we the Lord!

Trinity Cycle

O Lord our God! Give us your spirit to fill us with joy
And peace, patience and self control. Praise we the Lord!

Michaelmas Cycle

O Lord our God! Nothing in all creation shall separate
Us from your love in Jesus our Lord. Praise we the Lord!

The Congregation rises for

The Gospel

The Minister says:

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Congregation remains standing and sings:

Christmas Cycle (L.H. 95)

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.

Easter Cycle (p.16)

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his pierced side.
Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce powers beneath Thee lie;
Thou hast conquered in the fight,
Thou hast brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy,
Sin alone can this destroy;
From sin's power do Thou set free
Souls newborn, O Lord, in Thee.
Alleluia!

Trinity Cycle(L.H. 292)

O Holy Spirit, God on high,
For saving faith to Thee we cry;
Preserve us all until the end
When, ill all past, we homeward wend.

O precious Light, Thy help afford
That none but Christ we own as Lord
And cling to Him, the Faithful One,
Who our true home in heav'n has won.

Thou sacred Love, thy grace bestow,
Set us with love's bright fire aglow.
Let love among us thrive and reign;
Let peace and harmony remain.

O Comfort sure when woe is near,
In shame, in death, keep us from fear!
Let us not shake in needless fright
When Satan would our lives indict!

Michaelmas Cycle(L.H. 463)

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confest,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia!...Alleluia!

Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia!...Alleluia!

The Sermon

After the sermon, the Congregation rises for the Votum and confesses

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

When the service begins with a baptism, the Congregation may omit the Apostles Creed at this place altogether, or may substitute the following confession of faith:

I believe in God our Lord and Father in heaven, who made us the crown of His creation and preserves us with every good thing that we may live before Him in peace and joy;

And I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son from eternity, who became a man for us sinners, who redeemed us from Satan's power with His holy precious blood, rose from death, and made us His own to live with Him now and forever;

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who draws us to our Savior by the Gospel, who keeps us united in the true faith, forgives our sin, and at the end of the world will raise us from death to life sternal. Amen.

The Congregation is seated and sings

A Hymn

(The Hymn of the Week or another hymn)

Offering of Gifts and Prayers

The Offering

The Congregation rises for

The Litany

(See page 17 to 24 for alternate litanies.)

V: Lord God, Maker and Preserver of all, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day by day:

R: O Lord, ever glorious and exalted on high, we are but dust and ashes, + not worthy of the mercies you show us.

V: Heavenly Father, protect us from every kind of danger to body and soul. Spare us from sudden catastrophe, from terrors of crime, from pains of disease, and from perils of the devil:

R: Come with your help in life's trials and troubles. + Heal all who are sick, + cheer all who are sad, + calm all who are confused, + and give comfort to all who are old and infirm.

V: Lord, bless our land, our people, and all who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools strong, upright, and sound, for the advancement of good citizenship and useful occupations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and prosperity:

R: Give your blessings to every nation on earth. + Where there are wars, make an end of them. + Where there is hatred, let it be healed. + Where there is danger, depression, and disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

V: Lord God, protect all who travel by land, sea, and air. We pray especially that you guide and keep all our loved ones, both near and far, from whatever dangers may threaten:

R: Dear Father in heaven, keep your congregation safe from the wiles of the world. + Bless all who serve you at this place. + Give them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love. + Accept all that we have, gracious God: + our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our possessions and offerings, + and use them for your glory.

V: Hear us, O God, and look on us in our great needs. We bring our petitions to you not because of any good in us, but on account of your great mercy. In these days of distress come to us with your blessing and peace. Keep us in the saving faith until we die. All this we ask because you commanded us to pray and promised that you will hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord:

R: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Collects

The Minister may pray

Prayer(s) for Special Times and Needs

(These are on page 34. Other Collects may also be used.)

After each intercession the Congregation sings:

Amen.

Then the Minister prays the

Collect for the Church

(Other Collects on page 33.)

Almighty God, bless the preaching of your Word among the congregation of believers on earth. Bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit to make us wise in the knowledge of our Savior, to give us joy in serving Him, and to strengthen our faith that we may be true to Him as long as we live. We ask this in the name of

our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The Congregation sings:

Amen.

The Blessing

V: The Lord be with you.

R: And with you also.

V: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

R: Amen. Amen. Amen.

Then a closing hymn or hymn stanza may be sung.

Order of Baptism

*The parents, sponsors, or witnesses present the child
at the baptismal font*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Friends! In bringing this child for baptism you are carrying out the will of our Savior, who commanded His Church: Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Since God's Word and command have established Baptism, this washing with water is most precious. God gave Baptism to His Church as a visible sign of His Gospel, to awaken and strengthen the saving faith in all who are baptized, little children no less than others. In such a manner God washes away all sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who trust in these promises.

But the water itself does not work such great things. The Savior's gifts are made ours by means of God's Word in the water and through faith which trusts His Word in the water. These gifts, furthermore, are meant for all people, little children as well as others. Children, too, stand in need of the Savior's blessing. God clearly teaches in His Word that all children of human parents are born sinful and are guilty of eternal death. For unless a man is born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

This child, then, together with all of us, is weighed down by the load of sin. In behalf of this child, and for ourselves also, let us join in confessing our sin:

The Congregation rises and says:

Dear Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful. I was conceived and born in sin, and continue to do wrong every day. I deserve only your righteous anger and eternal death. But you are a gracious and merciful God. Therefore I come to you at your Word, and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ I plead: God, have mercy on me a sinner.

The Lord has heard you and taken away your sin. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. You are made new people under a new Lord. What do you therefore declare concerning the old evil Foe and his deadly lies?

I renounce the devil and all his wicked works and all his wicked ways.

Let us then confess the faith through which God receives us and this child into His kingdom. What do you believe concerning God the Father?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What do you believe concerning God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

What do you believe concerning God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Into this faith, [*give the child's name*] You are now to be baptized. Receive the sign of the holy cross over the head and heart (+) to show that you have been redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we bring this child to you and ask your blessing. Look down in tender mercy, and receive this child into your kingdom through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom you have sent us through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Then the minister applies water as he names each person of the Holy Trinity.

[Give the child's name] I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Triune God, who has made you His own through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you with His grace in this life and give you peace in the hour of your death.

Exhortation to the Congregation

Dear fellow Christians:

Through the washing of Baptism this child has become a member of Jesus Christ and His holy Church. In obedience to God's will it is now the solemn duty of the parents (and guardians) to teach this child the truths of God's Word so that he/she may grow and be confirmed in faith and thus remain with the Lord Jesus until death.

And we too, the congregation of believers, have a duty to assist the parents by prayer, teaching, and personal example, so that this child may keep the blessings of Baptism. What this heavenly washing means for us every day, we were taught from the Catechism, where Luther writes:

All say:

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by godly sorrow and repentance day after day, and his evil deeds and desires put to death; and it means that a new man should daily come out of this washing and rise up from death, to live in God's sight in righteousness and purity forever.

Let us give thanks:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of Baptism by which you granted this child the new birth in Jesus Christ. We ask you to keep this child in your kingdom of grace and to bring us all to your kingdom of glory in heaven, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Those who presented the child for Baptism are dismissed, and the Congregation sings:

He that believes and is baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
He is a new creation.
Thro' Christ's redemption he shall stand
Among the glorious heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

The Congregation is seated, and the Service continues with the Sentence for the Day.

Old Testament Responses

Easter Cycle

I saw the Lord always before me,
Therefore my heart and my tongue rejoices;
My body also will live in hope,
Because you will not abandon me in the grave,
Nor will you let your Holy One undergo decay.
You have made known to me the paths of life.

Trinity Cycle

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your riches. You send forth your Spirit:
they are created; And you renew the face of the earth.
I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live,
I will sing praise to my God and be glad in the Lord.

Michaelmas Cycle

In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will speak God's word
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord,
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Litanies

General Litany (Shorter form)

- V: Almighty God! All praise and thanks to you for the countless blessings we receive from you every day, though we do not deserve them. We thank you for health of body and soul, for the joys of life, the beauties in the world, and the bounties of the earth. We thank you for the gift of learning and memory, for the enjoyment of honest work and restful play, for the pleasure of friendship, and for the ability to share laughter and sorrow with others:
- R: We thank you especially for giving us your precious Word that heals sin-troubled hearts, + and for making us able and willing to spread its good news to all the earth.
- V: Great God and Lord! Stand by us in these last days of bitter rivalry and painful tension, of nations in turmoil and peoples in distress, of faith dying out and love growing cold. Give us strength to face the evils of life with courage, and deliver us from their destructive fury:
- R: We pray that you protect and preserve the good institutions of our society: +our families and schools, + our government and laws, our trades and

professions, our means of transportation and communication, and all useful arts.

V: Gracious Father! Be merciful to people in every affliction. Send your peace to the sick, the aged, the infirm, the confused, and the lonely. Bring your healing to broken homes and ravaged lives:

R: We ask that you fill our hearts with love not only to pray for others in need, + but to help them with our own words and works of kindness.

V: Eternal God! Keep us in the saving faith by which you enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany of Praise and Thanksgiving

V: We praise you, Lord God, for revealing yourself as the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

R: Lord, help us in fear and love to trust you with all our heart.

V: We praise you, Lord God, for revealing your gracious thoughts and wonderful works by your name:

R: Lord, help us honor your name by calling to you for aid and thanking you for deliverance.

V: We praise you, Lord God, for refreshing and preserving our faith by your Word:

R: Lord, help us honor your Word by believing it and living according to it.

V: We praise you, Lord God, for the life and protection, the knowledge and wisdom, that you have given us through our parents and superiors:

R: Lord, help us remember the dignity in which your Word has clothed them that we may honor them in willing obedience.

V: We thank you, Lord God, for building a wall of protection about our fellowman's life:

R: And for directing us to offer help and advice even to our enemy.

V: We thank you, Lord God, for establishing and securing the estate of marriage:

R: And for counseling husband and wife to live together in love and harmony, and to keep the marriage vow with perfect faithfulness.

V: We thank you, Lord God, for protecting the possessions of our fellowman:

R: And for commanding us to help, share, and lend to friend and foe alike.

V: We thank you, Lord God, for posting a guard around our fellowman's character and good name:

R: And for directing us to speak favorably of all people, to cover their faults, and to do our best to protect their reputation.

V: We thank you, Lord God for commanding us to fight against the sinister forces of envy, selfishness, and other evil desires:

R: Lord, destroy in us every cause of unbelief, and of injury to our fellowman.

V: We praise you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We thank you for teaching us your holy will and the way in which you would have us walk:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany of Praise in Expression of the Christian Faith

V: Lord God, Father almighty, you made us the crown of all creation, and you preserve us with every good thing that we may live before you in peace and joy:

R: You do this out of pure goodness and mercy and not because we have earned or deserved it; and for this it is our duty to thank and praise you for your gifts, and to use them in your service.

V: Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son from eternity, you have redeemed us lost and condemned creatures with your holy precious blood, and you have set us free from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil:

R: You did this to make us your own, and we shall live with you now and forever because you rose from death to live and rule forever.

V: O Holy Spirit, you have called us from darkness of unbelief by the Gospel; you have illumined our hearts by faith and united us into one family with our Lord Jesus Christ:

R: You have done this that we may be filled with the rich gifts of your grace: an unwavering trust, the love that knows no limit, and the courage to meet every trial in life and death.

V: O Triune God, we praise and thank You for all the blessings you have given us. At your invitation, we bring our needs to you and pray:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany in Time of Trouble

V: Let us call upon God in our needs and troubles. He is good to all who seek Him.

R: Because of your mercies, O Lord, we are not destroyed. Your patience is beyond understanding. Your compassion never fails.

V: Deliver us, O Lord, from wicked people and evil companions:

R: Keep us from seeking their company and listening to their advice.

V: Help us, O Lord, to control our tongue and to watch what we say:

R: Use our lips to sing your glory, and give us tongues to proclaim your praise.

V: Preserve our bodies, Lord God, as members of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit:

R: Give us strength to throw off the works of the devil, to arm ourselves as soldiers of the light, and to live an honest and decent life.

Litany of Praise and Thanks for God's Blessings

V: Let us praise God for the multitude of blessings which he bestows on us day by day:

R: Lord God, we praise and thank you for the wonderful way you have made us + and for all the gifts you have given us.

V: We praise You, O God, for the countless arts and skills which you have given us to serve us in our needs and pleasures:

R: We praise and thank you that you have given us the power to invent and to learn + and to put these gifts to use.

V: We praise you, O God, for the ability to create things beneficial and beautiful to satisfy our whole being:

R: We praise and thank you for the discoveries of medical science to preserve and restore man's health + and for the skills of agriculture to supply us with abundance and variety of food.

V: We praise you, O God, for your wonderful works, for the sciences that reveal them and the arts that proclaim them:

R: We praise and thank you for the gift of speech and writing by which we share our thoughts and needs with you and our fellowman. We thank you for the gift of music that brings joy and comfort to our lives.

V: For all your gifts, O God, we glorify you today, tomorrow, and always:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany for Good Friday

V: Gracious and merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Author and Finisher of our salvation, we come before you today to ponder the height and depth of your amazing love:

R: You sent us your beloved Son, who was ever at your side and shared your glory and power from all eternity.

V: O God, you chose your Son from eternity to right the wrongs that we your people have done against you. You planned for us the path of holiness, we rebelled against you and went our own way. We sinned and became guilty of death.

R: But you laid our sin, our guilt, and our punishment on your Son. You made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us. You chose Him to pay the price of your anger against all evil and wickedness.

V: O Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, we can never thank you enough for all you have done. You knew your Father's will from eternity, and in perfect love to Him and us you willingly obeyed it. You became poor for our sake, that we might be rich.

R: You gave up your glory and became a slave. In your sinlessness you carried the load of our sin. You suffered the attacks of the devil. You felt the hatred of the world around us and the weakness that is in us.

V: O Lord Jesus Christ, your obedient suffering from Gethsemane to Golgotha is more than we can understand. How you shuddered in Gethsemane at the pain you knew you would endure. What loneliness You felt when your friends betrayed, denied, and deserted you. How you grieved at the hatred of your own people and their leaders, who shouted for you to be crucified. What cruelty you endured when your judges sentenced you to death on a cross. On Golgotha your bleeding body was raised up between two criminals. On Golgotha your innocence was mocked and scorned by your tormentors. On Golgotha your Father in heaven withdrew Himself from you and gave you up to the full fury of His anger against our sins and the sins of the whole world.

R: All these torments you endured on the cross gladly and willingly for our sake. You kept your obedience perfect on the cross. You paid the debt of

our sins in full. So you became the real conqueror and took away Satan's power to kill and destroy us. You finished this great work on the cross and became the Captain of our salvation.

V: O Lord Jesus Christ, it is good for us to speak of your work and be reminded of your great sacrifice and amazing love. It is good for us to remember how much it cost you and your Father to be gracious and merciful to us. You made us your own that we might turn from our wicked ways and follow them no more. You made us your own that we might live a holy life to your honor and for the welfare of our fellowman. You made us your own that we might thank and praise you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, today and every day. O Holy Spirit, strengthen us in the true faith that we speak to God as our dear Father and with all boldness and confidence pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany for the Festival of the Lord's Resurrection

V: Almighty and everlasting God, Lord of life and death, Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is, we praise you this day for what you have done:

R: This is the day when you showed your great power and raised your Son Jesus from death.

V: Gracious God, we thank you for the many faithful witnesses who speak to us in your Word and testify that the Lord Jesus is risen indeed!:

R: If Jesus had not been raised from death, + their witness would be false and our faith would be worthless. + But against reason, they believed. + Against deadly threats, they answered: + we cannot help speaking what we have seen and heard. + They saw the risen Lord and spoke with him; + they ate with him and touched him. + They were faithful witnesses to the world, as their Lord was a faithful witness to them.

V: Merciful God, by the glorious victory of Your Son over the grave, you made us new people. We who belong to Jesus can put away our fears in life and our terrors of death and sing with the saints of old:

R: We shall not die but live, and proclaim your wonderful works from one generation to another. + You will receive us before the throne of your Son + to serve him day and night with our song: + Worthy is the Lamb who was slain + to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

V: Holy and righteous God, send the Holy Spirit to keep us strong in the faith so that we may war against sin and live a holy life in love to you and our fellowman:

R: Let us celebrate the resurrection of your Son with a life of honesty and goodness, gentleness and self-control. + Lord, help us love you with all our strength; Lord, help us love our fellowman as ourselves.

V: Gracious Father, you have restored the joy of salvation to us by raising your Son from the dead. With happy hearts we come before you and pray:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany for the Festival of Missions

V: God Father in heaven, be gracious to us and bless us and let your face shine on us: That your ways may be known on earth and your salvation among all people. God Father in heaven, be gracious unto us and bless us and let your face shine upon us:

R: Strengthen the hands that are feeble and make firm the knees that are weak, that we may rise up and shine in the darkness that covers the earth and the gloom that surrounds the people.

V: Lord Jesus Christ, be gracious unto us and bless us and let your Word set fire to our hearts. Help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us speak your Word as the song of salvation, that people may hear it from our lips and see it in our lives:

R: Let your Word lead them to repent of their sins and put their whole trust in you.

V: Lord Jesus Christ, be gracious unto us and bless us and let your Word set fire to our hearts. Keep our hearts fixed on your Word that we may treasure it as the One Thing Needful to do your work and to finish it. Keep us from leaning on our own wisdom and works, and give us boldness to say with your apostle:

R: I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

V: O Holy Spirit, Fountain of wisdom and Counselor in every need, give light to our hearts and minds:

R: That we may seize the opportunity to carry out our Savior's mission command in the best way.

V: O Holy Spirit, Fountain of Wisdom and Counselor in every need, give light to our hearts and minds:

R: That we as much as possible be like the people to whom we speak the Word, so that in one way or another some might be saved.

V: Holy Trinity, teach us to mean what we say and to pray the words our Savior taught us:

R: Lord's Prayer

Litany for Anniversary of the Church

V: O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! You have made us, and you still preserve us with everything we need to nourish our body and bring joy to our life.

R: You do this as our gracious Father in heaven by your goodness and love.

V: O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! You have freed us lost and condemned creatures from the curse of sin, from the sting of death, and from slavery to the devil.

R: You made us your own that we may serve you with a joyful heart.

V: O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! You have united us into one family with our Lord Jesus Christ and kept us in the true faith.

R: You fill our lives with rich gifts of the Spirit: an unwavering trust, the love that knows no limit, and the courage to meet every trial in life and death.

V: Holy and righteous God, on this anniversary of the Church we thank you with all our heart that you have been good to us for so many years and given us opportunity to glorify your name among the people and to proclaim your wonderful deeds from one generation to another.

R: We thank you for upholding your little flock through fortune and misfortune, through times of war and peace, of depression and prosperity; and we thank you especially for the people now fallen asleep who served your Church in the past, by whose ministry you kept your flock faithful to you and to their calling.

V: Holy and mighty God, on this anniversary of the Church we praise you for the wonderful work you give your Church to do, that your saving name may be known in all the earth.

R: We praise you for the young people of the Church whom you prepare for the work of the ministry. We praise you that you have prospered Christian education among us, by which the truths of our Savior are printed on our souls.

V: Eternal and most merciful God, on this anniversary of the Church we pray that you continue to be with us in the future as you have in the past, and that you keep us in your grace.

R: We beseech you to keep your little flock firm in faith and steadfast in their calling, so that generations yet unborn may share your gift of eternal life.

V: Hear us, O God, and look upon us in your grace. We bring our petitions to you, not because of any good in us, but on account of your great mercy. Lord, protect us from the wicked one and keep us in your care.

R: Lord's Prayer

Sentences for the Day

First Sunday in Advent

Rejoice, people of God! See, your King is coming to you. He is just and brings you salvation.

Second Sunday in Advent

Rejoice, people of God! Your deliverance is near. Be alert and Pray constantly for strength to stand before your coming Lord.

Third Sunday in Advent

Rejoice, people of God! Your Lord Jesus Christ has appeared and fulfilled God's promises of old for your comfort and salvation.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rejoice, people of God! Receive your Lord Jesus in humility and give Him the glory He deserves.

Christmas Night

O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! A Child is born for us, a Son is given to us, and He shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Christmas Day, the Festival of our Lord's Birth

O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! God's only Son, who was ever at His Father's side, became flesh and lived among us.

Sunday after Christmas

O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! God sent His own Son, born of a woman, to ransom us from all evil with His precious blood.

New Year's Eve

O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! You have been our refuge from one generation to another. So teach us to number our days that we may become wise.

The Festival of the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! You took our place and obeyed the law in every point that you might be Savior to all.

Second Sunday after Christmas

O Lord, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! Foxes have their dens and birds have their nests, but the Lord Jesus had no place to lay His head.

The Festival of Epiphany

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. Look around and see the people coming from afar. The whole world from end to end will see the salvation of our God.

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. Let your hearts be united in love and enriched with the knowledge of Christ. In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. O thank the Lord for His kindness and the wonders He has done for men. He satisfies the hungry and fills them with good things.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. O thank the Lord for His kindness and the wonders He has done for men. He sends His Word to heal them and rescues them from their distress.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. O thank the Lord for His kindness and the wonders He has done for men. He calms the storm and brings His people to a quiet shelter.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. O thank the Lord for His kindness and the wonders He has done for men. He is merciful and patient; His kindness and justice never fail those who put their trust in Him.

The Transfiguration of our Lord

Rise up: your Light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you. O thank the Lord for His kindness and the wonders He has done for men. He speaks His Word and shows us the glory of Jesus.

First Sunday in Pre-Lent

O Lord, you have been gracious to our land; you have forgiven the guilt of your people and covered all their sins. Open our hearts, O Lord, to your invitation. Now is the time to accept it; now is the day of salvation.

Second Sunday in Pre-Lent

O Lord, you have been gracious to our land; you have forgiven the guilt of your people and covered all their sins. Open our ears, O Lord, that your Word may give joy to our hearts and bear fruit in our lives.

Third Sunday in Pre-Lent

O Lord, you have been gracious to our land; you have forgiven the guilt of your people and covered all their sins. Open our eyes, O Lord, to see you in faith, that we may call you by your name and praise you for your marvelous deeds.

First Sunday in Lent

O God, our Refuge and Strength! Defend us by your Word against every attack of the devil.

Second Sunday in Lent

O God, our Refuge and Strength! Pity the sorrowful and relieve their distress. Guide the humble and teach them your ways.

Third Sunday in Lent

O God, our Refuge and Strength I Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. Preserve us from the wicked powers that surround us.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

O God, our Refuge and Strength! Look upon our need and relieve our suffering. Crown us with kindness and satisfy us with good things.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

O God, our Refuge and Strength! You laid all our guilt on Jesus. He was o and condemned, though He did no wrong and spoke no falsehood.

Palm Sunday, the First Day of Holy Week

O God, our Refuge and Strength' Your only Son entered Jerusalem and gave up His life to take away our sins and to win pardon for our offenses.

Thursday of Holy Week

O God, our Refuge and Strength! Remember your covenant and give food to those who fear you. O taste and see that the Lord is good. Happy are they who find refuge in Him.

Friday of Holy Week

O God, our Refuge and Strength! Your only Son was wounded for our offenses and punished for our sins.. The pains He bore have healed us, and His scourging has made us whole.

Easter Day, the Festival of our Lord's Resurrection

Sing a new song to the Lord,who did wondrous things. As Christ was raised from death through the glory of the Father, so we too may have a new life.

First Sunday after Easter

Sing a new song to the Lord who did wondrous things. He gives us our faith, the victory that conquers the world.

Second Sunday after Easter

Sing a new song to the Lord who did wondrous things. He is the Good Shepherd, who gave His life for the sheep. He guides them on the right path and gives them peace.

Third Sunday after Easter

Sing a new song to the Lord who did wondrous things. When He brought us from captivity, our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with rejoicing.

Fourth Sunday after Easter

Sing a new song to the Lord who did wondrous things. He triumphed over the prince of this world. He rules His people with righteousness and justice.

Fifth Sunday after Easter

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with love for Jesus that we may confidently as dear children to a dear Father in heaven.

The Festival of our Lord's Ascension

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with love for Jesus that we may speak of His works and live in constant readiness for His return.

Sixth Sunday after Easter

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with love for Jesus that we may overcome the trials of life with patience and trust.

The Festival of Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with love for Jesus. Remind us of everything He taught so that we may have peace in this world.

The Festival of the Holy Trinity

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with love for Jesus who washed away our sin and made us fit to enter the kingdom of our Father.

First Sunday after Trinity

We cannot find God by outward performance of religion. God is our Helper; He gives us a new heart to hear Him and do His commands.

Second Sunday after Trinity

We cannot find God by outward performance of religion. God is our Helper; He spreads a table before us to give us strength and refreshment.

Third Sunday after Trinity

We cannot find God by outward performance of religion. God is our Helper; He finds the lost and heals them with mercy and forgiveness.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

We cannot find God by outward performance of religion. God is our Helper; He forgives His people and fills them with kindness, patience, and mercy.

Fifth Sunday after Trinity.

We cannot find God by outward performance of religion. God is our Helper; He shows us His mighty works and commands us to tell them to all people.

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

All who are thirsty, come to the water; come and drink that you may live. God's holy commands teach us how sinful we are that Jesus may come and be our Fountain of Life.

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

All who are thirsty, come to the water; come and drink that you may live. The Lord will never leave His followers. He pities them and helps them in all their needs.

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

All who are thirsty, come to the water; come and drink that you may live. By His Word the Lord gives us wisdom to choose right from wrong and lead a Christian life.

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

All who are thirsty, come to the water; come and drink that you may live. The Lord wants us to use our time wisely and keep our conscience clear in all we do.

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

All who are thirsty, come to the water; come and drink that you may live. God does not want dead faith or empty religion. He desires a broken heart of repentance.

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

All who are thirsty, come to the water; come and drink that you may live. God opposes the proud but is kind to the humble. So let us humble ourselves under God's mighty hand to receive His forgiveness.

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. I will sing and praise you with songs, for your love is as wide as the heavens and your faithfulness reaches the clouds.

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. I will thank you for your mercy and offer help to others in their need.

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. Let me never forget that you healed me. Open my mouth to confess your name and to give you the thanks you deserve.

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. Remove all sinful worries from my mind and give me strength to trust you with all my heart.

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. You have broken the bands of death. You sweeten our sorrows with your comfort and care.

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. You want us to serve you by showing kindness and by hurrying to help one another.

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast. You sent your Son in the form” of a man to visit us. He is our Redeemer and Savior.

The Festival of Michael and All Angels

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Lay hold of the Lord Jesus, who fought Satan the great dragon and robbed him of his power.

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**(First Sunday in Michaelmas)**

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Fight the good fight of faith that Jesus may deliver you from every evil of body and soul.

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**(Second Sunday in Michaelmas)**

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Fight the good fight of faith that Jesus may keep you safe from the temptations of the world and the poison of pride.

Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity**(Third Sunday in Michaelmas)**

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Fight the good fight of faith that Jesus may give you peace in this troubled world.

Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity**(Fourth Sunday in Michaelmas)**

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Fight the good fight of faith that Jesus may fill your life with His spirit of mercy and forgiveness.

Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity**(Fifth Sunday in Michaelmas)**

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Fight the good fight of faith that you may overcome all temptation with the sword of God's Word.

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity
(Sixth Sunday in Michaelmas)**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive glory and honor. His victory over the grave turns our death into a sleep.

**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity
(Seventh Sunday in Michaelmas)**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive glory and honor. His victory over the grave gives us strength to face the judgment.

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Trinity
(Eighth Sunday in Michaelmas)**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive glory and honor. His victory over the grave gives us strength to serve Him all our life.

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Trinity
(Ninth Sunday in Michaelmas)**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive glory and honor. His victory over the grave gives us confidence to watch for His second coming.

Mission Festival

God be gracious to us and bless us, that your ways may be known on earth and your salvation among all people.

Anniversary of the Reformation

People of God! Throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. God made the light of His Word shine again out of darkness. O thank Him for His goodness.

Anniversary of the Church

I will praise you, O God, and thank you for ever and ever. You have been faithful to your promises and good in all that you do. You have been our Refuge and Strength through all generations.

Day of Humiliation and Prayer

From depths of guilt we call to you, O Lord. If you kept record of our sins, who would escape? But you have forgiven us that we may give you glory.

Thanksgiving

O God, how richly you have blessed our land. You have crowned the year with your goodness and made the fields overflow with a rich harvest.

Closing Collects

Collect for the Word

Gracious Lord God, we thank you for the gift of your holy Word. Bless the message you have printed on our hearts that we continue to search the Scriptures and live according to them. May your holy Word fill our hearts with peace and the sure hope of the life to come. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Collect for the Holy Spirit

Almighty God, send the Holy Spirit into our hearts by the preaching of your Word, that He comfort us in our troubles, defend us from error, lead us into the truth, and give us the strength to live a holy life according to your will and pleasure. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Collect for the True Faith

Heavenly Father, you have sent your Son to take away the sins of the world. You have led us to trust in Him and for His sake forgiven us all our sins. Keep us steadfast in this faith as long as we live. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Hymns of the Week

Advent 1: 73
Advent 2: 67
Advent 3: 75
Advent 4: 62
Christmas: 80
Sun. p Ch.: 103
N.Y. Day: 115
Sun. p N.Y.: 265
Epiphany: 343
Epiphany 1: 98
Epiphany 2: 134
Epiphany 3: 512
Epiphany 4: 383
Epiphany 5: 292
Transfig.: 343
Pre-Lent 1: 377
Pre-Lent 2: 500
Pre-Lent 3: 409
Lent 1: 247
Lent 2: 522
Lent 3: 258
Lent 4: 347
Lent 5: 168
Lent 6: 162
M. Thurs.: 311
G. Friday: 142
Easter: 195
Easter 1: 208
Easter 2: 431
Easter 3: 263
Easter 4: 387
Easter 5: 458
Ascension: 216
Easter 6: 267
Pentecost: 224
Trinity: 233
Trinity 1: 231
Trinity 2: 494
Trinity 3: 319
Trinity 4: 236
Trinity 5: 421
Trinity 6: 369
Trinity 7: 19
Trinity 8: 228
Trinity 9: 366
Trinity 10: 326
Trinity 11: 329
Trinity 12: 34

Trinity 13: 442
Trinity 14: 393
Trinity 15: 526
Trinity 16: 517
Trinity 17: 473
Trinity 18: 429
Michaelmas :254
Trin. 19 (M1): 26
Trin. 20 (M2): 260
Trin. 21 (M3): 261
Trin. 22 (M4): 321
Trin. 23 (M5): 524
Trin. 24 (M6): 590
Trin. 25 (M7): 407
Trin. 26 (M8): 611
Trin. 27 (M9): 609

Intercessions

For the Sick

Merciful God, you sent your Son into the world to share our needs and to comfort us in our sicknesses and troubles. We ask you to help [Give name or names] in his hour of need. Strengthen *him* against temptation, and give *him* patience and joy in the knowledge that you make all things work together for the good of those who rest in your love; and if it is your will, restore *him* to health. We ask this for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.

For a Mother and Her Baby

Lord God, we praise you for the wonderful way you bring a new person into the world. We thank you for giving strength to [Give mother's name] in the crisis of childbirth and for bringing her happiness with the gift of a son. We ask you to keep mother and baby in your care and to protect them from danger to body and soul. As long as they live, remind them of the baptism by which you will make (have made) this boy Your own redeemed child, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For a Couple About to be Married

O God, Author and Protector of marriage, look with favor on the plans, hopes, and dreams of (Give names of couple) who are about to be married, Send the Holy Spirit into their lives, so that their marriage may be a reflection of the unselfish love you have shown to all of us. Let them share with each other many years of love and joy, of honor, service, and thankfulness. In bright days and in dark ones, fill them with the fulness of your blessing, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

After a Death

O God, Lord of life and death, we thank you for all the blessings you have shown to (Give name) during his life on earth. We praise you especially for calling *him* to faith in your Son so that *he* can now be restored to the godly perfection which you intended for all people. Comfort those who will miss *him* with the sweet hope of a happy reunion in heaven. Help us by your Holy Spirit to live our lives according to your purpose and to look forward to the great resurrection day when we will feel in our bodies the full power of Easter morning, through the risen Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Copyright @ New York International Bible Society, 1978

Used by permission

Traditional Introits

First Sunday in Advent

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame. Ps.: Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths.

Second Sunday in Advent

Daughter of Zion, see, your Savior comes! The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and your hearts will rejoice. Ps.: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

Third Sunday in Advent

Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all; the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Ps.: You showed favor to your land, O LORD, you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

You heavens above, rain down righteousness and let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide; let salvation spring up. Ps.: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Christmas Day

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Ps.: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Or:

The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. Ps. : The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.

First Sunday after Christmas

Your statutes stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days, O LORD. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. Ps.: The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.

The Name of Jesus (New Year's Day)

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! What is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you care for him? Ps.: You, O LORD, are our Father; Redeemer from of old is your name.

Sunday after New Year

Your statutes stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days, O LORD. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. Ps.: The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.

The Epiphany of our Lord

Behold, the LORD, the Ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand. Ps.: Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

First Sunday after the Epiphany

I saw the Lord seated on a throne high and exalted; then I heard what sounded like a great multitude shouting: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

Ps.: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

The Introit, for Transfiguration, the Sixth

Sunday after Epiphany, is used every year on the last Sunday of this season.

All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you; they sing praise to your name. Ps.: Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing to the glory of his name; offer him glory and praise!

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Worship him, all you gods! Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, O LORD.

Ps.: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice!

Fourth and Fifth Sundays after the Epiphany

(The Introits are the same as for the Third Sunday)

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany (The Transfiguration)

Your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.

Ps.: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the LORD.

First Sunday in Pre-Lent (Septuagisma)

The cords of death entangled me; the cords of the grave coiled around me. In my distress I called to the LORD; from his temple he heard my voice. Ps.: I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress.

Sunday after the Ascension (Exaudi)

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD. Hallelujah! When you said: Seek my face, my heart said to you: Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Ps.: The LORD is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?

The Festival of Pentecost

The Spirit of the LORD fills the world. Hallelujah! May the righteous be glad and rejoice before God. May they be happy and joyful. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Ps.: May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may His foes flee before him.

The Festival of the Holy Trinity

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! From him and through him and to him are all things.

Ps.: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

First Sunday after Trinity

O LORD, I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.

Ps.: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

Second Sunday after Trinity

The LORD was my support; he brought me out into a spacious place. He rescued me because he delighted in me.

Ps.: I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress.

Third Sunday after Trinity

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

Ps.: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame.

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Ps.: Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear.

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD. You have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Ps.: The LORD is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Ps.: To you I call, O LORD my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

Ps.: He subdued nations under us and peoples under our feet.