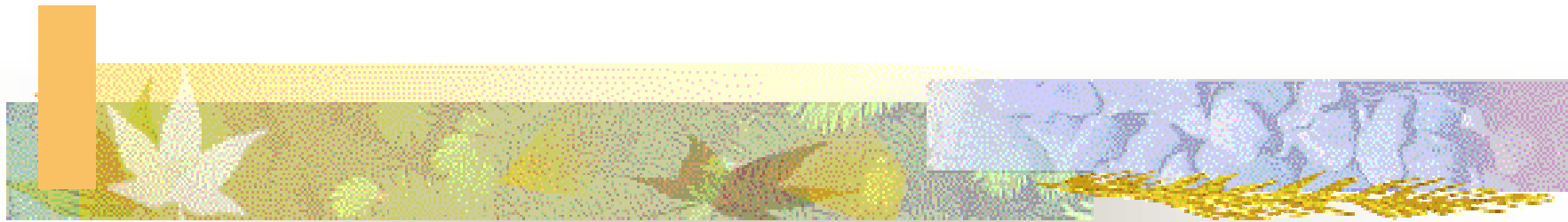


# Small Church Worship that Glowes with the Gospel



WELS Worship Conference  
July 21-24, 2002

# Steven C. Degner

- Served two congregations with 100 in worship. Currently in Santa Maria, CA.
- Serving California Mission Board and helping missions with worship





# Small Church Worship

- “Worship is the preeminent “program” in a small congregation, and in terms of retaining and attracting members” – WELS BPS Small Church Task Force

# Old Testament Temple Worship

- Focused
- Involved
- Diverse
- Exciting



# Focused

- Old Testament worship was keenly focused on the blood that was shed in the temple sacrifices.



# Involved

- God's people became known through out the world for the singing that took place in Zion.
- Psalm 137



# Diverse

- The psalms indicate a diversity of musical instruments, and a variety of different ways to praise the Lord.
- Psalm 149



# Exciting

- The people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna and words from Psalm 118.





# New Testament Worship



It amazes us that in the New Testament there is very little direction on what should be done for worship



# Focus on the Lamb

- John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb..”
- Revelation 7:9,10 “Before the throne of the Lamb”
- “Our Christo-centric liturgy places the emphasis on the fact that Christ is present among us, serving us with His mercy and grace through His Word and Sacraments. The focus is on Him, not on us.”



# People are Involved

- Living stones built on the living stone to offer sacrifices of thanksgiving to the Lord  
1 Peter 2:1-10
- People helping people see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- People helping people see that God is serving his people. “Gottesdienst”



# Worship is diverse

- “Gloria” (how many versions?)
- Antiphonal, congregation singing, soloist groups, instruments, organ, piano, MIDI
- the best of the arts
- Worship reaches into other cultures for music and hymns- Psalm 22:17, Revelation 7:9
- Worship remains focused on the Lamb



# Christ centered joy

- Christians believe that there was a day when the rejected stone became the head of the corner and the keystone of the arch. Psalm 118
- Good worship focuses on what the Lord has done for us, rather than what we feel inside of ourselves.
- Worship involves gathering around the handling of “sacred things.” (The Word and Sacraments)



# Gathering and Entrance

- When we gather for worship in our small missions we have an opportunity to practice hospitality at the highest level
- In small churches Lutheran worship provides the pastor with a good opportunity to greet people and welcome them to worship with the Lord.
- We gather and enter to be directed to look up to the Lord, not inward to ourselves



# Confession of Sin and Absolution

- Lutheran worship excels in proclaiming the gospel through the confession of sins.
- Lutheran worship provides a rhythm and flow of God speaking to us, and then we respond to God's grace and mercy to us.
- Different ways to respond to the absolution



# God comes to us in the Word

- Readings chosen from the pericope series
- There is a theme for worship
- Elevating the gospel in a mission setting
- Preaching in a small congregation offers special opportunities for object lessons and more congregation involvement
- Hymns reflect the message or theme





# Response to the Word

- Offertory –”Create in me” “Change My Heart O God” Apostles Creed in word or song. “Wir Glauben Allen Einen Gott”
- Gifts of love
- The Choir May give their offering
- Prayers that flow from the joy of forgiveness and peace with our God



# The Blessing

- “Brothers and sister go in peace...”
- Blessing connects with Christians of all ages and throughout our world today
- Closing Hymn ends in triumph, thought for the day, or fervent prayer. One stanza
- “The sending out”



# Holy Communion

- The handling of Holy Things needs to be done in awe and reverence even in small setting
- There is often a lack of understanding why we sing what we do as we celebrate the Lord's Supper



# The Church Year


- Helps with planning for the year
- Provides themes and wealth of resources
- Provides opportunities for outreach
- Beauty of banners and liturgical colors for the season
- How can this be accomplished in a mission setting?



# Worship Reflects Theology

- "One can't tap the finger of liturgy without immediately getting the whole hand of theology."  
(Gerardus van der Leeuw)
- “Some might ask, what would be the use of uniformity of ceremonies? The answer: What is the use of a flag on the battlefield? Even though a soldier cannot defeat the enemy with it, he nevertheless sees by the flag where he belongs. We ought not to refuse to walk in the footsteps of our fathers.” (Walther, *Essays for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 194).

# Singing Lutheran Hymns in the Small Church

- Piano or keyboard with “instruments”
- Antiphonal singing of hymns
- Sound system for leader singer(s)
- Tapes and CD’s to teach hymns
- Singing hymns before worship begins
- Power Point to lead the people
- Midi Files –Sample 



# Awake My Heart with Gladness

Awake, my heart, with gladness! See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.  
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.

The Foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb.  
But low, he now is routed; His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory  
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens--What peace it does impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.



# Behold a Host Arrayed in White

Behold a host, arrayed in white,  
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright;  
With palms they stand. Who is this band  
Before the throne of light?  
These are the saints of glorious fame,  
Who from the great affliction came  
And in the flood Of Jesus' blood  
Are cleansed from guilt and blame.  
Now gathered in the holy place,  
Their voices they in worship raise.  
Their anthems swell Where God does dwell  
Mid angels' songs of praise.





# Down From the Mount of Glory

Down from the mount of glory Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Recall the wondrous story, Rich gem in sacred Word.  
Again your faith will view him In double glory here;  
The greater homage due him Will in your life appear.

Transfigured, Christ, the lowly, Stood radiant in the light,  
Light found in Godhead solely, For human eyes too bright.  
Then came a voice from heaven, Confirmed what here we see;  
The words "my Son" were given To seal his deity.

Yet mark this glory hidden! See him the mount descend  
And, by the Father bidden, His willing footsteps bend  
To seek humiliation In deepest depths of woe,  
To suffer degradation No mind can probe or know.

Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame  
Our Lord again ascended A mount -- the hill of shame.  
Upon the cross he proffered Himself to agony;  
His holy soul he offered To set the guilty free.

Then hail the double glory Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
And let the wondrous story Full peace and joy afford!  
The holy mount acclaims him The majesty divine;  
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer -- yours and mine.



# Dear Christians One and All Rejoice

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And, with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How his right arm the vict'ry won.  
How dearly it has cost him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
In sin my mother bore me.  
Yet deep and deeper still I fell;  
Life had become a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.

He spoke to his beloved Son:  
"Tis time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown,  
And bring mankind salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with you forever."



# Lord You I Love.. (Stanza 3)

*Lord, let at last your angels come;  
To Abram's bosom bear me home  
That I may die unfearing.*

And in its narrow chamber keep  
My body safe in peaceful sleep  
Until your reappearing.

*And then from death awaken me  
That my own eyes with joy may see,*

*O Son of God, your glorious face,  
My Savior and my Fount of grace.*

**Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
And I will praise you without end.**



# Wake Awake-Midi File

"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"  
The watchmen on the heights are crying,  
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Oh, where are all you virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes -- awake!  
Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!  
With bridal care Yourselves prepare  
To meet the Bridegroom who is near."





# Lutheran Hymns with Beat

- “Lord Keep Us Steadfast” 
- “Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness” 



# Electronics

- Organ
- Keyboard with MIDI
- Sequencer to play the MIDI files
- Sound modules for improved sounds
- Laptop computer



# Electronics

- Sound system/mixer
- CD and tape system
- Music Studio Programs (Cakewalk)
- MIDI File sources (Internet, CMM, Purchase files, Share files)
- Video Projection system
- Music Scan and MIDI Recognition (Smart Score)

# Electronics

- Smart Score- Finale
- Copies music and converts the score to a MIDI file
- Sample (“Father I Adore You”-LAPPY)





The header features a textured, light-colored background with a horizontal bar in shades of orange and yellow. The bar has a gradient and a slightly wavy edge. Above the bar, there are faint, stylized images of a white starburst, a yellow flower, and a blue and white abstract pattern.

# Printing Out the Worship Service

- “You’re holding a map... that leads us on a path of worship called *liturgy*. It’s a worship style purposely charted to bring us to Jesus and his Word. This prevents our getting lost in today’s fads, or disoriented by society’s opinions. Instead, it aligns our feelings to the Truth, and puts our plans and priorities on a spiritual bearing.”

## Psalm 118

## Psalm 118

Choir or cantor and congregation

Brian Henkelmann

Choir/Cantor:

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**Congregation:**



I will not die but live, and will pro-claim what the Lord has done.

Choir:

The Lord is my strength and my song;

He has become my salvation.

The Lord's right hand is lifted high;

The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**Congregation:**

**I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

Choir:

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

I will give you thanks for you answered me;

You have become my salvation.

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**Congregation:**

**I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

Choir:

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad.

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**Congregation:**

**I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

# You Are Redeemed

Reproducible Congregational Page

## You Are Redeemed

R. C. J.

RICHARD C. JEFFREY

1st time: Choir/Cantor  
2nd time: Congregation

### Refrain



You are re - deemed by Christ our ris - en Lord!



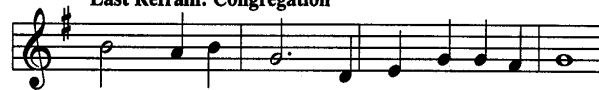
You are re - deemed by Christ our ris - en Lord!

Choir/ 1 You are redeemed by our Lord Jesus Christ  
Cantor who rose in glory for you.  
Since you have put on the garment of Christ  
you are created anew.

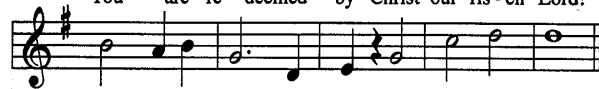
### Refrain: Congregation

Choir/ 2 You have been washed in the waters of life.  
Cantor Now you are clean as the snow.  
You shall not dwell in the shadow of sin,  
but in his marvelous light.

### Last Refrain: Congregation



You are re - deemed by Christ our ris - en Lord!



You are re-deemed by Christ our ris - en Lord!

Copyright © 1998 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri.  
Reproduced by permission.

*Permission is given to reproduce this page only in congregational worship folders. The above copyright notice must be included in the worship folder.*

# Advent Prayer

Reproducible Congregational Page

## Advent Prayer

J. E. C.

JAMES E. CLEMENS

Come, Lord Je - sus, come and dwell,  
dwell in our hearts, Im - man - u - el.

- 1 We are waiting on this day; Jesus will take our fears away.  
We will keep our vigil here, as his Advent draws us near.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**
- 2 We are longing on this day; Jesus will take our sins away.  
As a shepherd, he will lead; gently tend our ev'ry need.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**
- 3 We are reaching on this day; Jesus will lead us, light our way.  
He will show the way of peace, from our darkness bring release.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**
- 4 We will expect him on that day; we prepare our hearts and pray.  
He will bless us with his grace, saving all the human race.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**
- 5 Jesus is coming on this night, sent from God to be our light.  
Let us praise our humble king, and with adoration sing,  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**  
Dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.

# Lamb of God



## Lamb of God

Kenneth Kosche

**Introduction:** **Solo:** **Congregation:**

4 8

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you

take away the world's sin, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have

**Choir only:**

mer-cy up-on us. 1. As high as the heav'ns are  
2. A Fa-ther's heart you

o-ver the earth, so great is your love for us. As far as the east is  
turn to us, you hear us when we call, Now Lord, in com-pas-sion,

from the west, so far have you re-moved our sin.  
lend your ear, you know our needs, Oh, hear our prayer.

**Congregation:**

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take away the world's sin,

1. Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have mer-cy up-on us.  
2. Lamb of God, Lamb of God, give to us your peace.



# Melodic Gloria

Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Cong: (refrain) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Choir: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.

**Cong: (refrain) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Choir: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you, we praise you for your glory.

**Cong: (refrain) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Choir: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive, receive our prayer.

**Cong: (refrain) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Choir: For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

**Cong: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth**





# Prepare the Way O Zion

**Prepare the Way O Zion your Christ is  
drawing near!**

**Let every hill and valley a level way  
appear**

**Greet one who comes in glory, foretold  
in sacred story.**

**O blest is Christ that came in God's  
most holy name!**



# Twelve Is Not Enough

Twelve is not enough they needed Jesus.  
We are not enough we need him too/  
Twelve were sent to share his love and mercy  
“Go into the world” he’s calling you. (Refrain)

Peter said he would not leave the master  
Then he ran away in deepest fear.  
Later he became a famous witness,  
Preaching in the Lord salvation dear.

“Go into the world and preach the Gospel!  
Bring the news of vict’ry over sin!  
Baptize in the Name that chases Satan!  
Share the love of Jesus; bring them in!”





# Lamb of God (Paris)

Your only Son no sin to hide,  
But you have sent him from your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh wash me in his precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.



# Nobody Cared

Nobody wanted Him; No body cared  
Nobody wanted Him; no one shared  
In the promise He brought as a babe that night  
No body, nobody, nobody cared.

*(2 more stanzas)*

But oh how the thousands came then the bread was multiplied!  
And, oh, how the hosannas rang at their King's triumphant ride!  
And as long as the miracles flowed like wine,  
They called him wonderful, they came to dine.



# Antiphonal Hosanna

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!**



# Hosanna (with palms)

Hosanna, hallelujah Sing we loud and clear  
Hosanna, hallelujah Jesus Christ is near.  
With ancient psalms and new grown palms  
Praise him on his way. Hosanna hallelujah!  
Christ our Lord is here.

This day in spring the streets will ring with voices sweet and  
lyrical  
To greet our Lord, the One adored, His very life a miracle.



# The Burial

Gently, we took His body down, wrapped the spice and linen round our Lord.  
Tenderly we took the crown of thorn, from the head that took the scorn, Jesus  
our Lord.

Mary and Mary Magdalene, saw the final bitter scene, of our Lord  
Carefully watched all that was done, to the Savior and the Son. Jesus our Lord.

Love made Him carry all our sin, and with love we carried Him, our Lord.  
Carefully watched all that was done, to the Savior and the Son, Jesus, our Lord.

There was no more we could do, there was no more we could say. So we  
covered his dear face, rolled the heavy stone in place.. Then we walked away.





# Stay with Us

Stay with us, till night has come; our praise to You this day be sung. Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus be our great surprise.

Walk with us our spirits sigh, hear us when our weary spirits cry  
Feel again our loss, our pain; Jesus, take us to your side.

Walk with us the road will bend: make all our weeping, wailing  
end. Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.



# Holy Is the Lord

Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.  
Holy is the Father, holy is the Son,



# Mission Medley

From Greenland's icy mountains,  
From India's coral strands,  
Go tell it on the mountains,  
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

REFRAIN: Go tell it on the mountains,  
over the hills and everywhere! Go tell it  
on the mountains that Jesus Christ is  
Lord!

If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say he died for all.





# Bless the Lord

Psalm 103: “Bless the Lord...”





# Ballad of the Cross

By the prophets, God foretold  
of the sending of His Son  
Who would give His life  
to set the captive free.  
Stepping down from His throne  
and the glory He had known,  
Jesus came to give His life for you and me.  
Though He knew well the cost,  
He was prepared to suffer loss  
and give Himself as ransom for us all.  
Into our hopeless world He came,  
Endured the suffering and the shame,  
Every moment staying faithful to the call.



# I Believe

I believe in the old rugged cross,  
I believe there my sins were all lost,  
I believe Jesus lives,  
I believe Jesus died,  
I believe that He rose from the dead.  
I believe He lives by His Father's side,  
and His Spirit lives in me.



# Conclusion

- “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes... With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. Psalm 118:22-23, 27

