

Christian Worship: Supplement

Proclaiming Christ and Feeding Christ's People

*Presented at the
WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts
Gustavus Adolphus College
St. Peter, MN
July 29 and 30, 2008*

Steven Lange
Hope Lutheran Church
4200 Shenandoah Dr.
Louisville, KY 40241
(502) 423-1211
steven.lange@insightbb.com

† Lutheran Worship

1. *Gottesdienst*. “service of God.”
2. God’s service to us through his means of grace is primary. Our service to him flows from his service to us.
3. The Gospel in Word and Sacraments = the Holy Spirit’s amazingly simple, yet amazingly powerful toolbox.
4. Feeding God’s people with his Word and Sacraments is the focus of every Divine Service.

† The Goal of Christian Worship: Supplement

1. “The work of the committee is to prepare a supplement to *Christian Worship* that will assist worshipers and worship planners by providing them with a resource that
 - a. REFLECTS WORSHIP AS PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL...
2. “The goal was to deliver to the church a strongly Christ-centered book.”
3. With its deliberate focus on Christ and his means of grace, *CWS* will serve, with God’s blessing, as a wonderful resource for Lutheran worshipers.

† CWS Editions Offered

1. See the attached Product Description for *Christian Worship: Supplement*.
2. Graphic and text files for the worship resources included in the printed edition are available on the Electronic Pew Edition.
3. Alternate accompaniments, instrumental parts, and MIDI files for the services, psalms, and hymns are included on the CD that comes with the Accompaniment Edition.
4. MIDI FILES ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE ELECTRONIC PEW EDITION.

† Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism (pp. 8–10)

1. The first means of grace many of us experienced was Baptism.
2. Baptism is not just “something that happened once long ago.” It is something we live in every day of our lives (Romans 6).
3. The Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism is one way in which we can encourage people to remember their Baptisms daily.

- a. This rite is intended for use on any occasion, not just when there is a Baptism. (In fact, using this rite when there is not a Baptism is a wonderful way of communicating Baptism's importance for each of us every day of our lives.)
- b. The various actions of the rite draw attention to Baptism:
Rite is conducted at the font.
Water is poured into the font in connection with the speaking of the Invocation. [This provides a good opportunity for teaching God's people about the connection between the Invocation, the sign of the cross, and Baptism.]
- c. Music is based on the baptismal hymn "Baptized into Your Name Most Holy" (CW 294).
- d. Responses focus attention on the Bible's teachings about Baptism.

† Gathering Rite on the Word of God (pp. 11-14)

1. After our Baptism, the Holy Spirit continued his work in our hearts through his Word.
2. The Gathering Rite on the Word of God gives us an opportunity to focus the attention of God's people on this other form of the means of grace.
 - a. Music is based on the hymn "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" (CW 221).
 - b. Responses focus attention on the blessings we receive through God's Word.
3. Why no Gathering Rite on the Lord's Supper?
Our original plan was to have three gathering rites, one focusing on each form of the means of grace. However, as we worked on the gathering rites, our Gathering Rite on the Lord's Supper began to feel "redundant," given the Liturgy's already strong focus on the Lord's Supper.

† Divine Service I (pp. 15-27)

1. In the Divine Service, all three forms of the means of grace come together.
2. The title "Divine Service" was deliberately chosen to emphasize that in this service, God comes to us and serves us with his means of grace.
3. This setting of the Divine Service is the same as the setting previously published in *Christian Worship: New Service Settings*.
4. New in this printing: Introductions to the canticles are noted in the congregational parts to avoid confusion. ("Do I start singing right away, or do I wait?")

† Divine Service II (pp. 28–37)

1. Divine Service II follows the pattern of the historic Christian liturgy and is designed to help worshipers grow in their appreciation of the liturgy. Note especially the explanatory footnotes and Scripture references included in the order of service.
2. This service is intended for use when the Lord’s Supper is celebrated.
3. Music for the canticles is a combination of hymn tunes and through-composed music.
 - a. Canticles using hymn tunes:
 - “Glory Be to God”
 - “Holy, Holy, Holy”
 - “Song of Simeon”Suggested hymn tunes are listed in the Accompaniment Edition.
Meters for canticles were chosen to provide as great a variety of hymn tunes as possible.
 - b. Through-composed canticles:
 - “Verse of the Day”
 - “Lamb of God.”
4. Confession, Absolution, and “Lord, Have Mercy” share a “life and death” theme.
5. Note new text chosen for the general Verse of the Day (Romans 10:17).
6. Nicene Creed follows the sermon.
7. Note that the Lord’s Prayer is not spoken after the Prayer of the Church. It is spoken during the Communion Liturgy after the Prayer of Thanksgiving.
8. New Proper Prefaces are included in this service.
9. Prayer of Thanksgiving:
 - a. “Although a thanksgiving prayer imitating the words of Jesus who gave thanks as he instituted the holy meal was part of the earliest Christian rites, Luther eliminated the prayer along with the entire Canon of the Mass. Over the span of hundreds of years the church before Luther had filled the sacramental prayers with false teaching and had all but hidden the simple gospel words Jesus spoke to his followers on that holy night in the upper room. For centuries following the Reformation, therefore, Lutheran pastors invited worshipers, ‘Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,’ but offered no thanksgiving.

“In recent years Lutherans around the world have labored to compose Thanksgiving Prayers for the liturgy of the Sacrament that contain orthodox teaching and do not obscure the Words of Institution. Such prayers are offered for use in *Christian Worship Supplement*.” (Taken from the introduction to the Opening Service for this Worship Conference)

- b. The Prayer of Thanksgiving included in Divine Service II was carefully crafted so that the focus remained entirely on Christ, his work of redemption, and the gifts he gives us in his Holy Supper.
- c. Seasonal Prayers of Thanksgiving are included in both the Electronic Pew Edition and the Accompaniment Edition.

† **Psalms (pp. 38–62)**

- 1. As God feeds us with his Word in the Divine Service, we join God’s people throughout the ages in singing from God’s “Old Testament Hymnbook,” the Psalms.
- 2. CWS includes 24 new psalm settings.
 - a. Settings of psalms not included in *Christian Worship*:
 - Psalm 3
 - Psalm 14
 - Psalm 37
 - Psalm 40
 - Psalm 69
 - Psalm 110
 - Psalm 115
 - Psalm 122
 - Psalm 124
 - Psalm 142
 - b. New settings of psalms included in *Christian Worship*:
 - Psalm 22 (Good Friday)
 - Psalm 24 (Palm Sunday)
 - Psalm 30 (Easter Dawn)
 - Psalm 46 (Reformation)
 - Psalm 47 (Ascension)
 - Psalm 51a (Ash Wednesday)
 - Psalm 51b (Day of Pentecost)
 - Psalm 72 (Epiphany Day)

Psalm 96 (Christmas Eve)
Psalm 98 (Christmas Day)
Psalm 116 (Maundy Thursday)
Psalm 118 (Easter Day)
Psalm 148 (Transfiguration)
Psalm 150 (Trinity Sunday)

† **Meditations (pp. 64–79)**

1. The Divine Service is not the only time when we gather with God’s people to be fed by his Word. Families gather for devotions. Church groups gather for meetings or activities. For these times (as well as for those times when individual Christians take time to be fed by God’s Word), CWS includes 7 different devotional orders.
2. The first three are meant to coincide with different times of the day:
Morning Meditation
Midday Meditation
Evening Meditation
3. The remaining four give us the opportunity to meditate on different sections of Luther’s Small Catechism:
Meditation on the Commandments of God
Meditation on the Creed
Meditation on Our Christian Calling
Meditation on the Ministry of the Keys
In each of these “Catechism Meditations,” a section of the Small or Large Catechism is read.
4. Following the meditations is a Plan for Intercession, which can be a useful tool to help God’s people make prayers, requests, intercession, and thanksgiving for everyone (1 Timothy 2:1).

† **The Supplemental Lectionary (pp. 80–82)**

1. As we serve God’s people with his Word, we traditionally have used lectionaries to help us choose portions of God’s Word to be included in the Divine Service each week.
2. The Supplemental Lectionary included in CWS is meant to supplement (not replace) the three-year lectionary currently included in *Christian Worship*.

- a. Since the Gospel determines the theme for the day, all Gospel selections (with only two exceptions) remain unchanged in the Supplemental Lectionary.
 - b. Supplemental First Lessons were chosen with the goal of including as many Old Testament narratives in the lectionary as possible.
 - c. Supplemental Second Lessons were chosen with the dual goal of including narratives from Acts where possible and of offering an alternative to the *lectiones continuae* that are common during the “green” times of the church year.
 - d. The new psalms included in CWS are included in the Supplemental Lectionary.
3. Strengths of the Supplemental Lectionary
- a. God’s people have the opportunity to hear more of his Word and become familiar (perhaps for the first time) with many important events in Bible history.
 - b. All three Lessons each Sunday are tightly bound together by a single theme.
4. Challenges of the Supplemental Lectionary
- a. Some “challenging” sections of Scripture are included in the lectionary (e.g., Revelation 20 or an Aramaic portion of Daniel).
 - b. Some Lessons may be difficult to preach on because of their length (e.g., the First Lesson for Advent 1A: Genesis 6:9–22; 7:11–23).
 - c. We believe that the tremendous benefit God’s people will receive from hearing and becoming familiar with more of God’s Word makes the effort of dealing with the challenges of this lectionary more than worth it.
5. While the Supplemental Lectionary is not meant to replace the current lectionary, we strongly encourage you not to switch back and forth between the Supplemental Lectionary and the regular lectionary from Sunday to Sunday. If you are going to use the Supplemental Lectionary, follow it all the way through the year if you can.
- a. The Supplemental Lectionary does include lessons that are in the regular lectionary, but assigns them to different days.
 - b. If you switch back and forth between the two lectionaries, you will have a greater chance of duplicating lessons within the same year or even the same season.
6. You can use the Supplemental Lectionary even if you do not purchase the entire Supplement. It is available for download at the WELS Worship Web site.

† Hymns

1. God feeds his people not only through his spoken Word, but also through his Word as it is sung.
2. CWS includes 85 new hymns and 3 new canticles that you can use as you proclaim Christ to his people and feed them with his means of grace.
3. Take the time to familiarize yourself with these hymns.
 - a. Some are familiar hymns set to new tunes.
 - b. Some are new hymns that people have come to know but haven't yet been included in our hymnal.
 - c. Many have tremendously profound words that beautifully proclaim Christ and his Gospel.
 - d. Of special interest are the hymns on the Sacraments (2 new baptismal hymns and 5 new Lord's Supper hymns).
4. Work with your musicians to help your congregation become familiar with the new hymns.

† Planning with CWS

1. With the addition of CWS, you now have yet another book full of resources to keep in mind as you plan each week's Divine Service.
2. How will you be able to use all this? Plan for it!
 - a. Look ahead and plot out when you might want to introduce a Gathering Rite, a new order of service, a new psalm, or a new hymn.
 - b. Share your plans with your musicians so that they can assist you.
 - c. Any time you can spend in advance planning will make using all the resources of CWS that much easier and beneficial for God's people.

*God grant that CWS may be a blessing to you
as you continue your all-important work of
PROCLAIMING CHRIST
and
FEEDING CHRIST'S PEOPLE!*