

An Overview Of *Lutheran Worship*

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History of Development of LW

History of our *Book of Hymns* and *The Lutheran Hymnal*

1917 *Book of Hymns* 320 hymns, meager liturgy; 43 pre-hymn pages

1940 *The Lutheran Hymnal* 660 hymns; 170 pre-hymn pages

expanded liturgies; matins and vespers; more prayers; psalms (92); propers

History of LW

1953 LCMS considered developing a revised hymnal

1965 abandoned the project and joined with other bodies to develop a "Pan American" worship book

1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) LCMS for doctrinal reasons commissioned their Commission on Worship to revise LBW as quickly as possible

1982 LW on market

Decision of our Synod: 1981 To publish guidelines for the study of LW by individuals, conferences, and district conventions over next two years; to study the possibility of our Synod's preparing its own hymnal and present its study to 1982 district conventions for their evaluation.

Note: As we look at LW we want to point out the commendable things and the things that may present problems.

THE PRE-HYMN SECTION OF LW

Comparison with our orders of worship (P. 5, P. 15 of TLH; Divine Service I of LW)

1. Rubrics
2. Musical responses in general the same; language is updated
3. Efforts to make more use of psalms
 - a) Introits expanded;
 - b) a whole psalm;
 - c) an entrance hymn
4. *Kyrie* (possibility of substituting LW No. 209 (TLH No. 6)
5. *Gloria in Excelsis*
 - a) During Advent: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (Canticle 1)
 - b) During Lent: The Royal Banners Forward Go (Canticle 2)
6. Salutation and Collect Chanting possible
7. OT Reading; followed by a response and the Gradual for the Season, or the "Appointed Psalm"
8. Epistle ("This is the Word of the Lord" followed by verse sung by choir or the Alleluia)
9. Gospel with same responses
10. Creed (either Creed with the possibility of chanting it or a hymn version could be sung)
11. After sermon: Offering before the Offertory
12. When no communion, service to be continued on page 155
13. Two forms of the Lord's Prayer
14. Words of Institution may be chanted
15. Minister and assistant receive communion first

16. *Nunc Dimittis* (new music) Old form possible, Canticle 2

17. Benediction chanted or said

Other orders:

Divine Service II (two settings) both borrowed from LBW

- Essentially the parts of the liturgy are present; the music is different.
- Some texts are different. The Creed is spoken after the sermon.

Divine Service III Similar to the service Luther had written in 1526

Baptism and Confirmation rites (baptism has certain other practices)

Matins (content same as TLH; language updated; some music is new)

Vespers (similar critique as Matins)

Morning Prayer (another form of Matins from LBW)

Evening Prayer it (another form of Vespers from LBW)

Prayer at Close of Day (Compline) from LBW

Responsive Prayer I (Suffrages for morning) p. 270

Responsive Prayer II Suffrages for other times of day p. 273
(Cf. TLH p. 113, 114, 115)

The Bidding Prayer p. 276 (a prayer for the church) TLH p. 116

The Litany p. 279 TLH p. 110 and No. 661

Propers for Morning and Evening Prayer P. 288 TLH p. 95 ff.

Daily Devotions for Family or Individual p. 293

Daily Lectionary P. 295; TLH P. 161

Catechism P. 300

Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution P. 308

(This is not in connection with Holy Communion; may be used on penitential days or regular monthly or weekly discipline.)

Individual Confession and Absolution P. 310

Emergency Baptism P. 312

The Psalms LW has 60 psalms; TLH has 92

Note: The above material covers 370 pages.

THE HYMN SECTION OF LW

Advent: LW: 8 new hymns; losses for TLH: 7 LW has 22 hymns; TLH: 21

Christmas: LW: 13 new; losses: 13 (O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is; To Thee My Heart I Offer)
LW has 35 hymns; TLH: 37

New Year's Eve: None listed in LW although some are found in other sections
Losses for TLH: 3 TLH has 4 hymns for New Year's Eve

New Year: LW has one new hymn; TLH losses: 3 LW has 4 hymns; TLH: 12

Epiphany: LW: 5 Losses for TLH: none LW has 18; TLH has 10

Lent: LW: 2 new; Losses: 6 (Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, My Light; Sweet the Moments; Behold the Lamb of God) LW has 38; TLH: 49

Easter. LW has 10 new hymns; TLH: one loss Both hymnals have 25 hymns

Ascension: New: 3; Losses; 5; LW has 6 hymns; TLH has 12

Pentecost: LW has 6 new hymns; loss: one; both have 13 hymns

Trinity: LW new: one; Losses: ??
LW has 13 (5 of these are "liturgical;" TLH has 17

Other losses (my judgment: 23)

Revisions: Good: 255, 277, 282, 293, 308
TLH: 355, 366, 352, 477, 475 (st. 2 omitted)

Hymns shortened:

LW 239:	Soul, Adorn Yourself (from 9 to 6 stanzas) TLH 305
LW 246:	Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared (from 8 to 5) TLH 306
LW 355:	Salvation Unto Us Has Come (10 to 6) TLH 377
LW 39:	Once Again My Heart Rejoices (15 to 4) TLH 77
LW 113:	O Sacred Head (10 to 6) TLH 172
LW 19:	O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee (9 to 6) TLH 58
LW 242:	I Come, O Savior, to Your Table (15 to 6) TLH 315
LW 266:	Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense (10 to 7) TLH 206

An improvement in choice of tune:
301 Lord of Our Life (TLH 258)

Spiritual Song that should not have been included: Were You There? LW 505

Translations, revisions, that we would question:

- J 23 Lift Up Your Heads TLH 73 25
- 25 O People, Rise and Labor TLH 75
- 122 O Darkest 'doe TLH 167
- L 111 A Lamb Alone Bears Willingly TLH 142
- 246 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared TLH 306
- D 215 All Glory Be to God on High TLH 237

J has 29 revisions; D has 5; L has 5

Note the version of Abide, O Dearest Jesus LW 287; TLH 53

- st. 1 "grace" (*Gnade*)
- st. 2 "Redeemer" (*Erloeser*)
- st. 3 "brightness" (*Glange*)
- st. 4 "blessings" (*Segen*)
- st. 5 "Protection" (*Schutze*)
- st. 6 "love" (*Treue*)

No doubt there are many improvements in LW, but there are also disappointments; Possibly the problem was created in that the work was done hurriedly.

A problem for average organists: the new harmonizations of the hymns and of the liturgy are difficult. Artistically they are good. Great efforts have been made to get the congregations to sing in unison, not according to voices (soprano, alto, tenor, bass).

One wonders whether it might have been better had they kept some of the simpler hymns according to their original form--not modernizing the texts.

LW has included many good new hymns, "new" in the sense that we are not acquainted with them.