

“The liturgy distinguishes us from those who don’t believe, teach, and confess the same as we do. What we believe determines how we worship, and how we worship confesses what we believe.”



From Pastor’s Desk Top Ten Reasons Why We Use the Liturgy

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

Why the Liturgy? First a definition and a disclaimer. By *liturgy* I mean the western small-c catholic (universal) service form as it has been handed down by way of the Lutheran Reformation consisting of the five fixed canticles—*Kyrie*, *Gloria in Excelsis*, *Credo*, *Sanctus*, and *Agnus Dei*. *Liturgy* also includes the assigned Scripture texts for the Sundays, feast days, and seasons. Most of what I will say about the liturgy of the Divine Service will pertain to liturgical worship in general.

Now, why do we worship according to the western, small-c catholic (universal) liturgy?

1. ***It shows our historic roots.***

Some parts of the liturgy go back to the apostolic period. Even the apostolic church didn’t start with a blank slate but adapted and reformed the liturgies of the synagogue and the Sabbath. We’re not the first Christians to walk the face of the planet, nor, should Jesus tarry, will we be the last. The race of faith is a relay race, one generation handing on (tradition) to the next the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). The historic liturgy underscores and highlights this fact. And it allows us to hand on that faith to the generations that follow us.

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2. *It serves as a distinguishing mark.*

The liturgy distinguishes us from those who don't believe, teach, and confess the same as we do. What we believe determines how we worship, and how we worship confesses what we believe.

3. *It is both Theocentric and Christocentric.*

From the invocation of the Triune Name in remembrance of Baptism to the three-fold benediction at the end, the liturgy is focused on the activity of the Triune God centered in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Worship is not primarily about *me* or *we* but about God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself and my baptismal inclusion in it.

4. *It teaches.*

The liturgy teaches the whole counsel of God — creation, redemption, sanctification, Christ's incarnation, passion, resurrection, and reign, the Spirit's outpouring and the new life of faith. Every liturgical year cycles through these themes so that the hearer receives the "whole counsel of God" on a regular basis.

5. *It is transcultural.*

One of the greatest experiences of my worship life was to be in the Divine Service in Germany and Italy with other Lutherans. Though I spoke only a smattering of German and no Italian, I knew enough to recognize the liturgy, know what was being said, and able to participate knowledgeably across language and cultural barriers.

6. *It is repetitive in a good way.*

Repetition is, after all, the mother of learning. Fixed texts and annual cycles of readings lend to deep learning. Obviously, mindless repetition does not accomplish anything; nor does endless variety.

7. *It is corporate.*

Worship is a corporate activity. "Let *us* go to the house of the Lord." The liturgy draws us

out of ourselves into Christ by faith and the neighbor by love. We are all in this together. Worship is not simply about what "I get out of it," but I am there also for my fellow worshippers to receive the gifts of Christ that bind us together and to encourage each other to love and good works (Heb 10:25). We are drawn into the dialogue of confession and absolution, hearing and confessing, corporate song and prayer.

8. *It rescues us from the tyranny of the "here and now."*

In the liturgy, the Word sets the agenda, defining our needs and shaping our questions. The temptation is for us to turn stones into bread to satisfy an immediate hunger and scratch a nagging spiritual itch, but the liturgy teaches us to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

9. *It is external and objective.*

The liturgical goal is not that everyone feel a certain way or have an identical "spiritual" experience. Feelings vary even as they come and go. The liturgy supplies a concrete, external, objective anchor in the death and resurrection of Jesus through Word, bread, and wine. Faith comes by hearing the objective, external Word of Christ (Rom 10:14–17).

10. *It is the Word of God.*

This is often overlooked by critics of liturgical worship. Most of the sentences and songs of the liturgy are either direct quotations of Scripture, allusions from Scripture, or summaries of Scripture, such as the Creed. In other words, the liturgy is itself the Word of God, not simply a packaging for the Word. Many times the liturgy will rescue a bad sermon and deliver what the preacher has failed to deliver. I know; I've been there. Good sermons are hit and miss. But the Confession and Absolution always delivers the forgiveness of sins. The Lord's Supper always gives forgiveness, life, salvation, and access to the heavenly holy of holies. The read and sung Scriptures always give the Holy Spirit and life (John 6:53).

Calling All Youth: Youth Choir Practice Begins September 11, 2011

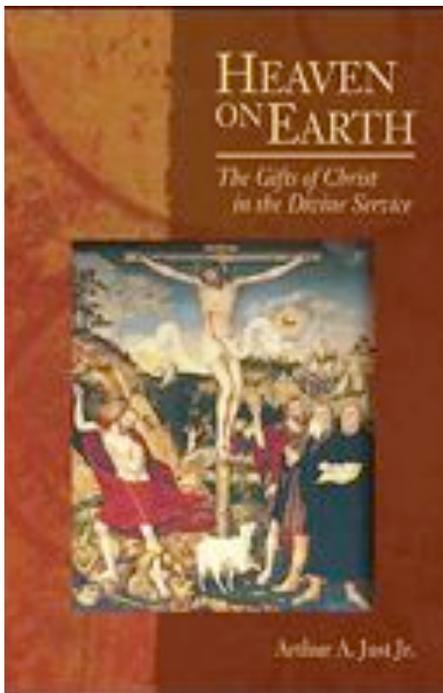
By Mrs. Leigh Ann Whitson

I hope you had a great summer! When Sunday School begins this year, come and be part of Immanuel's Youth Choir! Experience the joy of singing the praises of our Lord and what He has done for us.

Learning hymns not only gives you the opportunity to sing with your parents in the Divine Service, but it's also a fun way to learn the truth of God's holy Word. A wonderful sound fills our sanctuary, our minds, and our heart when the Youth Choir sings. Come join us. You won't regret it.

"The liturgy teaches the whole counsel of God — creation, redemption, sanctification, Christ's incarnation, passion, resurrection, and reign, the Spirit's outpouring and the new life of faith."

Pastor Braaten



The Book of the Month Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service

The liturgy is not a style of worship. The liturgy is the substance of justification as it is brought through means. It is the Word of God, the law and the gospel, enacted upon and in the participant.

This book is an introduction to the liturgy and its importance. It takes the liturgy and makes it easy for the layperson to understand that the New Testament church service brings God's presence, in Jesus the Christ to the people of God who have been cleansed from their sins. This is a holy meeting

made possible by the blood of Christ that cleanses the believer. This understanding of the church service helps one to understand that the church service is more than a meeting place; it is the manifestation of the New Testament church on earth as Christ calls His bride around Word and Sacraments.

Heaven on Earth will deepen your understanding of the Divine Service and why it remains the Church's chief worship service.

Go to www.cph.org to order or call toll free 1 (800) 325-3040.

From the President The Worldwide Reach of the Gospel

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

“He [Jesus] had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest’” (Matt. 9:36–38).

No institution or human factor of the LCMS has been more significant in the spread of the pure Gospel of Jesus and His grace than our two seminaries. Most of us, when considering the work of the St. Louis and Fort Wayne seminaries, have the domestic scene in mind. Many LCMS people think of the seminaries only when it’s time to call a graduate. And that is significant in its own right!

But the seminaries are a resource for the worldwide spread of the Gospel and the strengthening of the Lutheran church around the globe. This happens through the training of missionaries and in the training of



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students from around the world. It is critical that both seminaries retain strong residential master of divinity programs. These are the foundations that also allow for strong graduate-studies programs. For decades, students from all over the world have come to study at our schools. They have returned vastly strengthened in knowledge and passion for the Gospel and have had a profound effect upon churches worldwide.

There is a moment of opportunity that is opening wide before us. The Lord is answering our prayer: “Pray the Lord of the harvest sends workers.” And He’s answering it in a very significant way. There is no other Lutheran church body in the world that combines fidelity to the Gospel and all its articles as confessed in the Book of Concord with the remarkable capacity and worldwide reach of the LCMS.

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Order Your Very Own Copy of *The Lutheran Witness* TODAY!

Get your very own copy of *The Lutheran Witness* delivered right to your mailbox. The editors of *The Lutheran Witness* are running an unbeatable deal. If you order a new subscription between now and the end of September, you will get six months of the some of the best Lutheran thinkers in the world for only \$6.99. Past issues have covered topics like: Defending your faith, 7 Myths about Death, Evidence for the Resurrection, The Church and Technology, and much more.

Call 1 (800) 325-3040 and mention promo code MAY699 when you call or go to www.cph.org. This offer expires 30 September 2011. So call and place your order TODAY!

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It is time to increase vastly the number of international students at our seminaries, not just students studying to become pastors but pastors who are church leaders and future leaders, professors and seminary instructors, in short, the future leaders of world Lutheranism.

Great, solid, Lutheran education that is completely committed to the inerrant Scriptures and the teachings of Luther are the gift and vocation of the LCMS. Our seminaries have been doing this for decades and very successfully too! It's time to provide this opportunity for many more around the world. Funding this effort is an aid to domestic students because tuition assistance keeps costs lower for all students. Having our students rub shoulders with international students opens their eyes to mission opportunities at home and around the world.

We have matching funds for this effort. If you or your congregation want to help, call either seminary, go to lcms.org/projects or call 1-888-930-4438. And join me in praying the Lord of the harvest sends workers.

If we therefore want to show true mercy to the world and to those around us, doing the most important work of Christian mercy, then we must educate and send out teachers of the Gospel. That is also taught in our text. Our text reports that while Christ taught, He also healed all sorts of illness among the people. But when He sums up the desperate situation of the people and places it before our eyes, He does not say, "Pray to the Lord for doctors." He says rather, "Pray to the Lord that He send workers," that is, teachers and preachers, "into His harvest." It is not that the Christian should not be merciful also over against physical need, but rather because He desires to emphasize that they do the most important work of Christian mercy in the preparation and sending out of teachers of the Gospel.
(Francis Pieper)

Pastor Matthew Harrison

"Let's go!" | Mark 1:38

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"There is no other Lutheran church body in the world that combines fidelity to the Gospel and all its articles as confessed in the Book of Concord with the remarkable capacity and worldwide reach of the LCMS."

Education Corner

The Importance of Singing

Mary Had a Little Lamb.” “Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star.” The Alphabet song. We learned each of these songs as children—very young children, in fact—and we still remember them today! Music and singing help us to retain words, ideas, truths.

To pass the Lutheran faith on to the smallest ones, we tell Bible stories, recall great heroes of the faith, and recount God’s goodness through song, both in hymnody and in the liturgy. This teaches them to pray and praise from their earliest days. It gives them the language to do so: the language of the church, God’s own words from the Bible.

(1) One of the easiest ways to help your child memorize Lutheran music is to have them in church each Sunday. Hearing the words of the liturgy during each Divine Service will imprint these words on their minds. Quite often, even those as young as three and four years old will know the words to large portions of the liturgy. That means that, thanks to music, they know verses of the Bible by heart.

(2) Help your child with the hymns that have choruses. They will quickly find it easy and fun to join in the “Hallelujahs” or “Glorias.”

(3) Model participation in the Divine Service. If you aren’t singing along, your child notices. When Mom and Dad aren’t participating, the child mimics that behavior. So you don’t have a great voice. So you don’t particularly like to sing. So you don’t know the hymn. Who cares? Psalm 100:1 says, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord.” It doesn’t say “Make a joyful, perfectly pitched, harmonious, adagio cadence.” It just says, “Make noise!” When you sing out, you teach your child that learning the great hymns of the faith and the liturgy are important and even good for them.

The church has many resources on singing the faith available through Concordia Publishing House. In the meantime, encourage your children to sing their faith, to praise the Lord, and to join in the eternal song of the church and the angels and the whole heavenly chorus who are continually praising our Lord before His throne.

“Singing the faith plants it firmly in the heart.”





LWML Means Mites for Missions. Giving like the widow's mite

In the News

Next Month's (October) Bi-Monthly Mission: The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)

LWML Means Mites for Missions. Giving like the widow's mite

Martin Luther once said, "We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give him praise, thanks, and honor." When our sisters in the faith met at the LWML's organizing convention in 1942, one of their first acts was to select mission projects to support. First was the support of Christ Church Chapel for the Deaf in Cleveland. In postwar Europe, we sent aid to children orphaned by the ravages of World War II. Today, we, like our founders, seek to live our Christian lives in faithful service and outreach. Our mites help educate impoverished children in Guatemala and train evangelists, pastors and leaders in faraway Kazakhstan and in the Philippines. In New York, Beth El Messianic Congregation has been able to create outreach materials for thousands of Russian Jews who have immigrated to the United States in search of a better life.

In the past 63 years, over \$80 million has been contributed through mite offerings. Your gift along with the contributions of others will provide perpetual funding to assist the LWML in continuing

in its history of mission-ministry in the church, the community and among the people of the world.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is a tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501c(3) of the IRS Code. Contributions to LWML are deductible by donors as provided in section 170 of the IRS Code.

If you have any other questions about the Immanuel's LWML—when they meet, what they do, and how you can be a part of it—contact Irene Wattjes.

Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

Greeters List

- 7 Aug Jim Dyer – West
Joan Vukelich – East
- 14 Aug Ruth Sims – West
Laverl Byers – East
- 21 Aug Becky Kappes - West
Tim & Teri Pollock – East
- 28 Aug Harold & Irene Wattjes – West
Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East
- 4 Sep Jim Dyer – West
Joan Vukelich – East
- 11 Sep Ruth Sims – West
Laverl Byers – East
- 18 Sep Becky Kappes – West
Tim & Teri Pollock – East
- 25 Sep Harold & Irene Wattjes – West
Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East

Coffee Committee

- Jul Harold & Irene Wattjes
- Aug Pastor & Lauren Braaten
- Sep Laverl Byers
- Oct Harold & Irene Wattjes
- Nov Jerry & Joyce Alexander
- Dec Pastor & Lauren Braaten

Altar Committee

- Jul Dolores Ford & Becky Kappes
- Aug Janice Arthur & Janet Stumeier

- Sep Wanda Long & Irene Wattjes
- Oct Theresa Fields & Sharon Allen
- Nov Ann Hilgendorf & Carol Munson
- Dec Ann Carroll, Holly Wikoff,
Sherrie Hoel & Tonia Timlin

Bi-Monthly Missions

- 2 Oct LWML
- 4 Dec Christmas Bureau

Elder On Duty – Communion

- 3 Jul Dave Slaughter
- 17 Jul Greg Nau
- 31 Jul Greg Nau
- 7 Aug Greg Nau
- 21 Aug Geof Danielson
- 4 Sep Geof Danielson
- 18 Sep Geof Danielson
- 2 Oct Jack Appleby
- 16 Oct Jack Appleby
- 30 Oct Jack Appleby
- 6 Nov Dave Slaughter
- 20 Nov Dave Slaughter
- 23 Nov Dave Slaughter
- 4 Dec Greg Nau
- 11 Dec Greg Nau
- 18 Dec Greg Nau
- 24 Dec Geof Danielson
- 25 Dec Geof Danielson
- 31 Dec Geof Danielson

ATTENDANCE			OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	General	Missions	Building
7 August	22	71	\$2,183.31	\$110.00	\$0.00
14 August	20	71	\$2,392.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 August	21	70	\$1,750.01	\$0.00	\$0.00
28 August	16	71	\$1,763.35	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	79	283	\$8,089.17	\$110.00	\$0.00
Total	362		\$8,089.17	\$110.00	\$0.00

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.