

## **RETIRING *Lutheran Book of Worship & With One Voice***

*The earliest this rite would normally be used is on Christ the King (Nov. 26), 2006.*

*Alternately, it may be used any time a congregation finishes using LBW or WOV as its usual worship book for the main Sunday service.*

*The implication of this rite, is that on the following Sunday, the new Worship Book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship will be introduced and dedicated (A dedication rite can be found on the text files CD-ROM included with Introducing Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress and distributed to all parishes across the ELCIC.)*

*Thought needs to be given as to what will be done with the retired copies of Lutheran Book of Worship and/or With One Voice. Adjustments to the rite should be made to accommodate these plans.*

*This Rite is intended as an additional liturgical action after the conclusion of the regular Sunday liturgy. Usually, the Sending Rite concludes with "Final Blessing", "Dismissal", and final hymn.*

*The pastor of the congregation leads the rite. She/He might wish to remove the chasuble, leaving the stole, prior to beginning the rite.*

*A suitable container to receive the books given as memorials to the congregation should be placed at the front, near the altar.*

*Following the singing of the final hymn of the service, the congregation is invited to join in retiring their worship books.*

- P Let us give thanks for these worship books  
which have faithfully served us in prayer, singing,  
and the celebration of the Holy Communion.  
They have guided us as an assembly of God's people.

*A representative from the congregation comes forward and says:*

Our congregation received the *Lutheran Book of Worship* in     year      
and we used settings      (and     ).

Later, in     year    , we received *With One Voice*.

Both of these books gave expression to our joys and sorrows  
and guided our gathering around the Word and the Table.  
The texts and hymns that were unfamiliar to us at first,  
have found a place in our hearts.

*The Pastor continues:*

- P The wisdom of the ancient preacher reminds us:  
"For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance." Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2, 4

*An assisting minister or lector leads a responsive reading from the psalms:*

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
**with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**  
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

**your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,

**your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,**

**and your faithfulness by night,**

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

**at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

Psalm 89: 1-2, 5; 92: 1-2, 4

*All join in singing verses one and three (first and last) of hymn number 534 or 533, "Now Thank We all Our God," using Lutheran Book of Worship.*

*After the conclusion of the hymn:*

P O sing to the Lord a new song;

**C tell of his salvation from day to day.**

P Worship the Lord in holy splendour;

**C tremble before him, all the earth.**

Psalm 96: 1/2, 9

P The holy vessel of these green books gave us words for prayer together and songs with which to worship the Lord in holy splendour.

With one voice, we sang a new song when the dark-blue book arrived.

Holy Scripture unfolded in all its fullness

with the 3-year lectionary of *LBW* and we acclaimed the Word in our midst.

With an offering of "ourselves, our time, and our possessions"

we brought gifts to the table

and beyond the Words of Institution, gave thanks through a "Prayer of Thanksgiving".

Our worship evolved and the blessing, song, and dismissal

sent us out in mission.

Never before had we been directed: "Go in peace, serve the Lord."

We will sing of your faithfulness, O Lord, forever.

We will gather to break open your Word and to break bread.

We give thanks for *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*,

but the praise of your name goes on forever.

We retire these books, vessels for our words and songs,

but we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

We remember the persons who were memorialised by these books,

forever remembered in the worship that has no end.

In the retirement of these books,

we begin our proclamation to future generations.

*An assistant minister gives the following instruction in these or similar words:*

As we join in singing hymn number 799,

would anyone who has a hymn book that has a memorial written in the front, please come

forward and place it in the \_\_\_\_\_ at the front.

*Hymn number 799, "When Long Before Time" from With One Voice.*

*If there are other special plans for setting books aside, this should be done at this time.*

*After the hymn is finished:*

P Blessed are you O Lord, our God,  
for those remembered by the dedications in these books.  
They fill your church with the eternal song of praise  
and remind us of your presence long before time  
and long after time has ceased.  
May they who know eternity,  
remind us that our song goes on and our prayers never cease,  
even as we move from one worship book to another.

Let us be conscious of your unchanging love  
as we take leave of these books  
and carry away those remaining.

**C Praise the Lord!**  
**Praise God in his sanctuary;**  
**Praise the Lord!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song,**  
**his praise in the assembly of the faithful**

Psalm 150: 1; 149: 1

*The congregation is now invited to take any remaining hymn books with them out of the worship space.*

*The families who donated books in memory of someone, could be invited afterwards to take home their memorial book. Or these books could be the ones the congregation keeps for use outside of the Worship space, as needed.*

*It would be appropriate for the organist to play “Now Thank We All Our God” as people take books and leave.*

*Perhaps several volunteers could be ready to help clear all worship books out of the pews.*

**A SUGGESTION FOR THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY:**

*To emphasise that the new Worship Book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship belongs to the assembly, on Advent I (or on the Sunday when the new book is dedicated), worshippers should be given a copy as they enter the church (perhaps along with their bulletin), and carry it in. They might continue to hold it or place it in the pew rack.*

*The “Dedication Rite” would then be the first item in the service (see the “Text” CD included in the Introducing Evangelical Lutheran Worship kit).*

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New Revised Standard Version Bible  
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