

CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Notes for the Pastor and Musician	5
Christian Funeral II	11
Prayer at the Close of Day <i>Compline</i> : Setting I	12
Prayer at the Close of Day <i>Compline</i> : Setting II, Organ Accompaniment	22
Prayer at the Close of Day <i>Compline</i> : Setting II, Piano Accompaniment	34
Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent	46
Farewell to Alleluia	49
Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes	51
Palm Sunday: Procession with Palms	65
Maundy Thursday (including the stripping of the altar)	68
Good Friday: Service of the Cross of Christ	74
Good Friday: Service of Darkness <i>Tenebrae</i>	80
Vigil of Easter: Celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection and of Our Baptism	100
Index for Psalm Use	116
Psalms	117
Psalm Prayers	127
Acknowledgements	128

FOREWORD

For decades Lutheran pastors have addressed their congregations by reading from a book called *The Lutheran Agenda*. At special times, at the time of a baptism, a marriage, a funeral, an installation, or a dedication, rites from that book were followed.

When the WELS Commission on Worship presented *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (CW) for publication in 1993, it was necessary to revise and improve the book of rites used for special occasions. Those rites are contained in this volume, *Christian Worship: Occasional Services* (CWOS).

In the Church the word *agenda* has historically meant “things to be done,” as opposed to the word *credenda*, “things to be believed.” *The Lutheran Agenda* offered rites and rubrics to help the people of God see that “this is what we do, and this is how we do it.” Over the years the meaning of the word *agenda* has changed. In a congregation today the word *agenda* is generally understood as the order of business conducted at a church meeting. Consequently, a new name was chosen: *Occasional Services*, services and rites that we use on special occasions.

The Church is the body of Christ. He is the head. We are his arms, his legs, his feet, his hands, his tongue, his mouth. He builds his kingdom as the Church carries out his ministry and proclaims his Word. *Christian Worship: Occasional Services* will help us do the ministry of the Church.

In the first section are rites that serve people during important times of transition: orders for baptism, confirmation, marriage, and funeral.

The second section provides special orders, rites, and services to enrich worship during the church year from Advent through Easter. Some of these services contain customs and traditions of the Church that over the years have become lost among us. Although they are old traditions, they may seem new to some. They are offered, not with the assumption that every parish will use every option, but so that a parish may pick and choose options to make its worship life richer on different occasions. Providing these services helps to set a beneficial standard for their use.

The third section offers orders for the ordination, installation, commissioning, and farewell of those who serve in the church’s public ministry. The book concludes with a section of orders for dedications and thanksgiving.

We give our deep gratitude to those who produced this publication: the CWOS committee as well as those who offered critical review and those who provided field testing. Their work is offered for the glory of our God, for the extension

of his kingdom, and for the building up of his saints. Our prayer as a commission is that congregations will find this a useful tool to aid them in carrying out the ministry to which our Lord Jesus has called them. May he bless its use.

Mark Bitter, Chairman
WELS Commission on Worship

Symbols used in *Christian Worship: Occasional Services*

A	Adult or assisting minister
B	Candle bearer
C	Congregation
G	Group
L	Leader
M	Minister

NOTES FOR THE PASTOR AND MUSICIAN

Christian Worship: Occasional Services includes several services that benefit from musical options. Music is not always provided in the hardbound edition of CWOS, especially where there is an option for speaking rather than singing and where more than one musical setting is provided for a text. Additional musical resources are provided in the electronic edition of CWOS. Parishes are also encouraged to make use of resources from other publishers.

What follows is an overview of musical resources found in the accompaniment edition and in the electronic edition of CWOS. These pages are meant to promote cooperative planning between pastors and musicians. The electronic files allow creation of worship folders and provide music for the choir or cantor. Musical scores for the choir or cantor are on the CD-ROM as PDF files. The entire text of many services is available as a text file in Rich Text Format (RTF). Graphic files (TIF) of melody lines sung by the congregation can be inserted into the text file to create a customized worship folder. **See the README file on the CD-ROM for a complete listing of electronic files and how to use them.**

In addition to the following comments, Service Notes follow many of the services in the hardbound version of CWOS. Many of these are helpful to both pastors and musicians.

Christian Funeral II

This service includes the option of singing hymns and a psalm. A choir or soloist may sing these if the congregation does not sing them. The presiding minister may sing the Verse if a choir or cantor is not present. Two options are provided, one with Alleluias and one for use during Lent that eliminates the Alleluias.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	Fn II.RTF
Verse for choir or cantor	Verse.PDF

Prayer at the Close of Day *Compline*

See the README file on the electronic edition CD-ROM for creating worship folders from the text and graphic files.

Electronic Files

Setting I

Text of the service	Pr CI I.RTF
Opening Sentences	Pr I 1a-h.TIF

Evening Hymn	Pr I 2a-c.TIF
Psalm 91 refrain and psalm tone	Pr I 3a-c.TIF
“Into your hands . . .”	Pr I 4a-f.TIF
“Hear my prayer . . .”	Pr I 5a-f.TIF
Prayer “Amen”	Pr I 6.TIF
Gospel Canticle	Pr I 7a-h.TIF
Blessing	Pr I 8a-c.TIF

Setting II

Text of the service	Pr CI II.RTF
Guitar accompaniment score	Pr II Acc.PDF
Opening Sentences	Pr II 1a-i.TIF
Evening Hymn	Pr II 2a-c.TIF
Psalm 91 refrain and psalm tone	Pr II 3a-c.TIF
“Into your hands . . .”	Pr II 4a-f.TIF
“Hear my prayer . . .”	Pr II 5a-e.TIF
Prayer “Amen”	Pr II 6.TIF
Lord’s Prayer	Pr II 7a-h.TIF
Gospel Canticle	Pr II 8a-h.TIF

Psalms

Psalm 4	P s 004.TIF
Psalm 23	P s 023.TIF
Psalm 27	P s 027.TIF
Psalm 31	P s 031.TIF
Psalm 34	P s 034.TIF
Psalm 91	P s 091.TIF
Psalm 121	P s 121.TIF
Psalm 130	P s 130.TIF
Psalm 134	P s 134.TIF

Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

The opening response for a morning service is the same melody and text as CW page 45. The opening response for an evening service is the same melody and text as CW page 54.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	LC Adv.RTF
Opening Response from Morning Praise	LC Adv 1a-n.TIF
Opening Response from Evening Prayer	LC Adv 2a-i.TIF

Farewell to Alleluia

A graphic file of each melody of the hymn “Alleluia, Song of Triumph” is included for inserting in the text file for worship folders.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	Far All.RTF
“Alleluia, Song of Triumph” (PICARDY)	FA 1a-d.TIF
“Alleluia . . .” (FORTUNATUS NEW)	FA 2a-d.TIF

Ash Wednesday and Holy Week

Several psalm settings are included for the services of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Unlike the shorter CW psalms used on Sundays, these are longer psalm sections or even complete psalms. Their length reinforces the meditative character especially useful in the midweek services but less so in Sunday services. Some psalms are intended to be sung by a cantor or choir and not by the congregation.

Some psalms or antiphons use traditional plainsong melodies: Psalms 51 and 88, the Good Friday: Service of Darkness (*Tenebrae*) antiphons, and a setting of the “Song of Mary” (*Magnificat*). While keyboard accompaniments are provided, these psalms and antiphons may be sung unaccompanied. The starting pitch may be adjusted to the range most comfortable for the singer(s). Notation indicates the pitch but not the exact rhythm. Singing should follow a natural speech rhythm. The optional accompaniment, if used, should be quiet and flexible as it follows subtle rhythmic nuances from verse to verse.

Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes

Graphics for parts sung by the congregation can be inserted into the text file to create a customized worship folder.

In the *Christian Worship* lectionary, Psalm 51a is appointed for Ash Wednesday. When the Imposition of Ashes is offered, the entire Psalm 51 begins the service. This requires an alternate psalm, Psalm 130, to follow the first lesson.

Two settings of Psalm 51 are provided in CWOS electronic files since Psalm 51 is used also in the Good Friday: Service of Darkness (*Tenebrae*) service. Setting One uses a historic plainsong tone and is intended for a choir, cantor, or soloist and not for congregational singing. Sections of the psalm may be sung in alternation between high and low voices. These sections follow the structuring of verses in the NIV Bible: 1-2, 3-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-17, and 18-19. A keyboard accompaniment is provided in the accompaniment edition, but the psalm may be sung unaccompanied. Another option is to ring bells on A and E at the verse and half verse, *ad libitum*, and remain silent for some groups of verses.

Psalm 51 Setting Two uses a triple psalm tone and is intended for a choir, cantor, or soloist and not for congregational singing.

Psalm 130 has two versions. The first one has a single psalm-tone setting for congregational singing. The second version has a double psalm-tone setting for choir, cantor, soloist, or congregation. The same music is used for a setting of the “Song of Mary” (*Magnificat*) in the Good Friday: Service of Darkness (*Tenebrae*).

Electronic Files

Text of the service	Ash Wed.RTF
Psalm 51 Setting One for choir or cantor	Ps 51 I.PDF
Psalm 51 Setting Two for choir or cantor	Ps 51 II.PDF
Psalm 130 Setting One (single psalm tone)	AW 1a-b.TIF
Psalm 130 Setting Two (double psalm tone)	AW 2a-b.TIF
Psalm 130 Setting Two (double psalm tone)	Ps 130 II.PDF

Palm Sunday: Procession with Palms

The graphic for the refrain of Psalm 118 can be inserted into the text file to create a customized worship folder.

Bell chords are provided as an alternative to the keyboard accompaniment for a procession that begins outdoors. Bells also work well for an indoor procession. If bells are used, it is best for a cantor or choir to sing the psalm verses. If the procession is only inside the church, the organ may accompany the refrain while either organ or bells accompany the verses.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	Palm Sun.RTF
Psalm 118 for congregation	Ps 1a-b.TIF
Psalm 118 choir or cantor	Ps 118.PDF

Maundy Thursday (including the stripping of the altar)

The text file of this service does not including the service for Holy Communion. There are no music graphics to insert in the worship folder.

A service note may be used to explain why the congregation does not sing the psalm: “Psalm 88 is sung by the cantor or choir rather than by all so that worshipers may focus on the solemn action of stripping the altar.”

Psalm 88 Setting One uses a historic plainsong tone and is intended for a choir, cantor, or soloist and not for congregational singing. Sections of the psalm may be sung in alternation between high and low voices. These sections of the psalm follow the structuring of verses in the NIV Bible. A keyboard accompaniment is

provided in the accompaniment edition, but the psalm may be sung unaccompanied.

Psalm 88 Setting Two uses a single psalm tone along with an optional refrain, “What wondrous love is this, O my soul!” It is intended for a choir, cantor, or soloist and not for congregational singing; the congregation listens to the psalm and focuses on the action of stripping the altar. Sections of the psalm may be sung in alternation between high and low voices. These sections of the psalm follow the structuring of verses in the NIV Bible.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	M Th.RTF
Psalm 88 Setting One for choir or cantor	Ps 88 I.PDF
Psalm 88 Setting Two for choir or cantor	Ps 88 II.PDF

Good Friday: Service of the Cross of Christ

Graphics files for parts sung by the congregation can be inserted into the text file to create a customized worship folder.

The Reproaches are a prominent feature in this service. Below are listed two options for using the Reproaches.

- Option 1: The minister’s part is spoken, the choir or cantor sings the “Holy Lord God” in unison, and the congregation sings the stanzas of “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy.”
- Option 2: The minister’s part is also sung along with the other parts. The CD-ROM does not include the minister’s music, which is printed in the hardbound CWOS book.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	GF Cross.RTF
Response for congregation	GF Cr 1a-c.TIF
“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” for congregation	GF Cr 2a-d.TIF
Reproaches for choir or cantor	Repr.PDF

Good Friday: Service of Darkness *Tenebrae*

Graphics for parts sung by the congregation can be inserted into the text file to create a customized worship folder.

A variety of options may be used for the psalms in *Tenebrae*. The CWOS book indicates responsive reading of the psalms by presiding minister and congregation. The CWOS electronic files provide options for singing the psalms. Within the same service some psalms may be spoken and some sung.

- In some cases the choir or cantor may sing the antiphon, and the congregation may sing the complete psalm or verses in alternation with choir/cantor.
- The choir in various groupings (high/low voices, cantor/all) may sing both the antiphon and the psalm.
- The choir or cantor may sing the antiphon, and the congregation may read the psalm.
- The presiding minister may sing any portion of this service suggested for choir or cantor.

The accompaniment and electronic editions provide several musical resources for the service. The congregation may sing some of these, but not all are intended for congregational singing. Since there are so many psalms and other musical responses, these elements may be divided between choir/cantor and congregation over the course of the service. The following plan involves the congregation on the simpler settings while giving the more complex settings to choirs or soloists.

1. Psalm 2: congregation
2. Psalm 22: choir or cantor
3. Psalm 27: congregation
4. “Seek the Lord”: choir or cantor
5. “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle” (CW 122): congregation
6. “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” (CW 268): congregation
7. “Song of Mary” (*Magnificat*): congregation, or choir or cantor
 - Setting One uses a double psalm-tone setting for choir, cantor, or congregational singing.
 - Setting Two uses a historic plainsong melody for choir or cantor.
8. The Sentence: choir or cantor
9. Psalm 51: choir or cantor (two options from Ash Wednesday)
10. “Lord, Let at Last Your Angels Come” (CW 434:4): choir or cantor, but not congregation due to darkness

Psalm 22 uses two different psalm tones for sections of the psalm. The organ may accompany both the antiphon and psalm, or the psalm may be sung without accompaniment or with handbells ringing before each section.

Psalm 27 uses a simple psalm tone so that the congregation may participate if desired. The accompaniment edition includes two different accompaniments for the psalm tone. One accompaniment uses the same harmonization for all verses. The alternate accompaniment provides two harmonizations to enable some variety over the psalm's 14 verses and groups psalm verses in sections as indicated by the NIV Bible layout. A choir or cantor may alternate with the congregation by sections. If a choir sings or soloists sing the psalm, they may alternate sections by high and low voices. Both high and low voices together may then sing the antiphon.

The "Song of Mary" Setting Two uses the historic plainsong melody that occurs in an early Lutheran source, the *Klug Gesangbuch*, Wittenberg, 1533. It was widely used in early Lutheran worship. Some have attributed the pointing (arranging words with notes) to Luther himself. Johann Sebastian Bach used the melody in several compositions: *Magnificat* (the oboe part in "Suscepit Israel"); two organ compositions; and Cantata 10, "Meine Seel' erhebt den Herren." "Glory Be to the Father" is included with this setting for use on occasions other than Good Friday.

Psalm 51 Setting Two (from Ash Wednesday) uses the same psalm tone as "Seek the Lord."

Electronic Files

Text of the service	GF Dark.RTF
Psalm 2 for congregation	GF Dk 1a-c.TIF
Psalm 2 for choir or cantor	Ps 2.PDF
Psalm 22 for choir or cantor	Ps 22.PDF
Psalm 27 for congregation	GF Dk 2a-b.TIF
Psalm 27 for choir or cantor	Ps 27.PDF
"Seek the Lord" for congregation	GF Dk 3a-f.TIF
"Seek the Lord" for choir or cantor	Seek.PDF
"Sing My Tongue . . ." graphic for congregation	GF Dk 4a-d.TIF
"Sing My Tongue . . ." for choir or cantor	Sing.PDF
"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" for congregation	GF Dk 5a-d.TIF
"Lamb of God . . ." for choir or cantor	Lamb.PDF
"Song of Mary" Setting One for congregation	GF Dk 6a-d.TIF
"Song of Mary" Setting One for choir or cantor	Mary I.PDF
"Song of Mary" Setting Two for choir or cantor	Mary II.PDF
The Sentence for choir or cantor	Sent.PDF
Psalm 51, two settings	GF Dk 7a-b.TIF
"Lord, Let at Last . . ." for choir or cantor	Lord.PDF

Vigil of Easter

Graphics for parts sung by the congregation can be inserted into the text file to create a customized worship folder.

"The light of Christ," along with the response "Thanks be to God," are sung during a procession to the chancel. Note that each successive pair begins on a higher pitch than the preceding pair.

Exsultet

The rubric before the Exsultet states that the minister or assistant sings this song. The minister may sing the song, if capable. If not, an assistant should sing it.

The preface dialogue ("The Lord be with you . . .") accompaniment is provided for the minister or assistant and the congregation. The music is from Service of Word and Sacrament II as found in *Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Liturgy with Chant for the Presiding Minister*. The accompaniment for the minister or assistant part may be omitted. The accompaniment for the congregation should be no louder than necessary (only 8' and 4' on organ).

The CWOS setting is a version of the historic chant associated with the Exsultet. Numerous other settings are available from various publishers, including choral settings. In addition to the Latin title, various English titles are common, for example "Easter Proclamation" and "This Is the Night."

A metrical version (hymn version) of the Exsultet appears in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, No. 146. This version may be sung to the Easter melody MIT FREUDEN ZART ("With High Delight Let Us Unite," CW 168).

Service of Lessons

If a richer Service of Lessons is desired, a sung response by the congregation or choir may follow each lesson before the prayer. The CWOS book lists optional responses in the Service Notes. The suggested list is given below. Those in italic are from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*—no electronic resources are included for these.

1. Psalm 136:1-9,23-26. Because of its unusual refrain, "His love endures forever," this psalm is intended to be sung responsively by the half verse. The choir, cantor, or presiding minister sings the first half; the congregation sings the second half. Or a solo voice may sing the first half and the choir the second half.
2. *Psalm 46*
3. *Psalm 16*
4. Exodus 15:1b-13,17-18

5. Isaiah 12:2-6
6. *Psalms 42 and 43*
7. Psalm 131
8. *Psalm 98*

Other psalm settings may be used if they are appropriate to the character of the Vigil's Service of Lessons.

Benedicite

For the song "All You Works of the Lord" (*Benedicite*) two versions of the text are provided in addition to the refrain. One version gives the refrain, "Praise him and magnify him forever," to the congregation *each* time it occurs—much like the refrain in Psalm 136 occurs after each verse. The second version gives the refrain to the congregation only at the end of each section. This version gives a suggestion for alternating between high and low choir sections.

Baptism Hymn

For the hymn "All Who Believe and Are Baptized" (CW 299), a melody line with text is available for preparing worship folders. The accompaniment edition includes the harmony for the convenience of the organist.

Alleluia Refrain

This musical element is a Verse of the Day that functions as a Gospel Acclamation. Alleluias introduce and surround the reading of the Easter gospel. Immediately after the Easter greeting is spoken, the cantor, choir, or presiding minister sings the Alleluia Refrain, which is repeated by the congregation. Then the verse is sung, followed by the refrain. A repeat of the Alleluia Refrain is sung after the reading of the gospel, just as the traditional response "Praise be to you, O Lord" acclaims the gospel on Sundays.

To facilitate comfortable participation, the alleluia refrain uses the melody from the familiar hymn "O Sons and Daughters of the King," CW 165, (GELOBT SEI GOTT). The accompaniment edition includes only a simple harmony for the Alleluia Refrain. Various published settings of this hymn using brass and timpani may be used to accompany the Alleluia Refrain.

The Verse text is the CW text appointed for Easter Day. If a parish does not use this setting in an Easter Vigil, it may be used in another Easter service.

Electronic Files

Text of the service	Vigil.RTF
"The Light of Christ . . ."	Vig 01a-f.TIF

"Rejoice now . . ."	Exsultet.PDF
Preface dialogue for congregation	Vig 02a-f.TIF
"Amen" in Exsultet for congregation	Vig 03.TIF
"All You Works . . ."	Vig 04.TIF
"All You Works . . ."	Bened.PDF
"All Who Believe . . ."	Vig 05a-d.TIF
Alleluia refrain for congregation	Vig 06.TIF
Alleluia and Verse for choir or cantor	Alle.PDF
Psalm 136 for congregation	Vig 07.TIF
Psalm 136 for choir or cantor	Ps 136.PDF
Exodus 15 for congregation	Vig 08a-e.TIF
Exodus 15 for choir or cantor	Ex 15.PDF
Isaiah 12 for congregation	Vig 09a-b.TIF
Isaiah 12 for choir or cantor	Is 12.PDF
Psalm 131 for congregation	Vig 10a-b.TIF
Psalm 131 for choir or cantor	Ps 131.PDF

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CHRISTIAN FUNERAL II

This service is intended for use at the church or funeral home on occasions where only minimal congregational participation may be expected.

VERSE

The following or another verse may be said or sung.

♩ = 74 **Freely**

M Al-le - lu - ia. Je - sus Christ is the first-born of the

dead; to him be glo - ry and pow - er for - ev - er and ev - er. *rit.*

a tempo

A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

OR

during Lent

Dolce (*♩ = 75*) *p*

M If we have died with Christ, we will

f al - so live with him; *p* if we are

mf faith - ful to the end, we will reign with him. *rit.*

SERVICE NOTES

See electronic files for further resources.