



Introductory scripts for the new hymnal

Two different ways of introducing the new hymnal are both valuable and important. One is actually using the book in worship. The other is a brief orientation to the main features of the new hymnal.

Resources for the first are available in the Year C Planner, a tool that assures that congregations will not be overwhelmed with too much new and unfamiliar material introduced too quickly.

Resources for the second follow below. Each segment requires 3-7 minutes. One or more segments may be used on a given Sunday depending on the length of other service elements, including whether the sacrament is offered. In some cases, a shorter sermon or selection of fewer hymn stanzas may allow time for these introductory scripts.

The scripts are available in both PDF and Word formats. The Word format allows editing that may be required for several reasons.

- Some references to new material reflect suggestions in the Year C Planner. That content appears [in blue below](#). If the new material mentioned is not going to occur in the service, then the script should be edited.
- Your church's communion service schedule might not align with the plan below and would thus require adjustments.
- Your first use of new hymnals might not be Advent 1, November 28, and would thus require adjustments.

N.B. The plan for January 9 calls for some advance planning already by mid-November: getting music to accompanists; recruiting some singers to practice (in early January). Some of the intro ideas from January 9 forward might seem confusing at first. But all should be clear once the pastor and keyboardist work through the ideas together. **Their advance preparation is essential to enable a comfortable introduction to the congregation.**

What are the plans for old hymnals? See comments at the end of this document.

November 28 - general overview

The dedication rite for new hymnals follows this introduction.

Good morning! This is an exciting day! New hymnals are in our pews. We will gradually become more familiar with them over the next few months. And over the next few weeks we will take some time before worship each Sunday to highlight some features of our new hymnals.



Please turn to the table of contents at the beginning of the hymnal. *[pause]* Keep your finger there and find also page 301. Note that the first hymn is both number 301 and page 301. And if you find page 1, you'll see that it is Psalm 1. This is to make it easier to find pages and to avoid confusion between, for example, page 15 and hymn 15. On the contents page you see that Roman numerals cover the introductory material. Then the psalms follow. Then 200 pages of liturgies and devotions, followed by another 50 pages of various rites and prayers. And then over 650 pages of hymns. One numbering system covers the entire book.

Turn now to page 154. This is a musical setting of the communion service familiar from our last two hymnals, all the way back to 1941. But with a few differences. Note on page 156 that the Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy) follows the confession of sins. It is not a second confession but rather a plea for God's mercy in all of life's circumstances and for all people. While this dialogue is set to music, it may also be spoken.

Then on page 157 note that the music for the familiar "Glory Be to God" includes harmony. I know that some of you will really appreciate that! Other liturgy songs in this service also have harmony as well as songs in Morning Prayer, pages 208-212. Some other services provide only melody lines for songs that aren't intended to be sung in harmony.

On pages 172 and 188 two more musical settings of the main communion service begin. During December we won't be using these. Gradually, at a comfortable pace, we will begin to introduce some of the new music in these settings next year.

Now back to page 154. *[pause]* One striking difference between this hymnal and our previous one is the exceptional quality of design and page layout. It is truly a beautiful book! The instructions and guidance that appear throughout a service are called "rubrics," based on the Latin word for red or ruby: rubric. That same red is used in graphic icons, page numbers, and in other ways.

Turn now to page 162. *[pause]* There is one slight change in the translation of the Nicene Creed. We confess that Jesus became "truly human." In the previous hymnal it was "fully human." Why the change? Because the creed isn't a WELS creed or even a Lutheran creed. It is ecumenical in the best sense, shared by Christians throughout the world. So our wording now reflects the wording mostly widely used by English-speaking Christians. *[Not mentioned here is capitalization: the Virgin Mary. Virgin*

is capitalized as a title, not in any way to elevate Mary. See footnote 1 in a WLQ article by WLS Pres. Earle Treptow. An early draft is at christianworship.com/resources.]

Now look at page 161. After the second reading we stand, giving special honor to the words of Jesus, and acclaim the Gospel that is about to be read. Listen as the organ plays [*or pastor/soloist/choir sings*] the alleluias and seasonal verse for Advent/Christmas. Then, we'll do it one more time together. [*demo; then after the congregation has sung:*] Very good! That's the first new thing that you've learned from the new hymnal.

We begin our worship now with the dedication rite in your worship folder.

600 to 655 words

Dedication rite

This rite precedes the opening hymn. The following paragraph is optional and may appear in the worship folder. This material uses the Meta fonts found in the hymnal. Substitutions may be necessary. Note that Meta uses special fonts for bold and italic, not Ctrl-B, Ctrl-I.

The Year C Planner suggests 302 for the opening hymn. A hymn of praise may be substituted: 597, 599, 601, 605, 628 (if familiar or if a soloist or choir assists).

We dedicate our new hymnals today to the glory of our Lord. A hymnal contains the forms which bring to us God's precious means of grace: the Gospel in Word and Sacraments. A hymnal contains many of the songs and prayers we use together to ask God's grace and respond to it. A hymnal helps shape the bond of faith not only within a congregation but also among congregations united in a synod. A hymnal expresses the bond we share with saints of past centuries and brings us new songs for our time and for the future. So today it is our special joy to dedicate our new worship book to the glory of our Lord.

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Rite of Dedication

We gather today to dedicate our new hymnals.

We give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Gracious Father, we know you desire to be with us. You delight in hearing the prayers and praise of your people.

Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of being your people, for the blessing of worship, for the comfort and strength you give in this place, for the praise and joy you prompt in our hearts.

We thank you for your many gifts: for language, for music, and for the liturgy as a setting for your marvelous grace in Baptism, in Holy Communion, and in the proclamation of your Word.

Bless us as we use this book.

Lord, you gifted the many people who helped prepare this book. Their service to you and to us is a rich blessing. For those who have labored diligently in developing this worship book,

We thank you, O Lord.

For those who use their time and ability to assist our worship – for those who lead us in worship, for singers and all other musicians, for those who prepare your house each week, for talent with flowers, banners, and all other arts,

We thank you, O Lord.

Lord, we confess that we have not always put our hearts and minds into worship as you desire. Forgive our sins of approaching you too casually, carelessly, infrequently, or without concentration on your presence in worship.

Send your Holy Spirit so that the words and music of this hymnal become the sincere prayers and praise of our hearts.

Bless our use of old songs and forms, that we more deeply recognize our connection with your people of all times and the value of their contribution to our worship.

Bless our use of new liturgies and songs, that we see anew the wonder of your ways and the privilege we have to praise you.

Bless us as we receive your priceless gifts and express our faith to you and to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

Bless our sincere participation in worship.

May others who do not yet know you learn something of your love and power through all we do here.

Move us to commit ourselves – heart and mind – to this vital part of our lives called worship.

To your glory, O Lord, and for the edification of your holy people we dedicate these hymnals, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The service continues with hymn ###, “_____.”

December 5 - hymns

Good morning! Last Sunday we had our first brief talk to become acquainted with the new hymnal. Today we take a deeper look at hymns. Please turn to page 299. A hymnal devotes many pages to various services, rites, devotions, and psalms. But most of its pages contain hymns. In the previous hymnal one long list of hymns covered the church year and various themes. You see here that the hymns section is now helpfully divided among five general categories. These categories speak to all that is most important to us: who God is, what he has done for us, how he supports us, and what our responsibilities are as his faithful followers.

Some of the categories are new. They weren't represented in the previous hymnal, even though some hymns in these new categories were in the previous hymnal. Under the TRIUNE GOD section you see Work of the Spirit. Many of these hymns were in the Pentecost section of the previous hymnal. But the work of the Spirit is important to emphasize at many times during the year. In a similar way under MEANS OF GRACE you see Holy Baptism, and at the top of the next column under LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN you see Baptismal Life. These hymns emphasize the importance of Baptism not only as an event in the past but the power of Baptism for every day as the sinful nature is daily drowned and we daily determine to live faithfully for Christ. Another new category is Vocation, beginning with hymn 734. Your vocation isn't the same as your job. We all have many vocations, all the ways God has assigned us to serve friends, families, church, community, and nation. A Christian's service in all areas of life, to the glory of God, was a key rediscovery of the Reformation. It wasn't only priests who served God but also milkmaids and laborers. Turn to hymn 737 [*pause*], actually the refrain for 736 at the top of 737. Note the emphasis on the multiple vocations we all have: "By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be."

You can learn more about the new hymnal from a series of videos posted at welscongregationalervices.net/hymnal-intro-presentations/. That website is in a note in your worship folder. The video about hymns is especially informative and will give you a variety of ideas to enrich your worship and enhance your appreciation of hymns.

[*Optional, if hymn 311 (below) not is used on Advent 2. Or include both for a longer introduction.*] The years since our previous hymnal was published in 1993 have seen a remarkable explosion of new hymns. We are fortunate to have many of the best of these new hymns now available to us—about one third of the total number of hymns. That means, of course, that two-thirds of the hymns are familiar from our previous hymnal.

[*If hymn 311 is used on Advent 2*]: Turn now to hymn 311. Here's an example of a new modern hymn. The copyright information at the bottom of the page shows that text and tune are not yet even ten years old. You see also that this hymn gives only the melody in your pew edition, not the full accompaniment. There are two reasons why some hymns are tune-only. One is to save space in the hymnal, allowing inclusion of more hymns than if full accompaniments were always included. The second reason is that some hymns have more elaborate pianistic accompaniments and aren't meant to

be sung in harmony. So there's no need to include a complicated piano accompaniment that takes a full two pages for people singing in unison.

[*Optional*]: You heard the piano and flute playing this new hymn as the final preservice music. Now for the opening hymn a soloist will sing the first verse and refrain before we all join together on the second verse. God bless our worship!

462 to 626 words

December 12

The initial part of this script addresses various ways in which congregations will use the new hymnal suite of resources. Please customize as needed for your setting. Regarding the benefit of using the books and not only worship folders or projection, see "Projection in Worship" at welscongregationalservices.net/hymnal-intro-presentations/.

Good morning! Over the last two weeks we've introduced various aspects of the new hymnal. Today we cover some additional topics.

The new hymnal suite of resources provides many options for guiding worshipers in the flow of worship. While it is possible and easy to include every possible detail in a printed worship folder, we won't always be doing that. It's good to sing hymns from the hymnal for a variety of reasons:

1. to get to know the many values of our new worship books,
2. to encourage singing in harmony by those who can, (Copyrights prevent inclusion of some harmony in the software program that creates worship folders.)
3. to telegraph that our worship heritage is far more than something fleeting in a disposable handout. Rather, our primary worship resources have been carefully curated.

[*Optional, in churches that use projection*]: There are also downsides to using projection for hymns and liturgy, even while we might use projection for other purposes like sermon illustration, announcements, Bible class, or WELS Connection videos. So we will be modifying our current practice. If you want more information on the rationale, I'm happy to give it.

Turn now to the page that shows the table of contents near the beginning of the book. [*pause*] Note the Personal Prayers that begin on page 255 and inclusion of the Small Catechism on page 286. Both of these can be useful for you for preservice meditation and prayer as well as personal or family devotions during the week. You can begin or continue a good habit: make regular use of these resources to guide your thoughts and meditation before the service begins. The more focused we are on spiritual matters before worship, the more valuable our worship time will be!

[Optional, if the following hymn replaces the opening hymn]: The third Sunday in Advent always has a theme of rejoicing. Please turn to hymn 827, Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing. In our previous hymnal this was a hymn of six stanzas. In some other Lutheran hymnals it is seven. One advantage of a shorter text is for an opening hymn, a quick launch into worship with longer hymns featured elsewhere. Today a soloist will sing the first stanza, and then we'll all join in on two and three. The text, by one of the most important Lutheran hymn writers, Paul Gerhardt, is paired with a tune by a 20th century American composer.

God bless our worship!

290 to 399 words



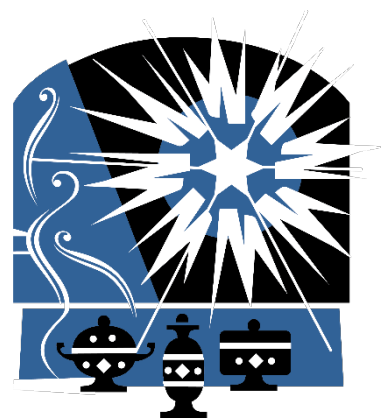
Holidays

No introductory scripts are provided for December 19 through January 2. This is due to varying customs (children's service on December 19?), the festival focus of Christmas worship, the presence of many guests, and the absence of some members due to vacation travel. However, the Year C Planner does call attention to optional new hymns during this period and for Epiphany (January 6), noting when a cantor or choir should help introduce new material.

January 9, 2022

A full two weeks follow Christmas before this Sunday. During this time rehearse a small group to sing the Setting 3 Gloria. If you have multiple services, pick regular attendees from each service and rehearse them together. Or if just two Sunday services, the same group could sing at both, leaving after the Gloria (or after hymn 379 below) in the second service.

Setting 3 has accompaniments for both organ and piano, along with optional instrumental parts, including for modern liturgical ensemble (guitar, etc; downloadable from Musician's Resource). Long-range planning can determine if organ is used one Sunday and piano another and what other instruments to include.



The intro suggestions below are in sync with the "conservative" plan in the Year C Planner (available at christianworship.com). Adjustments are needed if any of the "ambitious" options are chosen.

Note also the option of a new hymn tune in #379. Substitute this for the Hymn of the Day. Rather than practicing this with the congregation, simply give stanzas 1 & 3 to the small group singing the Gloria, noting this in the worship folder.

One more option is the Gospel Acclamation (GA) from Setting 4. Setting 4 is the same as Christian Worship Supplement Divine Service 1, but this GA is new and available only in Service Builder, with accompaniment music downloadable from Musician's Resource. If you do not have Service Builder, substitute another GA. Or begin using the GA from Setting 3 now already (first time just with a small group of singers) even if you do have Service Builder. The alleluias used melodic material from "Glory to God in the highest, glory to God" in the Gloria.

Notify pianists and/or organists in mid-November so that they have adequate time to learn the Gloria (and easy Kyrie) before a busy season consumes all practice time!

In the Year C Planner the "conservative" plan uses the Setting 3 Kyrie and Gloria throughout January, starting January 9, and adds more new elements according to this schedule:

- *Jan 23 - Gospel Acclamation*
- *Feb 6 - Sanctus*
- *Feb 20 - Agnus Dei*

Of course, each congregation may modify the plan as seems best for their context.

Unlike the first two general orientation talks, the following scripts tend to introduce new material by listening and practicing. If in your church an adequate number of people are seated in the minutes before the service (say 80% of those attending by two minutes before start time), the script-practice can begin two minutes early.

Extra idea: Gloria as preservice music. *The pianist or organist may play the Gloria as the final preservice selection—without anyone singing. A wind or string instrument may double the melody. The pastor announces this three minutes before start time, inviting people to follow along in the hymnal.*

[Optional, if the Gloria is played as preservice music]: Welcome to worship today. For our final preservice music, we now hear one of the new liturgy songs. Please turn to page 191 to follow along and begin to get familiar with this song.

Good morning! We begin today with a bit more introduction to our new hymnal. We covered some points in December and are now ready to introduce some new music for the main Sunday service.

Please turn to page 191 [pause]. Here we are in Setting Three of the main Sunday service. This is a prayer for God's mercy in all of life's circumstances, not only in light of our sins. After receiving the gift of God's forgiveness in the absolution, we are bold to pray for many other needs. The congregation prays four times "Lord, have mercy"—always to the same melody. It sounds like this: [*pastor or soloist demonstrates; keyboard begins under "let us pray to the Lord."*] Now let's sing that together: [*keyboard*

begins as before; all sing “Lord, have mercy.”] The prayer ends with Amen that sounds like this: [pastor or soloist demonstrates after getting pitch, if needed.] Now let’s sing it together from the top of page 191: [after keyboard gives pitch, pastor begins “For this holy house...” and all continue through the Amens.]

[Optional, if the pastor will speak the Kyrie in dialogue with the congregation]: Please turn to page 191 [pause]. Here we are in Setting Three of the main Sunday service. This is a prayer for God’s mercy in all of life’s circumstances, not only in light of our sins. The congregation prays four times “Lord, have mercy.” While this prayer may be sung in dialogue, for now we will simply speak it responsively.

The song Glory to God in the Highest follows the Kyrie, “Lord, Have Mercy.” Today and next week a small group will sing this so that we might all become familiar with it.

If you want a deeper understanding of the new hymnal, be sure to check out a series of videos posted at welscongregationalservices.net/hymnal-intro-presentations/. That website is in a note in your worship folder. The more you understand ideas that shaped the new hymnal, the more meaningful your worship will be.

God bless us today in our worship.

224 to 281 words, plus demo and singing

January 16

In early January at the latest make plans to include the organist to introduce Psalm 145. Note that hymn 571 uses the same tune, JERUSALEM. A solo’d version of the accompaniment is available in CW: Accompaniment for Hymns but will take some advance preparation. The organist may play three versions of 571 as the final preservice music on January 23: a gently solo’d stanza, a standard stanza, and a festive solo’d stanza. The organist might also have additional service music settings of this tune to play. (Or a solo wind or string instrument may play the tune alone, unaccompanied.) A note in the worship folder and/or a verbal announcement states: The final preservice music you hear today is the tune for Psalm 145. Please turn to the psalm as the music plays.

Good morning! We begin today with a bit more introduction to our new hymnal. Please turn to Psalm 145. The music we’ve been hearing is for this psalm. Note that this psalm is more like a hymn than the format of chanted verses with a refrain. The psalm section of our new hymnal includes a wider variety of ways to sing psalms, and some of these are “hymn-like”: they are metrical or rhymed poetic versions of the psalm text. The grand tune for this psalm is by Hubert Parry from the English cathedral tradition. It is a fitting tune for a text that acclaims “I will exalt my God and King.” Turn now to hymn 571. This tune is also used for this hymn—a replacement tune for the one in our previous hymnal. Again, a fine pairing

between text and tune. Note on the second page: “Your Word meant life triumphant hurled in splendor through your broken world.” And the second page, stanza 4: “each life a high doxology unto the holy Trinity”—with the word “high” occurring on the highest note in the melody.

Now back to Psalm 145. Let’s hear the tune one more time [organ or instrument] and then sing the first stanza together. This will help the psalm to be more comfortable when we sing it later for worship and not just practice. [*A mic’d soloist or pastor may assist the congregation.*]

[*After singing*]: Nicely done! I hope this little practice helps the psalm to be more comfortable later in the service. Now turn to Psalm 138. Here’s another example of a metrical psalm, a rhymed paraphrase. This one is set to a familiar tune. And Psalm 136, another example.

Now please turn to page 190. We introduced this prayer song last week. If you weren’t here, just listen to those around you; it should soon be comfortable for you. Then on page 191 a small group will sing this song, like last week. Follow along carefully because in another week or two we’ll ask everyone to join in.

332 words plus two stanzas of 145, one intro and one sung

January 23

[*Optional, if the Gloria is played as preservice music without anyone singing; 3 minutes before the service begins*]: Welcome to worship today. For our final preservice music, we now hear again one of the new liturgy songs. Please turn to page 191 to follow along. We will all sing this song together later today, so listen carefully.

When the Gloria is sung, the small group, choir, or cantor should be mic’d if needed to provide adequate support.

If the GA from Setting 3 wasn’t introduced already on January 9, do so today (first time just with small group singers). The alleluias use melodic material from “Glory to God in the highest, glory to God” in the Gloria.

If one of the new hymns suggested in the Year C Planner is used (387, 868), indicate in the worship folder or by verbal announcement how cantor or choir will assist. Note that a solo’d organ accompaniment for 868 is available in CW: Accompaniment for Hymns.

January 30

The congregation sings the Setting 3 GA for the first time today. Since it is easy and echoes melodic material from the Gloria, it may not need to be introduced before the service.

If one of the new hymns suggested in the Year C Planner is used (741, 868), indicate in the worship folder or by verbal announcement how cantor or choir will assist.

February 6

This is the first Sunday to use the Setting 3 Sanctus. Depending on your sense of the congregation's comfort level with learning new material, two options are provided.

[Practice option: two minutes before worship begins.] Good morning, and welcome to worship. Today we start by reviewing another new liturgy song. Please turn to page 200 and listen as the choir/soloist sings. You'll notice that it sounds a little bit like the song on page 191. [demo] Okay, now let's all try it together. [sing] Very good! I hope this little bit of practice helps the song to be more comfortable when we encounter it again later in the service.

[No congregation yet option. A choir or soloist sings the Sanctus alone during the service. If you choose this option, you could use the practice option above on the next communion Sunday.]

February 20

This is the first Sunday for full use of Setting 3, adding the Agnus Dei.

Good morning, and welcome to worship. Today we start by reviewing the last new liturgy song in Setting 3 of the main Sunday service. Please turn to page 202. The composer intends a flexible tempo in this song, not strict—especially with a stretch on the word God. Listen now as the soloist/choir sings the song. [demo] Okay, now let's all try it together. [sing] Nicely done! Now, if you've been here regularly since January 9, you've become familiar with all of Setting 3. If you missed any Sundays, that's okay. Just join in whenever a new song feels comfortable to you.

Introducing Setting Two and other new elements

The Year C Planner calls for beginning to introduce Setting Two during Lent. No specific scripts are provided. Just follow the patterns above at a pace that is comfortable for your congregation.

What to do with old hymnals (and supplements)

It is not recommended to donate old hymnals to a mission church or to your Lutheran Elementary School. Schools should begin using new hymnals right away for hymnology and for learning songs to sing for worship.

Should the old books just quietly disappear? Probably not. Who decides this? The Board of Elders? Church Council? Let people know in advance what to expect. Perhaps the simplest option is to announce that those interested may take home a hymnal after worship on November 21 (or whatever Sunday is the week before new hymnals are placed in the pews).

Other uses for the old books.

- Shut-in ministry: give a hymnal to each.
- Donate to a nursing home or retirement residence.
- Give one to piano or organ students.