



Dear Parish Family,

The Lutheran Book of Worship is a magnificent example of the best in the Christian liturgical tradition. The book reflects two thousand years of Christian worship. The order of Word and Sacrament extends backward to the very beginning of the Church. The Church gathered to hear the Scriptures and the preaching of the Word, to pray, and to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The most ancient liturgical text is the Bible itself. The Psalms were the hymn collection. Prayer included the intercessions and the Great Thanksgiving over the bread and wine. Other texts were added to the Service during the centuries, the Prayers of the Day (Collects), the Creed, the Gloria, the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy), and the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God).

The hymns are a library from every period in the Church's history. Many of the great saints of the Church composed hymns that are included in our worship — hymns of Ambrose, Gregory, John of Damascus, Bernard, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, and many other men and women of faith. The collection includes ancient and modern, American, English, European, African. Early Greek, Latin plainsong, German chorales, Scandinavia, American, and English folk songs, Afro-American spirituals, and Nineteenth Century evangelical hymns can all be found in the Lutheran Book of Worship. With One Voice, the companion to LBW, expands that collection with Hispanic compositions and includes a wide variety of hymns.

We will be using the Service from the Common Service Book and Hymnal of 1917 at our anniversary services on October 2. Holy Trinity Church used this Service in 1930 at the time of the founding of the congregation. It reflects the reforms that began in the 1860's. These reforms, which brought the Lutheran Church closer to the classical Western liturgy, continued through the Twentieth Century leading to both the Service Book and Hymnal and the Lutheran Book of Worship. The excellent Preface of the Common Service, published in 1888 and included in the 1917 Common Service Book with Hymnal, provides a history of the continuity of our Service with the classical Western tradition. At the anniversary celebration, we will be making the Preface available to worshipers.

The liturgy is beautiful. It is Scriptural. It is orthodox. It is sacramental. It is Word centered. It is participatory. It is vital. It is imbued with the strength and power of the Triune God — the true God, the God whom we worship.

Thank the Lord for many gifts and certainly for our worship tradition.

In Christ,

Pastor Mike & Pastor Mandy