

# Praise Today

Contemporary Worship Forms in the Context of the Historical Service

Volume 4, Number 3

Winter 1998

## In This Issue...

New Hymn—Page 2

Luther Hymns—Page 3

Responsive Mission Reading

David & Goliath—Page 8

## Editor's Note: *Praise Today* Now "On-Line"

John L. Hoh, Jr.

*Praise Today* is now "on-line." You can view the issues of *Praise Today* at  
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/5814>.

*This should especially help those who have limited mail server space but would like the issues electronically. As always, submissions are still welcome and are the backbone of Praise Today. I hope to have all back issues "on-line" soon. Keep visiting! Keep submitting your ideas! I am amazed at the number of worship ideas used out there to enhance our services. And I am able to make each issue more season-oriented. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past!*

*For those who maintain their own web sites, or a web site for their congregation, please link Praise Today to your site! Praise Today will reciprocate if you so wish.*

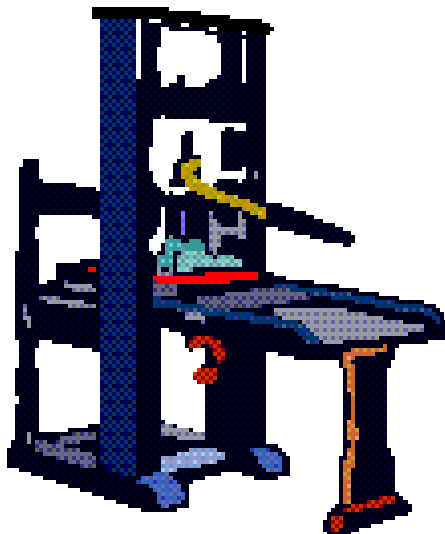
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*I am presently looking for sermon themes that any of you may have used this last summer or in summers past, for Advent, and for Lent. Include texts, themes, and parts as well as the theme of the series. Any other notes you wish to include would be helpful, especially application.*

*Have you written any original hymns? Share them with other confessional Lutherans.*

*Does your congregation use lay teachers for Adult Bible class? I am exploring the possibility of starting a newsletter aimed for those lay people teaching Adult Bible classes. Let me know if you, or someone in your congregation, is interested. The format would be similar to Praise Today--pdf format and on-line.*



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# Give Me Courage To Confess

by Rev. John R. Hildebrant

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Rev. John Hildebrant (WELS, St. John's, Wetaskiwin, AB, Canada) wrote this hymn. There are definitely shades of Davidic torment for sin. There is also the strong, clear message of the Gospel in verse 4. As you read through, notice the wide array of Scriptural references used in the composition of this hymn. Rev. Hildebrant suggests plainsong melody "Adoro Te."

1. Give me courage to confess, Lord, before your throne.  
For my silence and my shame crushed me to the bone.  
And your heavy hand has brought forth nothing but a groan.  
Ah, my sin has been against you and you alone.
2. Give me your unfailing love; pardon by your grace;  
Wash away my guilt and sin; cleanse without a trace.  
Open wide your loving arms - this prodigal embrace.  
When I know not where to flee, you're my hiding place.
3. Give me strength to bear the cross I must bear each day.  
For you, too, were tempted, Lord, and in every way.  
Keep the devil, world, and all my evil thoughts at bay  
That I glorify you in all I do and say.
4. Give me joy your Word to share and your praise to sing.  
Let me witness to your ways so that I may bring  
Sinners to your healing hands where, soothed of death's dark sting,  
We may stand among the saints with our Heav'nly King.

Sung to the plainsong entitled *Adoro Te*

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*Praise Today* is an independent publication serving pastors and worship leaders of confessional Lutheranism. It is published quarterly and relies heavily on the submissions of subscribers to share their ideas of worship framed in the historical orders of service with application to the needs of Christians today.

Comments and submissions may be sent to:

John L. Hoh, Jr., Editor  
Praise Today  
7731 N. 60th. St., Unit H-204  
Milwaukee, WI 53223

Phone: 1-414-365-6470  
e-mail: [johnhoh@ns.moneng.mei.com](mailto:johnhoh@ns.moneng.mei.com)  
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/5814>

Back issues are available by writing to the editor at the address above.

*Praise Today*

Volume 4, Number 4, Winter 1998

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# Hymn: “Now Lay We Calmly in the Grave”

by M. Weiss, Martin Luther, 1483-1546

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*Text From:*

*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HYMN-BOOK*

*(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1927), pp. 494-495*

1. Now lay we calmly in the grave  
This form, whereof no doubt we have  
That it shall rise again that day  
In glorious triumph o'er decay.
2. And so to earth again we trust  
What came from dust and turns to dust  
And from the dust shall surely rise  
When the last trumpet fills the skies.
3. His soul forever lives in God,  
Whose grace his pardon hath bestowed,  
Who through His Son redeemed him here  
From bondage unto sin and fear.
4. His trials and his griefs are past;  
A blessed end is his at last;  
He bore Christ's yoke and did His will;  
And though he died, he liveth still.
5. He lives where none do mourn and weep,  
And calmly shall his body sleep.  
'Tis God shall death Himself destroy  
And raise it into glorious joy.
6. He suffered pain and grief below,  
Christ heals him now from all his woe.  
For him hath endless joy begun;  
He shines in glory like the sun.
7. Then let us leave him to his rest  
And homeward turn, for he is blest;  
And we must well our souls prepare,  
For death may seize us everywhere.
8. So help us, Christ, our Hope in loss;  
Thou hast redeemed us by Thy cross  
From endless death and misery;  
We praise, we bless, we worship Thee.

*Notes:*

*Hymn #538 from Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book*

*Author: M. Weiss, 1531 (stanzas 1-7); Author: Martin Luther (stanza 8); Translated by: Catherine Windworth*

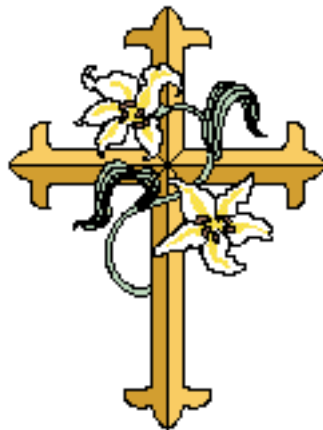
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*E-mail: [CFWLibrary@CRF.CUIS.EDU](mailto:CFWLibrary@CRF.CUIS.EDU)*

*Surface Mail: 6600 N. Clinton St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46825 USA*

*Phone: (219) 481-2123*

*Fax: (219) 481-2126*



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# Hymn: “Thou who art Three in Unity”

by Martin Luther, 1483-1546

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Text From:

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HYMN-BOOK  
(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1927), p. 252

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Thou who art Three in unity,<br/>True God from all eternity,<br/>The sun is fading from our sight,<br/>Shine Thou on us with heavenly light.</p> <p>2. We praise Thee with the dawning day,<br/>To Thee at even also pray;</p> | <p>With our poor song we worship Thee<br/>Now, ever, and eternally.</p> <p>3. Let God the Father be adored,<br/>And God the Son, the only Lord,<br/>And God the Holy Spirit be<br/>Adored throughout eternity!</p> |
|--|--|

Notes:

Hymn #266 from *The Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book*

Author: Martin Luther, 1543; Translated by: Richard Massie; From the Latin of St. Ambrose

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## Confession, Absolution

arranged by John L. Hoh, Jr.

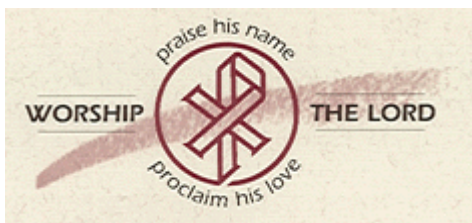
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### Call to Confession: Hebrews 4:13-14

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

### Confession: Job 42:4-6

“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”



### Absolution: Ezekiel 39: 25-29

“I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.

“They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid. When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

### Exhortation: 1 Peter 5:10

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

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# Hymn: "I Give Thee Thanks, O God"

... John Baillie (1886-1960)

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1. For the power Thou hast given me to lay hold of things unseen:  
For the strong sense I have that this is not my home:  
For my restless heart which nothing finite can satisfy:  
I give Thee thanks, O God.
2. For the invasion of my soul by Thy Holy Spirit:  
For all human love and goodness that speak to me of Thee:  
For the fullness of Thy glory outpoured in Jesus Christ  
I give Thee thanks, O God.

Oh, give thanks  
unto the Lord!

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## Wedding Text: Song of Songs 8:6,7

John L. Hoh, Jr.

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*On Sunday, September 27, 1998, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel ran a special report about a man named George Bennett. Mr. Bennett was severely burned in a work accident, with third degree burns to over 70% of his body. Maimed and disfigured, he felt his fiance couldn't love him anymore, that he wasn't the same person. Not only did she continue to love him, she assisted in his recovery and rehabilitation. On October 11, 1997—two years after they originally planned to marry—George Bennett and Viviam Zimmermann became man and wife. Viviam selected the following text from Song of Solomon 8:6,7.*

Song of Solomon, Chapter 8, verses 6 and 7.



“Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.”

*You can read about George's experiences at <http://www.jsonline.com/911/>.*

*Phoenix Church in Michigan's Upper Peninsula  
(Photo courtesy of Pasty Central (<http://www.pasty.com>))*





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# Responsive Reading for Mission Festivals

*arranged by John L. Hoh, Jr.*

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*This responsive reading, employing the Great Commission in Matthew (Matt. 28:18-20) and the psalmist's anticipation of the Great Commission (Psalm 147:1-5) could be used for Mission Sundays. Acts 1:8 is also used.*

**M-** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me".

**C-** Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

**M-** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**C-** The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

**M-** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

**C-** He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

**M-** "and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**C-** Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

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## Parting Verses Before the Benediction

*compiled by John L. Hoh, Jr.*

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*In Christian Worship, the benediction is often preceded by the phrase, "Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness." The following are some passages you may want to consider in place of the CW text.*

1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:21-18: "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Revelation 22: 12-13: "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

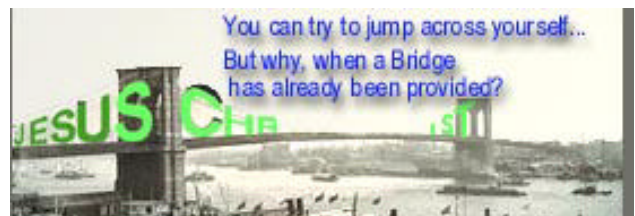
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## "An Indian Proverb"

*Unknown*

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When you were born,  
you cried and the world rejoiced.  
Live your life in such a manner that  
when you die  
The world cries and you rejoice.



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# Responsive Reading: Beatitudes

arranged by John L. Hoh, Jr.

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*It's probably not "original" to set The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10 NIV) into a responsive reading. I have included them here as a reminder not to forget that they exist. This is set up for Minister/Congregation reading. They can easily be done with Men/Women or alternate sides of the congregation (Left side/Right side). Another possibility is the Chant version, chanted to a psalm tune as found in Christian Worship.*

## Responsive Reading

**M**– Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**C**– for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**M**– Blessed are those who mourn,  
**C**– for they will be comforted.

**M**– Blessed are the meek,  
**C**– for they will inherit the earth.

**M**– Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
**C**– for they will be filled.

**M**– Blessed are the merciful,  
**C**– for they will be shown mercy.

**M**– Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**C**– for they will see God.

**M**– Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**C**– for they will be called sons of God.

**M**– Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
**C**– for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Chanted Version

Blessed are the poor in spirit,\*  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,\*  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,\*  
for they will inherit the earth.

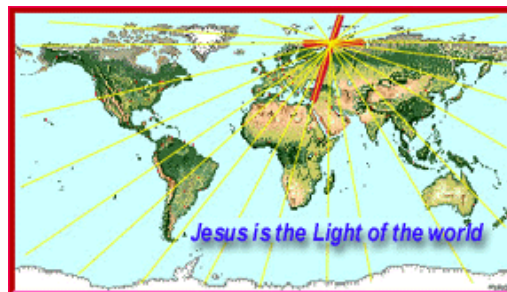
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,\*  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,\*  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,\*  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,\*  
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,\*  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



## Children's Hymn: "David and Goliath"

By Ann Kim

*Public domain for the glory of God.*

*Ann Kim (Houston, TX, WELS) developed this for use in Sunday school. This song is also appropriate for the children (or a children's choir) to sing in a service. Two children with good voices can sing the David and Goliath solos. Ann says: "This song is more guaranteed to be popular with the kids than the adults, and the intended audience is preschool to 2nd or 3rd grade. So here are the lyrics; imagine the background music as you read it, the music has a fairly strong beat reminiscent of war drums.*

**[GOLIATH]**—I am bigger, I am stronger  
Who will fight with me?  
I am bigger, I am stronger  
Who will fight with me?

**[ALL]**— Goliath was a big man  
And he had a sword  
David had five stones  
And faith in the Lord

**[DAVID]**—You are bigger, you are stronger  
But I trust in God!  
You are bigger you are stronger  
But I trust in God!

**[ALL]**—Goliath came to fight him  
David used a stone  
It hit Goliath on the head  
And he fell down to the ground

**[DAVID]**—You are bigger, you are stronger  
But I trust in God!  
You are bigger you are stronger  
But I trust in God!

