



Sanctus

Summer Holidays



A Worship Newsletter of the ELCA,
Indiana-Kentucky Synod

June 2007

With this issue of the *Sanctus*, we welcome to the editorial staff Tom Weitzel. Many of you know Tom from his former days in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Back then he edited the Synod's worship newsletter. Well, he's baaaaack. He was extended a call at the April Synod Council meeting to serve as Interim Pastor at St. Mark's Church, Batesville, Indiana. Many of you also know Tom from his liturgy website, <http://members.aol.com/LiturgybyTLW>. In this issue, Tom gives some helpful counsel on summer liturgies, looking at how we celebrate the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Rally Day.

A new item in this issue are the "Bulletin Clips". These are intended to be cut and pasted in the Sunday bulletin, one each week during September and October. Our hope is that these will be a regular feature of the *Sanctus* and will be seasonal, timely, educational, and helpful. They come with a permission line for reprinting. *A special thanks to Lauren Smith for the artwork.*

Also in this issue is an article on Children in Worship by Susan McMahon, a Lay Worship Leader and member of Pleasant View Church in Indianapolis.

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New on the Synod web site (www.iksynod.org) are some helps for worship planning. In the last issue of the *Sanctus* we talked about the role of a Worship and Music Committee. There is now a page on the web site that offers some tools for the Committee to craft the weekly (and other) liturgies of the parish. On the home page, click on "Our Ministries"; then click on the "Worship and Preaching" box. On that page, click on the box that says "Worship Planning".

Settings One and Two from Evangelical Lutheran Worship are now available for download and may be used through April 30, 2007. Each of the settings contains:

- a text file of the Holy Communion rite, with information on where the various pieces of liturgical music should be inserted;
- TIF files of the liturgical music pieces in that setting; and
- a PDF file containing the accompaniments for that setting.

They may be downloaded at www.elca.org/worship/ELW/content/download.html. Permission is granted to reproduce these materials for use in worship and study, provided that no part of the reproduction is for sale, copies are for local, non-sale use, and the following copyright notice appears:

Holy Communion Setting One (Two) from Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright © 2006. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce this material for local, non-sale use only between October 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007.

Upcoming ELW resources that available soon (dates are estimated):

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| Organ Intros and Alternate Accompaniments, V 1 | June 15 |
| Piano Intros and Alternate Accompaniments, V 1 | June 15 |
| Indexes to ELW | June 29 |
| Musicians Guide to ELW | July 1 |
| Accompaniment Edition for Simplified Keyboard | July 15 |
| Accompaniment Edition for Guitar | August 1 |

What to Do with Those Summer National Holidays

By the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, Alexandria, Ky. Numbers listed with prayers are from ELW, Leaders Desk Edition.

There's always been a general rule in the Church that national holidays and calendar observances are not a part of worship planning and are definitely not part of the Church Year. And yet you and I live in the same society that is very much affected by these things, and we will have a Sunday morning impact on our services on these occasions, even if that impact means emptier pews because of an extra Monday holiday.

At the same time, when it comes to something as significant to the nation as Independence Day, I wonder if we truly want to ignore an occasion that at its very core celebrates not only personal liberties, but in particular the freedom to worship. And given Martin Luther's high theology of vocation, one wonders if there isn't some way to bring Labor Day observance into the liturgy with something that reflects that theology.

With those days in mind, let me make a few suggestions for incorporating the summer national holidays into our liturgies without changing the assigned texts and themes for those Sundays. Let me state that my approach is one of bringing the holiday into the context of the Church for God's blessing, as opposed to bringing the Church into the context of the holiday.



THE SUNDAY NEAREST INDEPENDENCE DAY

At the very least, I believe the service nearest to Independence Day should close with "God Bless Our Native Land" or "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." In fact, I am aware that in some communities, if the pastor *doesn't* schedule one of these hymns to close the service, s/he might just be lynched!

Given all the flag waving going on at this time, something might be done with the church's flag. In the church that I am currently serving in Batesville, Indiana, there are no flags in the sanctuary. However, the Church Council established a pattern some years ago that on national holidays like Independence Day and Thanksgiving, the flag will be placed "near" (though not necessarily in) the chancel. I also remember from my youth when it was the tradition in Episcopal Churches to include the flag in the opening procession. That even included dipping the flag in reverence to the altar before placing it in its stand.

Independence Day is a good "uniform day." Invite scouts, active duty soldiers and/or veterans to wear their uniforms to church, and include a blessing for them in the intercessions. Any of these might be enlisted with carrying the flag in the opening procession, if that option is taken.

A children's sermon might be developed on the nature of liberty, focusing in particular on the freedom to worship. Thanksgiving to God for our nation would also be a theme here.

For the liturgy itself, consider a second prayer following the assigned Prayer of the Day. The lectionary includes a set of propers for a "National Holiday," from which I would use this as the second Prayer of the Day.

"Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord" (237)

A Litany could easily be constructed from prayers listed in the first several pages of "Petitions, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings" found in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Prayer titles listed there include Peace, Our Country, State and Local Governments, Responsible Citizenship, Courts of Justice, Cities, Towns and Rural Areas, The Neighborhood, etc. Remember to drop the last phrase, "through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord..." from each petition.

If you wanted a slightly more expanded rite for this day, while still remaining minimal in approach, consider inserting the following "Exhortation and Prayer on a National Holiday" after the Post Communion Prayer:

On July 4, 1776, our forefathers bravely advanced the cause of freedom and liberty by declaring this nation's independence and sovereignty and that all her citizens possessed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness given by our Creator. It is appropriate therefore as we celebrate our nation's ____nd/th birthday that we give thanks to that Creator for our liberties and pray for continued blessings upon our country, our government and our fellow citizens.

The earth is the Lord's,
And all who dwell in it.
God is king over the nations: **God sits on his holy throne.**
The Lord rules in might forever.
God's eyes keep watch on the nations.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
For God judges the peoples with equity and guides the nations upon earth.
O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us,
And make your face to shine upon us.
May your ways be known upon the earth,
Your saving power among all peoples.

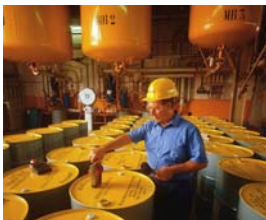


Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord
Amen

Note that the closing prayer is the same one suggested as a second Prayer of the Day above. If that alternative is used earlier in the service, substitute prayer #169 for “Our Country” from the “Petitions, Intercession, and Thanksgivings” section of the *LBW* (p. 42) or *ELW* (p. 77).

The Benediction, Dismissal, and Closing Hymn would follow.

LABOR DAY SUNDAY



While not being as significant to our nation's history as Independence Day, Labor Day is still one of those end-of-summer holidays that just as often includes fireworks and picnics to mark the passing of days into a full fall schedule. Again, with the idea of bringing the holiday into the context of the Church, let me suggest that this is an opportunity to root labor in the sense of Christian vocation and bring God's blessing upon those who work, and, by so doing, to lift work out of the morass of toil and drudgery.

Visual symbols being important in conveying meaning, let me suggest assembling a small table with items relating to work and place it in the chancel or near the altar. Children could gather around the table for the Children's Sermon for a discussion of how God gives us the blessing of work since our first being placed in the Garden of Eden “to till and keep it” (Gen. 2.15). It also might be interesting to talk about how many different vocations come to bear upon something as simple as the manufacture and marketing of a pencil or pen or other every day item.

For the liturgy, consider using this “Litany of Labor” with its many blessings on vocations that I wrote some years ago and appears on my Liturgy website at <http://www.members.aol.com/LiturgybyTLW1/Seasonal/Pentecost/Labor.html>.



RALLY DAY

Rally Day is another one of those occasions for which there are few liturgical helps, since it is not a festival of the Church Year. And yet it comes around about as predictably and annually as the other two occasions already mentioned.

While Rally Day is more concerned with the hour that is set aside for Christian Education, I believe some aspect of it should be brought into worship so that the whole community can celebrate it, and not just those who elect to participate in Christian Education. This is the opportunity to underscore the importance of learning for faith formation and spiritual enrichment for all the baptized, adults and children.

The sanctuary might be decorated in such a way as to denote the day, either with a banner that features something about education, faith and discipleship, or perhaps balloons, etc.

A Children’s Sermon might feature the importance of learning to spiritual growth, reflecting on both the start up of school as well as the start up of classes at church.

Install teachers and helpers as part of the worship service, using the order for “Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation” in the *Occasional Services*, p. 143.

Catechism students might be set aside with a special prayer of blessing upon their studies in a manner that is similar to the enrollment of catechumens in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For that purpose, I would suggest a slight modification of our own “Enrollment of Candidates for Baptism,” found in the *Occasional Services*, p.14. Replace the reference to Baptism with Confirmation and drop the affirmation of the sponsors, and the rite works in this new context. At the reading of the names of those enrolled in Catechism, be sure to specify first and second year students.

In the Prayer of the Church, include petitions of blessing on teachers and students. The “Petitions, Intercession, and Thanksgivings” in the *LBW* (pp 42ff) and *ELW* (pp 72ff) have prayers for “Schools” (#298-9), “Teachers” (#300), “Grace to Receive the Word” (#32), “Enlightenment of the Holy Spirit” (#349) and “The Care of Children” (#329), which would be appropriate intercessions.

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Upcoming Events



Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival

June 24-July 22, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Outstanding faculty of artists and teachers guide gifted high school and college students from around the country through a month of intensive musical study and performance.

Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics David Cherwien, choral & Mark Sedio, organ

July 30-31, Columbus, OH area

August 2-3, Chicago, IL area (pre-conference event for Worship Jubilee 2007)

Summer Institute for Liturgy and Worship – The Sacraments and the House that Holds Them: Sacred Space and the Arts as Theology July 8-13

The Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

From Generation to Generation” July 8-12

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Biennial Worship Conference in Houston, TX

Don’t miss the **Worship Jubilee**, August 3-6. This Churchwide Worship Event celebrates the renewal of worship in the ELCA, and will be held at Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois. You may register on-line at www.elca.org/worship/jubilee/index.html.