

**NEBRASKA DISTRICT MISSIONARIES' CONFERENCE  
OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE  
St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
October 16, 2007**

**A Note on this Service:** Today's service is a translation and adaptation of Luther's Deutsche Messe, first used in Wittenberg in 1525. The idea of using it in this setting is to give our pastors something that they can take home and use in their own congregations. While not every congregation will be up to singing all of these hymns and canticles, maybe you will find parts or all of it suitable as variety to the different settings offered in Christian Worship and Christian Worship: New Service Settings. If you have questions on this service or other ways to offer variety in the liturgical service, feel free to talk to Jon Micheel, head of the District Worship Committee

**A Note on No Confession and Absolution:** This morning's service follows Luther's practice of no general confession and absolution. You could certainly insert one at the beginning for your own use.

There was never a place for the Confession of Sins in the historic Lutheran liturgy. Following Reformation practice, most Lutherans made confession to their pastors before they attended Holy Communion. General Confession (the rite for Confession/Absolution in public worship) entered the Church when overly zealous and overly pious Lutherans felt their neighbors were not going to private confession often enough. They brought the General Confession into worship to force people to confess their sins. Luther would have had no time for this point of view. In the Large Catechism he wrote, "In short, we approve of no coercion. However, if anyone refuses to hear and heed the warning of our preaching, we shall have nothing to do with him, nor may he have any share in the Gospel." In other words, Luther felt that if people didn't want to confess their sins of their own free will, forcing them to do so wasn't going to help.

In our service this morning, while there is no general confession and absolution, the emphasis is still there, especially in the Lord's Prayer. In the Large Catechism, Luther wrote, "Indeed, the whole Lord's Prayer is nothing else than such a confession. For what is our prayer but a confession that we neither have nor do what we ought and a plea for grace and a happy conscience? This kind of confession should and must take place incessantly as long as we live. For this is the essence of a genuinely Christian life, to acknowledge that we are sinners and to pray for grace." You may also prepare for the Lord's Supper by using the Personal Preparation for Holy Communion, found on page 156 in Christian Worship.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

*Please stand as the hymn is introduced.*

**OPENING HYMN**

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" ..... Christian Worship #176

**KYRIE**

"Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above" ..... Christian Worship #266

**GLORIA**

"All Glory Be to God Alone" ..... Christian Worship #262

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*The term "Collect" was used for the Prayer of the Day to emphasize the concept that this prayer collected together the individual prayers of worshippers into one final prayer.*

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**EPISTLE**

Romans 5:12-21

**M:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GRADUAL HYMN**

"We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost" ..... Christian Worship #190

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## CREED

“We All Believe in One True God” .....Christian Worship #270

*Please be seated following the hymn.*

## SERMON

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5

## OFFERING

*After the offerings have been gathered, please stand at the presiding minister's direction.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*The following is a paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer that Luther prepared for his German Mass. In Luther's original version, the congregation did not speak the petitions of the prayer, but the minister simply explained each petition of the prayer using the words that follow.*

**M:** I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**M:** Here we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

**C: Your kingdom come.**

**M:** We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

**C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**M:** We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

**C: Give us today our daily bread.**

**M:** We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

**C: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**M:** We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

**C: Lead us not into temptation.**

**M:** We pray here that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

**C: But deliver us from evil.**

**M:** And finally we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

**C: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**M:** All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts “Amen,” trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it, and it will be yours.”

## EXHORTATION

**M:** I admonish you in Christ that you discern the Sacrament of Christ in true faith, and take to heart the words in which Christ imparts to us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Remember and give thanks for his boundless love which he proved to us when he redeemed us from God's wrath, sin, death, and hell by his own blood. In this faith you externally receive the bread and wine, which are his body and blood, as the pledge and guarantee of this. In his name, therefore, and according to the command that he gave, let us use and receive this Sacrament.

## SANCTUS

“Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old” .....Christian Worship #267

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

## **PEACE OF THE LORD**

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” ..... Christian Worship#268, st. 1

*Please be seated.*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” ..... Christian Worship #377

*After the distribution, please stand at the presiding minister’s direction.*

## **SONG OF SIMEON**

Christian Worship p.24

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **POSTLUDE**

**Presiding Minister:**.....Pastor Stephen Raddatz, St. Mark, Lincoln

**Preacher:** .....Pastor Steven Dorn, Fount of Life, Colorado Springs

**Organist:** .....Cindy Krushenisky, St. Mark, Lincoln

**Trumpets:**..... Matt Kanzenbach, St. Mark, Lincoln