

# Praise Today

Contemporary Worship Forms in the Context of the Historical Service

Volume 6, Number 5

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## Mother's Day Responsive Prayer

Arranged by Rev. James Sonnemann, Salem, WELS, Milwaukee, WI (Eastside)

Rev. Sonnemann arranged this responsive prayer using Proverbs 31 and the Magnificat recorded by Luke. This prayer eloquently illustrates the gift of mothers God has given to each of us.

Passages from The Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1978 by New York Bible Society

**P**—This Proverb reflects the tremendous power the godly woman has in shaping the lives of her children and in influencing the welfare of the community.

**P**— <sup>10</sup>A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

**C**— <sup>11</sup>Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

**P**— <sup>12</sup>She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

**C**— <sup>13</sup>She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

**P**— <sup>14</sup>She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

**C**— <sup>15</sup>She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.

**P**— <sup>16</sup>She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

**C**— <sup>17</sup>She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

**P**— <sup>18</sup>She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

**C**— <sup>19</sup>In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

**P**— <sup>20</sup>She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

**C**— <sup>21</sup>When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

**P**— <sup>22</sup>She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

**C**— <sup>23</sup>Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

**P**— <sup>24</sup>She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.

**C**— <sup>25</sup>She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

**P**— <sup>26</sup>She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

**C**— <sup>27</sup>She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

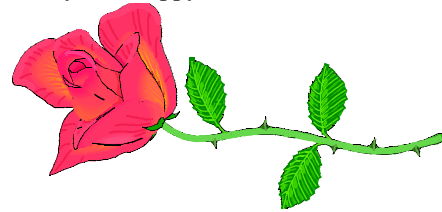
**P**— <sup>28</sup>Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup>“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

**C**— <sup>30</sup>Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. <sup>31</sup>Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. (Proverbs 31: 10-31)

**P**— The godly qualities of the woman described in Proverbs 31 are born of her faith in God's saving grace in Jesus. That faith is expressed in the words of the woman chosen by God to be the mother of our Savior:

**WOMEN**—<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is  
his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation  
to generation.” (Luke 1:46-50)

**PASTOR**—Your love, your patience, your gentle teaching, your  
healing touch, your faithfulness, your devotion to God—all  
these have shaped us. **We praise God for our mothers, and  
for all who have been like mothers to us.** God bless you!  
May your day be a happy one.



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## Mother's Day Hymn: *A Mother's Love*

By Jima Ledlow

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*This is another hymn written by Jima Ledlow and she has graciously allowed Praise Today to publish it. It is a fine tribute to mothers!  
tune: As the Deer  
(three different refrains)*

1. As the years pass I see you Mother as the treasure you are  
Yielding time, talents, and pure pleasure you're my bright  
and shining star.

**REFRAIN**—Shepherd me as I walk this day, your tender love leads  
me on Christ's way,  
You have given me life and family and I want to honor  
you.

2. You're my friend and you are my mother, God has given me  
the best,  
Christ in you I have seen forever and I am eternally blessed.

**REFRAIN**—God has given me heaven on earth you selflessly gave  
me life at birth  
I am blessed more than any other for the mother that you  
are.

3. Moments shared, tears we've cried together strengthen us  
and our dear love,  
Like our Father in heaven showed us when He sent Christ  
Je'sus.

**REFRAIN**—Precious lives led by God above give hope and faith in  
our earthly love  
Shepherd us our dear heavenly Father, giving guidance  
from above.

(Words by Jima Ledlow, used by permission)



*Praise Today* is an independent publication serving pastors  
and worship leaders of confessional Lutheranism. It is  
published monthly 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:

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

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# Anniversary Services

*Rev. Dan Wagenknecht, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, (WELS) Yorba Linda CA*

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*Rev. Dan Wagenknecht, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, (WELS) Yorba Linda CA, shared with me his schedule of services to commemorate the Wisconsin Synod's 150th. Anniversary. Rev. Wagenknecht writes:*

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, (WELS) Yorba Linda CA, will celebrate the anniversary of our synod with four special services beginning on Trinity Sunday, June 18.

**TRINITY SUNDAY, JUNE 18**—First, in a special afternoon service, we will worship in German as the Wisconsin Synod's founders did in 1850. We have eight members who emigrated from Germany and speak German as their native language. They are looking forward to this worship opportunity. The sermon was written by Pastor Jonas Schroeter of the Ev. Luth. Free Church of Chemnitz, Germany, and delivered there on **Trinity Sunday 1998**.

**TRINITY 2**—On June 25, our regular worship will use the order that would have been used in 1917, the year of the Federation. (*This service is found in the special issue of Praise Today. Click on the icon featuring the Synod anniversary logo elements.*)

**TRINITY 3**—On July 2, our worship service will be the form used by the founders of Grace congregation in 1975.

**TRINITY 4**—On July 9, we will return to *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (vintage 2000).

*Praise Today welcomes the ideas and plans others may have for celebrating the WELS Sesquicentennial. ELS congregations—share with us ways you shared the ELS Diamond Anniversary in 1993! E-mail me at hohjohn@yahoo.com, or mail ideas to me at 7731 N. 60th. St., H-204, Milwaukee, WI 53223.*

We pray that this series of special services will highlight the unchanging nature of the Gospel. Even though language and worship style vary, the gospel of sins freely forgiven through faith in Jesus binds us with the church of the past. May God grant that we remain faithful to this message as we go “Forward in Christ.”

Rev. Dan Wagenknecht, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, (WELS) Yorba Linda CA



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## Am I a Stone, And Not a Sheep

*... Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

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*This poem crossed my desk. I felt it would make a good hymn, but cannot find a tune that matches it metrically. Two possibilities are Pomerania and Wie wohl ist mir, with modifications. If anyone does find a tune that will work with this, or writes a tune, let me know and I'll share it with other Praise Today readers. The best meter seems to be 8-10-10-6.*

1. Am I a stone, and not a sheep,  
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,  
To number drop by drop Thy Blood's slow loss,  
And yet not weep?
2. Not so those women loved  
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;  
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitt'rly;  
Not so the thief was moved;
3. Not so the Sun and Moon  
Which hid their faces in a starless sky:  
A horror of great darkness at broad noon  
I only I.
4. Yet give not o'er  
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;  
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more  
And smite a rock.

*... Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

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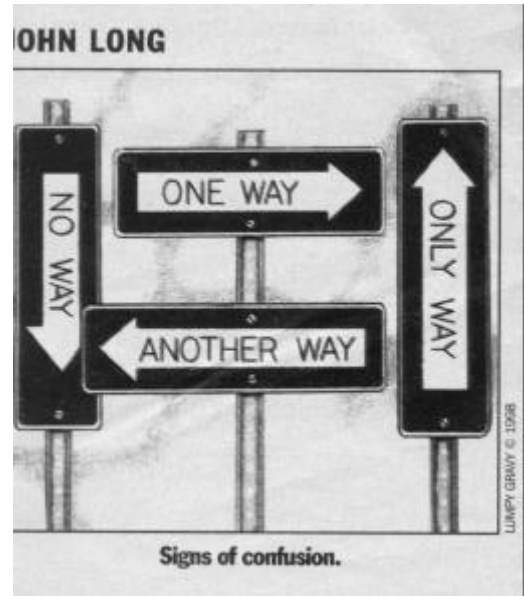
# God Bind My Heart, This Tide

... Lauchlan MacLean Watt

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*This song, slightly modified, makes an excellent hymn for Mission Sunday, Festival of Friendship, or any other outreach/community Sunday service. A 7-7-7-7 meter seems to work best, possibly Gott Sei Dank Durch Alle Welt, Hoechster Priester, Innocents, or New Year.*

1. God bind my heart, this tide,  
to the Galilean's side,  
To the wounds of Calvary,  
to the Christ who died for me.
2. God bind my soul this day  
to the brother far away  
And the brother near at hand,  
in this town and in this land.
3. God bind my heart in thrall  
to you, the Lord of all.—  
To Jesus, the poor man's friend,  
and the Spirit whom you did send.
4. God bind me to your peace,  
to make strife and envy cease.  
God, knit Thou sure the cord  
of my thralldom to my Lord!



... Lauchlan MacLean Watt

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# Shepherd's Prayer

... Albrecht Durer (1471-1528)

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*You may want to use this prayer, penned by Albrecht Durer, for Good Shepherd (or Shepherd) Sunday. You can even break it down into a litany format.*

O God in heaven, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for your people, deliver us at the opportune time, preserve in us the true genuine Christian faith, collect your scattered sheep with your voice, your divine Word as Holy Writ calls it. Help us to recognize your voice, help us not to be allured by the madness of the world, so that we may never fall away from you, O Lord Jesus Christ.



**P**—O God in heaven, have mercy on us!

**C**—Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for your people, deliver us at the opportune time,

**P**—preserve in us the true genuine Christian faith,

**C**—collect your scattered sheep with your voice, your divine Word as Holy Writ calls it.

**P**—Help us to recognize your voice, help us not to be allured by the madness of the world,

**C**—so that we may never fall away from you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

... Albrecht Durer (1471-1528)

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# I Greet Thy Sepulchre

... Henry Vaughn (1622-1695)

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*A great poem for use as an Easter hymn. This 10-10-10-10 meter can employ Ellers, Eventide, Farley Castle, or Sursum Corda. Crucifer might work, but the hymn it's commonly associated with has a refrain.*

1. I greet Thy sepulchre, salute Thy grave,  
That blest enclosure, where the angels gave  
The first glad tidings of Thy early light,  
And resurrection from the earth and night.
2. I see that morning in Thy convert's tears,  
Fresh as the dew, which but this downing wears.  
I smell her spices; and her ointment yields  
As rich a scent as the now primrosed fields:
3. The Day-star smiles, and light, with Thee deceased,  
Now shines in all the chambers of the East.  
The Day-star smiles, and light, with Thee deceased,  
Now shines in all the chambers of the East.



... Henry Vaughn (1622-1695)

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# JESUS, the Infinite I AM

... Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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*This 88-88-88 meter can employ All Ehr und Lob, Magdalen, Melita, Sussex Carol, Vater Unser im Himmelreich, or Der zu. This 888-888 meter can employ Heut Triumphiret Gottes Sohn or Lasst uns Erfreuen (with Alleluias).*



1. JESUS, the Infinite I AM,  
With God essentially the same,  
With him enthroned above all height,  
As God of God, and Light of Light,  
Thou art by thy great Father known,  
From all eternity his Son.
2. Thou only dost the Father know,  
And wilt to all thy followers show,  
Who cannot doubt thy gracious will  
His glorious Godhead to reveal;  
Reveal him now, if thou art he,  
And live, eternal Life, in me.

... Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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# Angels From On High

by Rev. Eugene R. Andrus, St. Johns, WELS, Ann Arbor, MI

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*Tune: Angels We Have Heard On High (C.W. 63)*

1. Angel's from on high proclaim  
News of Christ, our Savior slain.  
He was dead but now he lives  
And to us new life he gives.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
2. Christ who once on Calvary  
Gave his life upon the tree,  
Now is risen from the grave  
Sinners from their doom to save.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
3. We were lost in death and strife  
But with him we have new life.  
Jesus Christ is ris'n today  
Join the angels as they say:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;



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## Church Sign Dedication

*Pastor Paul C. Stratman, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS), St. Louis, MI*

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*We often thank and praise God for the blessings we receive. We also dedicate those items which we employ for His service. Rev. Stratman shared with me this service for the dedication of a new church sign.*

*Pastor Stratman writes: "I mentioned that we didn't really do anything special in the service, just p. 15. After the service we dedicated our church sign. I thought you might be interested in the rite I put together. Blessings."*

The congregation is ushered outside to the front of the church for the sign dedication.

**C-** We will lift up our banners in the name of our God. (Psalm 20:5)

### DEDICATION OF A CHURCH SIGN

**P-** The Lord be with you.

**P-** Let us pray.  
*Almighty God, even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so your Son was lifted up in a public place not only as a sacrifice for our sins, but also as a sign of your love for the whole world. We dedicate this sign in your name, and pray that it will lead people to the only source of salvation, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C-** And also with you.

**C-** Amen.

**P-** You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

**C-** You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout. (Isaiah 40:9)

**P-** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**P-** We will shout for joy in victory.

**C-** Amen.

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# Seminary Class Hymn

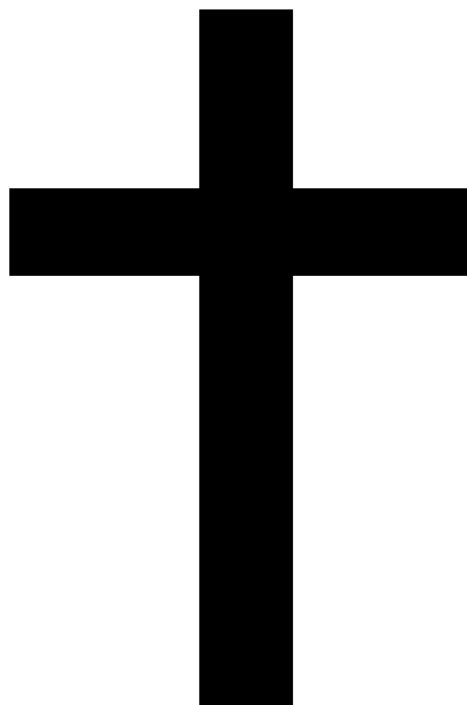
*by Timothy Smith, class of 1999*

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*This class hymn, written for the graduation service of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's 1999 graduation service, was written by Senior Timothy Smith (now serving as pastor in the Seattle, Washington, area). The hymn is set to THAXTED, a tune popular among Lutheran circles in recent years. The setting was arranged from a score prepared by Richard Proulx.*

*The hymn is strong in reminding the graduations, as well as those congregated, of why and for whom these young men were trained and sent out. While the graduation looks at the completion of studies for the young men, the focus is "to God alone be the glory."*

1. Sad the story of the garden: In Adam's sin all die.  
All rebel and listen to the sound of Satan's subtle lie.  
Then the Word, our flesh assuming, coming from his  
Father's side,  
Paid the price that God demanded, and for our sin he died.  
Lamb of God, you gave your life for us, lead us to live for  
you;  
Lamb of God, in your compelling grace, our hearts and  
minds renew.
2. Slow the story of renewal: "O Lord, I cannot speak,  
As a child I stand before you; my youthful heart is weak."  
Then the Lord reached out and touched me, purified my  
sinful heart.  
"You must go to every nation; you must say what I impart.  
"I appoint you to the nations, my herald you will be.  
Go and plant the Word and build the Church; bring glory  
unto me.
3. Sweet the story of God's mission: our Refuge strong each  
day  
Bids us not to fear when mountains surge and quake and  
earth gives way.  
With a river, clear and flowing, making glad God's city tall  
The Almighty dwells among us, no one can make us fall.  
Lord Jesus, grant us courage to spread your word of love,  
And then bring us to glory in your blest home above.



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## Jesus Banner

*by John L. Hoh, Jr.*

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Together with Terry Hahm (WELS, Milwaukee, WI) I collected "Jesus quotes." These are similar to the "God" quotes which appeared on billboards across the United States in 1999. These have a more evangelical, Gospel approach.

You can see the animated gif file on the front page of Praise Today's web site.

To download a copy of the .gif file, go to <http://www.websruss.com/zzrevelator>. Be sure to thank the creator, Russ Anderson!

A black rectangular box containing white text. The text reads: "What part of 'Your sins are forgiven...' don't you understand? -Jesus". The text is centered within the box and uses a sans-serif font.

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Milwaukee, WI 53223

## *Praise Today*

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### Begin the Day With God

*Author Unknown*

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1. Begin the day with God  
Kneel down to Him in prayer;  
Lift up thy heart to His abode.  
And seek His love to share.
2. Open the book of God  
And read a portion there;  
That it may Hallow all thy thoughts,  
And sweeten all thy care.
3. Go through the day with God  
Whate'er thy work may be;  
Where'er thou art-at home,abroad,  
He still is near to thee.
4. Converse in the mind with God  
Thy spirit heavenward raise:  
Acknowledge every good bestowed,  
And offer grateful praise.
5. Conclude the day with God  
Thy sins to Him confess;  
Trust in the Lord's atoning blood,  
And plead His righteousness.
6. Lie down at night with God  
Who gives His servants sleep;  
And when thou tread'st the vale of death,  
He will thee guard and keep.

