

# Praise Today

*Contemporary Worship Forms in the Context of the Historical Service*

Volume 5, Number 3

May/June 1999

## *In This Issue...*

Revelation Hymn—Page 6  
(by Rev. John Hildebrant)

Seasonal Confessionsg—Page 6

New Hymn: *Your Word is Like a Starry  
Host*—Page 7

Richard Futrell Hymns—Pages 7, 8

---

## God's Only Son

*By Elizabeth Gorski*

---

1. Who's touched the hearts of many  
and purifies them within  
cleans, heals, and helps  
all from the bondage of sin
2. Who there upon the cross  
can be found in tribulation  
not only grants us forgiveness,  
but life and full salvation
3. Who has guided us on our way  
with footprints in the sand  
and after all we're just  
adverse in a foreign land
4. Never give way to doubt  
or fear when trouble may come  
for God so loved the world  
that he gave his only son

---

## Celebration of Life

*by Rev. Peter B. Prange, Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Maryborough, QLD 4650, Australia (ELSA)*

---

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are the people whose God is the LORD! Ps. 144:15

#### ***WE GREET EACH OTHER***

**P**— The LORD be with you.

**C**— AND ALSO WITH YOU

**P**— A statement of Welcome

**C**— THE OPENING HYMN



## ***WE PREPARE TO MEET THE LORD***

- P-** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C-** AMEN
- P-** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C-** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P-** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C-** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen
- P-** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***A HYMN OF JOY IN THE PEACE OF FORGIVENESS***

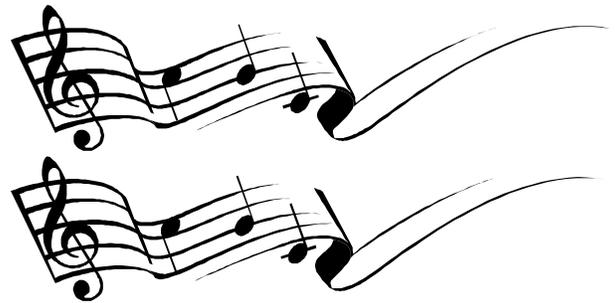
(For example:)

1. Come, ye sinners, one and all,  
Come, accept His invitation;  
Come, obey His gracious call,  
Come, and take His free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

## ***WE GREET OUR LORD***

- P-** Gracious God, we thank you for the many faithful witnesses who speak to us in your Word and testify that the Lord Jesus is risen indeed!
- C-** If Jesus had not been raised from death, their witness would be false and our faith would be worthless. But against reason, they believed. Against deadly threats, they answered: 'We cannot help speaking what we have seen and heard.' They saw the risen Lord and spoke with him; they ate with him and touched him. They were faithful witnesses to the world as their Lord was a faithful witness to them.

- P-** Merciful God, by the glorious victory of your Son over the grave, you made us new people. We who belong to Jesus can put away our fears in life and our terrors of death and sing with the saints of old:
- C-** We shall not die but live, and proclaim your wonderful works from one generation to another. You will receive us before the throne of your Son to serve him day and night with our song: worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honour and glory and praise.
- P-** Holy and righteous God, send the Holy Spirit to keep us strong in the faith so that we may war against sin and live a holy life in love to you and our fellowman:
- C-** Let us celebrate the resurrection of your son with a life of honesty and goodness, gentleness and self-control. Lord, help us love you with all our strength; Lord, help us love our fellowman as ourselves
- P-** Gracious Father, you have restored the joy of salvation to us by raising your Son from the dead. With happy hearts we come before you and sing:



*Praise Today* is an independent publication serving pastors and worship leaders of confessional Lutheranism. It is published bi-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:  
John L. Hoh, Jr., Editor  
*Praise Today*  
7731 N. 60th. St., Unit H-204  
Milwaukee, WI 53223

Phone: 1-414-365-6470  
e-mail: hohjohn@yahoo.com  
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/5814>

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

***Praise Today***  
Volume 5, Number 3, May/June 1999

**Hymn: *Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring* TLH #23**

1. Unto the Lamb of God we sing.  
In whom we are elected.  
He bo't His Church with His own blood,  
He cleansed her in that blessed flood,  
And as His Bride selected.  
Holy, Holy is our union and communion.  
His befriending gives us joy and peace unending.
2. Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring  
Unto our Triune God we sing;  
Blest be His name forever!  
With angel hosts let us adore  
And sing His praises more and more  
For all His grace and favour!  
Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy  
Spread the story of our God, the Lord of Glory

***WE SPEAK TO OUR LORD***

P- Let us pray. [Prayer]

C- (Sing) AMEN

***WE LISTEN TO OUR LORD'S WORD***

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: PSALM 90**

- P- Teach us to number our days aright,  
C- that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
P- Relent, O Lord! How long will it be?  
C- Have compassion on your servants.  
P- Satisfy us in the morning  
C- with your unfailing love,  
P- that we may sing for joy  
C- and be glad all our days.  
P- Make us glad for as many days  
C- as you have afflicted us,  
P- for as many years  
C- as we have seen trouble.  
P- May your deeds be shown to your servants,  
C- your splendour to their children.  
P- May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us;

C- establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

P- This is the Word of the LORD! Thanks be to God!

C- (sing) God's great Book is ours to share  
With all people everywhere  
For confusion, give men light;  
For their blindness give them sight;  
Give the comfort of a Psalm;  
For our stormy time give calm.

**THE EPISTLE LESSON: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10**

All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

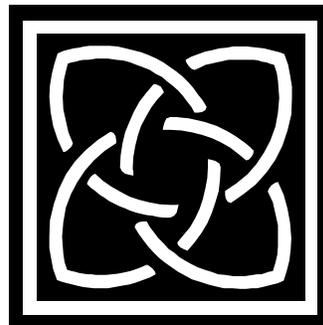
P- This is the Word of the LORD! Thanks be to God!

C- (sing) Share God's Word—it is our task  
Answ'ring questions that men ask.  
Set before them God's great love  
Sent to earth from heav'n above.  
Give a guide to point the way  
For the journey of today.

**THE GOSPEL LESSON:**

P- This is the Gospel of the LORD! Thanks be to God!

C- (sing) Stir your hearts now, let us give  
Words by which all men can live.  
Give the words that Jesus taught;  
Give a peace all men have sought.  
Word of God now let us share  
With all people ev'rywhere.



## ***WE CONFESS OUR FAITH***

### **THE APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **THE NICENE CREED**

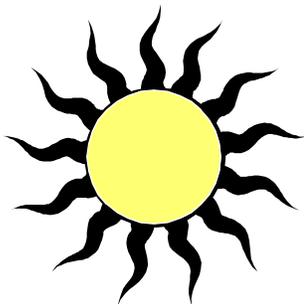
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Tell someone about Jesus.

It is the finest confession of one's faith!)



## ***A HYMN OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS***

### ***A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN***

#### ***THE HYMN OF THE DAY***

#### ***THE MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK***

#### ***WE BRING GIFTS TO OUR LORD***

**Note:** Part of the response of God's people to his many gifts, is to bring their gifts of love for him. The offerings presented to the Lord at the altar are used for the sharing of the Good News of God's love for people both in our community and throughout the world.

#### ***THE OFFERING HYMN***

**FOR EXAMPLE:**—(sing) O Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,  
Our offerings to you we bring;  
Please, use them for your kingdom, Lord,  
To spread your word, the Spirit's sword.  
Show us the work we need to do  
That more hearts may be drawn to you.

#### ***WE SPEAK TO OUR LORD***

### **GENERAL PRAYER**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P**— Let us pray. [PRAYER]

**C**— Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### ***WE COMMUNE WITH OUR LORD***

**Note:** The Lord's Supper is God's gift of forgiveness and spiritual strength in the Body and blood of His Son. It is, as well, a mutual confession of our oneness in faith. We, therefore, remind those partaking of the Lord's Supper that individuals not members of Saint Paul, or a sister congregation of the ELSA/WELS/ELS fellowship, are kindly asked to speak to the pastor before communing. Thank you.

## CELEBRATING A FEAST PREPARED

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared  
This feast for our salvation,  
It is Your body and Your blood;  
And at Your invitation  
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,  
We come to You for needed rest,  
For comfort and for pardon
2. Your precious Word believing  
That Your true body and Your blood  
Our lips are here receiving.  
This word remains forever true,  
And there is naught You canst not do;  
For You, Lord, art almighty.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P**— 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, and said: “Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, and said: “Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

## THE SONG OF APPROACH

1. I come, O Saviour, to Thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole:  
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good.
2. Oh, grant that I in manner worthy  
May now approach Thy heav'nly Board  
And, as I lowly bow before Thee,  
Look only unto Thee, O Lord!  
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

**P**— Come, for all things are now ready.

## A RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING

**O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee** CW 316

1. My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who has so lovingly bestowed  
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

2. Break forth, my soul, for joy and say  
What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Saviour dwells within my heart;  
How blest I am! How good Thou art!

OR

1. O Lord, we praise thee,  
Bless thee and adore thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before thee.  
Thou with thy body  
And thy blood did'st nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish:  
O Lord, have mercy!
2. May thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And thy blood, for us plead  
In all trial, fear and need:  
O Lord have mercy!

**P**— We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this saving gift. And we pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**— (Sing) AMEN.

## THE PRAYER FOR THE WORD

**P**— Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**— (Sing) AMEN.

## THE BENEDICTION

**P**— The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.

**C**— AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

## THE CLOSING HYMN



---

# These Are The Words Of Him

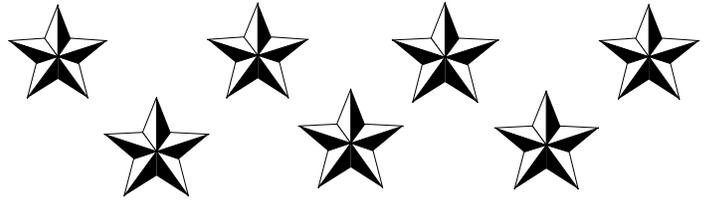
by Rev. John R. Hildebrant

---

*There aren't too many hymns based on the book of Revelation. By request from a member of <LIFT>< (Lutheran Internet Fellowship Talk). Rev. John Hildebrant wrote this hymn based on Revelation. Should you use this hymn, Rev. Hildebrant asks that you kindly inform him that you used this hymn in your service.*

1. These are the words of him who holds the seven stars.  
I know your deeds, your tested creeds;  
I'll heal your wounds and scars. To him who overcomes,  
I give the right to eat the fruit which grows, yeah overflows,  
extending life replete.
2. These are the words of him who is the First and Last;  
who died and rose; who overthrows  
the fears that death may cast. To him who overcomes,  
the second death—be gone! For after strife, a crown of life  
shines at the heav'nly dawn.
3. These are the words of him who wields a double sword.  
Tho others seek to turn the meek,  
confess me as your Lord. To him who overcomes,  
I give a pure white stone;  
With your new name that's free from blame,  
I'll call you as my own.
4. These are the words of him whose eyes like blazing fire  
search heart and mind - our thoughts to find  
commending praise or ire. To him who overcomes,  
who follows to the end, I give you rule—my own footstool  
the nations dash and rend.
5. These are the words of him who holds the spirits sev'n.  
'Alive,' it's said, but you are dead.  
Wake up! Lose not my heav'n! To him who overcomes,  
I'll dress you all in white. I never took out of my book  
names honored in God's sight..
6. These are the words of him who has King David's key.  
The open door forevermore Is there for all to see.  
To him who overcomes, I'll make a pillar strong  
I'll write on him, 'Jerusalem.' Hold on, I won't be long.
7. These are the words of him who is the great Amen.  
Be either hot or simply not, Your lukewarmness must end.  
To him who overcomes, Upon my throne now sit.  
Who has an ear—oh, let him hear the words of my Spirit.

Copyright ©1999, John R. Hildebrant



---

## Seasonal Confessions of Faith

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

---

*Rev. Sonnemann has used Bible passages to express our faith in place of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds during certain seasons of the church year. The following are two examples from this past year.*

### ***Used During Advent:***

[Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2:6-11*)

### ***Used During Lent***

In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and [we] have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In the putting off of the sinful nature, we have been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When we were dead in your sins, God made us alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (from *Colossians 2:9-15*)

---

# Your Word is Like a Starry Host

*Kathryn Prange, Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Maryborough, QLD 4650, Australia (ELSA)*

---

*This hymn, by a Lutheran sister from Australia, uses CMD meter. The author had in mind the tune "Forest Green" when she wrote this hymn. There is richness of imagery in this hymn—imagery gleaned from Scripture's pages.*

1. Your Word is like a starry host:  
A thousand rays of light  
Are seen to guide the traveller  
And make his pathway bright.  
When paths of life seem very dark  
Then help is on the way.  
Your Word is like the Sunshine bright  
To lead us day by day.
2. Your Word is like a deep, deep mine,  
And jewels rich and rare  
Are hidden in its mighty depths  
For ev'ry searcher there.  
Oh, may I love Your gracious Word,  
May I explore the mine...  
May I its glorious jewels glean  
Their light upon me shine!

3. Your Word is like an armoury  
With weapons great and strong  
Soldiers of Christ there courage find  
To battle foes and wrong  
Oh, may I find my armour there,  
Your Word, my trusty sword!  
And find for life's long battle won  
Our vic'try in the Lord.



---

# Christ, You are the One Thing Needful

*by Richard K. Futrell*

---

*Recommend melody, Erin, by Paul Langston, copyright 1975, Broadman Press*

1. Christ, You are the one thing needful,  
Source of faith and source of life,  
May we to Your Word be heedful  
In this tempest, in this strife.  
**REFRAIN—**Keep us pure in truth and doctrine  
To reflect Your Gospel light!
2. We are all by nature fallen,  
Sinning by our thought and deed,  
Yet, You speak Your word of pardon:  
I forgive you; you are freed!  
**REFRAIN—**
3. You have washed us in the waters,  
Cleansed, forgiven, born above,  
Now we are Your sons, Your daughters,  
Whom You cherish, whom You love.  
**REFRAIN—**
4. When besieged by the Accuser,  
Weakened by the slings of hell,  
You restore us by Your Supper;  
Your true presence guards us well.  
**REFRAIN—**

5. In this place, we hear Your Gospel  
And we taste Your Sacrament,  
Granting faith by means so simple:  
Water, Word, Your Testament.  
**REFRAIN—**
6. God, the wellspring of all wisdom,  
Frame our mind and frame our heart;  
Grant us faith to know Your kingdom  
To entwine our every part.  
**REFRAIN—**
7. God: the Father, Son, and Spirit,  
Triune God, whom we adore,  
Take us to the heav'nly banquet,  
In Your presence evermore!  
**REFRAIN—**

---

## God, Here I Confess My Sin

by Richard Futrell

---

*Recommend melody: Cordell by Christopher Uehlein, copyright 1990, Blue Cloud Abbey*

1. God, here I confess my sin,  
Of my failure now within;  
I cannot meet Your demands  
And have blood upon on my hands!  
In My holy Sacrament.”
2. If You, God, were truly fair,  
I would die in dark despair,  
I would earn sin’s wage of death,  
Cursed by my guilt-laden breath.
3. From deep depths I cry to You,  
Be a God of mercy true,  
Be a God of living grace,  
Shine upon this fallen face.?
4. “I, your God, am great in grace,  
For My Son died in your place;  
You are covered by His blood,  
Through baptism’s cleansing flood.”
5. “Have you not heard My decree,  
‘You are pardoned, saved, set free,’  
Spoke in words so loud and clear;  
O my child, you need not fear!”
6. “Now recall My words so true,  
‘Taste my Body, here for you,  
Drink My Blood, My Testament,  
7. You are not a God forlorn,  
Trapped in heaven, while we mourn,  
You still come to us in love,  
From Your mansions, high above.
8. In Your simple means of grace,  
Heav’n and earth meet in this place,  
Miracles of God divine:  
Water, Word, and Bread and Wine.
9. Thus, we praise You, God of might;  
You have freed us from our night,  
Father, Son, and Spirit: Lord—  
One, true God to be adored!

