

Church Agenda (Liturgy) of 1748

a.k.a., The Muhlenberg Liturgy

Translated from the German by Dr. C. W. Schaeffer for the English translation of the *Hallesche Nachrichten*. Recorded in *A History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States* (1893/1902) by Henry Eyster Jacobs.

These alterations in the Morning Service are all of a piece. Every one of them is an injury to the pure Lutheran type of the old service. The chaste liturgical taste of the fathers has become vitiated; the accord of spirit with the church of the Reformation is dying out gradually. The service of the church is sinking slowly toward the immeasurable depths into which it afterward fell. The Order of Service of 1748 is beyond comparison the noblest and purest Lutheran Service which the church in America prepared or possessed until the publication of the Church Book.

— Dr. Beale Melancthon Schmucker, c.1882

The Agenda of 1748 was never printed; but each pastor provided himself with a written copy for his own use. Two of these copies came into the hands of the late Rev. J. W. Richards of Reading, who himself was a descendant of the patriarch Muhlenberg. The oldest and most complete copy came down from the hands of PASTOR JACOB VAN BUSKERK, and is from the year 1763. It has the chapters and paragraphs numbered, while the ritual and liturgical appointments are complete. The other copy is from the hand of PASTOR PETER MUHLENBERG, who was in Dunmore County, Va., at the time when this copy was written, in 1769. Here the chapters and paragraphs are not numbered. The directions for the several divisions are not given in full; but the liturgical material is complete.

What we here furnish in print is taken from the copy of Pastor Van Buskerk, and varies from it only in certain unimportant parts, that have been somewhat confused, the correction being supplied from the copy of Peter Muhlenberg. Notice of these variations is always given.

All the contents of the Liturgy are given, in regular order, yet only the more important parts are printed in full.

#743 Hymn: "Now to the Holy Spirit, Let Us Pray"

Confession & Kyrie

Beloved in the Lord! Thus saith the High and Lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. I will not always chide, neither will I keep anger forever: only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Accompany me therefore in making confession of sins, saying:

I, a poor sinner, confess unto God, my heavenly Father that I have grievously and in various ways sinned against Him; not only by outward and gross sins, but even more by inward blindness of heart, unbelief, doubt, despondency, impatience, pride, selfishness, carnal lusts, avarice, envy, hatred and malice, and by other sinful passions which are naked and open in the sight of my Lord and God, but which I, alas! cannot fully understand. But I do sincerely repent, in deep sorrow, for these my sins; and with my whole heart I cry for mercy from the Lord, through Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, being resolved, with the help of the Holy Ghost, to amend my sinful life. Amen.

Lord God the Father in heaven,

have mercy upon us.

Lord God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Lord God the Holy Ghost,

have mercy upon us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

#410 Gloria: "All Glory Be to God on High"

Salutation & Collect

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray...

...**Amen.**

Epistle: Romans 7:15-25

#517 Hymn: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Creed (read by pastor) *Wir Glauben All* (We all Believe in One True God)

#527 Hymn: "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

Sermon

Prayers & Votum

Hear us, good Lord.

Amen.

Sursum corda

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us lift up our hearts,

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Sabaoth.

The whole world is full of His glory.

Exhortation

Lord's Prayer

Consecration Invitation

Distribution

Post-Communion & Benediction

Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: Hallelujah.

And His mercy endureth forever: Hallelujah.

We give thee thanks, O gracious God, our heavenly Father, because thou hast refreshed us with these thy salutary gifts; and we humbly beseech thee to strengthen us, through the same, in faith toward thee, and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Receive the blessing of the Lord. The Lord bless thee and keep thee, etc.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

#887 Hymn: "This Is My Song"

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by John & Jill Greer in celebration of their 44th anniversary and in honor of their grandchildren.*