



Sanctus

The Year of Matthew

A Worship Newsletter of the ELCA,
Indiana-Kentucky Synod

December 2007

The Year of Matthew – Year A – begins with the First Sunday in Advent, December 2. The Gospel of Matthew is the Gospel that will be used predominantly throughout the coming year. It will be read and studied, meditated and preached on throughout 2008. We would like to offer a list of resources for use in the coming year.

Last year we began an Indiana-Kentucky Synod Commentary List. The link to that list may be found on the Synod home page – www.iksynod.org. We will include in this issue some helpful commentaries on Matthew, but would invite you to send in the resources you have found helpful – for preaching, for study, and for shaping and crafting worship. This will provide a growing list, not just of commentaries, but all types of resources for this Year of Matthew. And, of course, we will expand this to include Mark and John, as well as the other books of the Bible as the years go by. Send your additions to the list to rmueller@iksynod.org, and contribute to the Synod's Commentary List.

As a start, here are two web sites that have good resource lists:

www.trinitylutheranseminary.edu

go to "Site Map", click on "Links", then click on Commentaries recommended...

The following Commentaries on Matthew are listed there:

Davies, W. D. and Allison, Dale C., International Critical Commentary 28, pts. 1-3,
published by T & T Clark.

Hagner, Donald, Word Biblical Commentary 33A and 33B, published by Word Books.

Keener, Craig S., published by Eerdmans.

Luz, Ulrich, trans. Wilhelm C. Linss and James E. Crouch, in the Hermeneia series published by Augsburg Fortress.

Nolland, John, in the New International Greek Testament Commentary, published by Eerdmans.

www.ltsg.edu

click on "Resources" then "Faculty Web Sites", then click on Dr. Mark Vitalis Hoffman. He and Dr. Richard Carlson have a suggested commentary list. Besides those listed above, their list includes:

Carter, Warren, *Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading*, published by Orbis.

Garland, David, published by Smyth & Helwys.

Hare, Douglas, in the Interpretation series, published by John Knox.

Powell, Mark Allen, in the *Harper-Collins Bible Commentary*, Revised Edition, published by Word.

Carter, Warren, *Matthew: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist*, published by Hendrickson Publishers.

Senior, Donald, published by Abingdon.

Dr. Hoffman also directs you to three other web sites that provide commentary lists.

As we build an I-K list, we do not intend to simply post a list, but to include review comments so folks will know why these particular commentaries may be helpful to them. To that end, what follows are specific commentaries listed with reasons they have been found useful.

Jeff Zell recommends the following:

Frederick Dale Bruner, Matthew Commentary volume 1: The Christbook, Matthew 1-12. Eerdman's, 2004. (revised and expanded from 1987 edition), and Matthew Commentary volume 2: The Churchbook, Matthew 13-28. Eerdman's, 2004. (revised and expanded from 1990 edition).

This is a magnificent, theological commentary. The author leads us through sound exegetical work and is in constant conversation with the early church, Luther and Calvin.

Jeffrey A. Gibbs, Matthew 1:1-11:1. Concordia Publishing House, 2006.

This is part of the stellar Concordia Commentary series. Gibbs is a student of Jack Dean Kingsbury. He uses the Narrative approach for exegeting Matthew. He does not read Matthew through "Markan eyes," but believes that Matthew uses a variety of sources. Gibbs gives us a very engaging theological commentary. The second volume is forthcoming.

Roger E. Van Horn, The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday's Texts by (Eerdman's, 2001)

This three volume set follows the Revised Common Lectionary. It uses a variety of pastors and academics for its exegetical work. The volumes are broken into Gospels, Epistles, and Old Testament.

Other suggested commentaries:

Harrington, D.J., Matthew. In the Sacra Pagina series, The Liturgical Press, 1991.

This commentary follows the pattern of a fresh translation, notes, interpretation, and bibliography for each pericope. It seeks to interpret the text using "the tools of grammar, rhetoric, dialectic, and philosophy."

Hill, David. The Gospel of Matthew. In the New Century Bible series, Oliphants, 1972, 1975.

This commentary focuses on "ways in which the Evangelist employed traditional material, his distinctive theological emphases, and the meaning of his teaching for the Church of his time." The author does not neglect questions of historicity or genuineness, but does not deal with issues of grammatical details. The commentary uses the Revised Standard Version, and addresses the text in a verse by verse manner within the context of the pericope.

Schweizer, Eduard. The Good News according to Matthew, translated by David E. Green. John Knox Press, 1975.

The commentary uses the Good News for Modern Man translation, and moves verse by verse through each pericope. It offers insights from European scholarship in a way that is truly 'good news' for a person today.

Hauerwas, Stanley. Matthew. In the Brazos Theological Commentary series, Brazos Press, 2006.

This is a fairly new book by a contemporary theologian. The Brazos series is based on the assumption that dogma clarifies, "that the Nicene tradition ... provides the proper basis for the interpretation of the Bible as a Christian Scripture." The series, therefore, invites theologians, not biblical scholars, to write the commentaries. This one is written by a post-modern theologian. He tackles the book on a chapter by chapter basis, not always referencing the verse, and doesn't go behind the text to what Matthew thought or Jesus thought. If you know Hauerwas, you will hear him loud and clear in his commentary.

The Augsburg Fortress preaching resource, NewProclamation.com, is also available. This on-line resource offers reflections and commentaries on the lectionary readings for the week, as well as special occasion preaching resources. You can view the demo at www.newproclamation.com.

In the recent mailing from the World Hunger Appeal Staff there was a 12-page guide with worship and bulletin resources for the local congregation, "Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?" – a booklet with simple ideas for the holiday season, and flyer for "The Race – A Simplicity Musical." Be sure to check out this helpful resource.



PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING: 2008 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18-25

This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Web site, www.geii.org, offers information and history on the Week, as well as resources for personal, congregational, and ecumenical use.

According to the web site, "The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was developed by Father Paul Wattson, SA, at Graymoor in Garrison, New York, and was first observed at Graymoor from January 18-25, 1908. Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus 'that they all may be one' (*John 17:21*)."

"In 1966, the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Secretariat (now Council) for Promoting Christian Unity began collaborating as a common international text for worldwide usage. Since 1968 these international texts, which are based on themes proposed by ecumenical groups around the world, have been developed, adapted and published for use in the United States by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute."

The theme this year is "Pray Without Ceasing", from 1Thessalonians 5. There are plans being made for two state-wide celebrations. However, local congregations and ecumenical groups are encouraged to observe this Week in their own way. For more information, you may contact Pr Len Jepson (lmjep21@aol.com), chair of the I-K Synod's Ecumenical Ministry Committee

What's on the calendar for 2008:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25

Resources are available at www.geii.org.

Augsburg Winter Music Clinic January 19

One in Chicago, Illinois and one in Columbus, Ohio

Register on line at

www.augsburgfortress.org/musicclinics

Calvin Symposium on Worship January 24-26

www.calvin.edu/worship

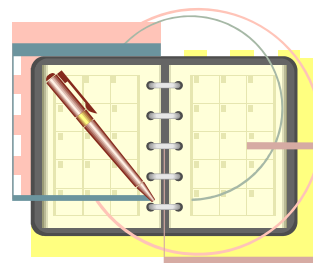
Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Transforming the Church through Worship March 31-April 2 www.valpo.edu/ils

Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

Preacher's Retreat April 3-4

Valparaiso University www.valpo.edu/ils





Evangelical Lutheran

Worship

New and yet-to-be published ELW resources:

- ELW, Leaders Ritual Edition
- ELW, Leaders Desk Edition
- Musician's Guide to Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- The Christian Life: Baptism and Life Passages (*due February 1, 2008*)
- The Sunday Assembly: Worshiping Together (*due December 17, 2007*)
- Indexes to Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ELW, Accompaniment Edition: Liturgies
- ELW, Accompaniment Edition: Service Music and Hymns, 2-volume edition
- ELW, Accompaniment Edition for Guitar
- ELW, Accompaniment Edition for Simplified Keyboard
- Organ Intros and Alternate Accompaniments, Volume 1 (*hymns 239-303*)
- Organ Intros and Alternate Accompaniments, Volume 6 (*hymns 574-639*)
- Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Psalter for Worship, Year C
- Piano Intros and Alternate Accompaniments, Volume 1 (*hymns 239-303*)
- Piano Intros and Alternate Accompaniments, Volume 6 (*hymns 574-639*)
- Lectionary for Worship, Ritual Edition, Year C
- Lectionary for Worship, Study Edition, Year C
- Lectionary for Worship, Ritual Edition, Year A
- Lectionary for Worship Study Edition, Year A
- ELW Worship Certificates
- *Gospel Acclamations for Advent-Transfiguration* (ISBN 978-0-8006-2036-3)
- *Gospel Acclamations for Lent-Holy Trinity* (ISBN 978-0-8006-3558-9)
- *Gospel Acclamations for Summer* (ISBN 978-0-8006-7857-9)
- *Gospel Acclamations for Autumn* (ISBN 978-0-8006-7862-3)
- Kids Celebrate Worship
 - ...will introduce *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* with fun-filled activities, kid-friendly art, and engaging information about the church seasons, sacraments, and participating in Sunday worship.

At www.morningstarmusic.com you can search for and download congregational hymn settings. Morningstar has recently published a book by Scott Hyslop entitled *The Journey Was Chosen: The Life and Work of Paul Manz*. The Web site describes this biographical work as an examination of the unique factors that have shaped and formed the life and music of one of the most influential organists of the latter half of the twentieth-century. Constructed in four parts, this book includes a full biography; an analysis of his chorale-based organ and choral works; a collection of essays by composers, theologians, musicians, and family; and web access that includes sound clips, radio interviews, manuscripts, video, articles, and programs. This book will be of great interest to anyone who knows and enjoys the music of Paul Manz."

Celebrating the Christ Mass

(Ed note: For liturgy helps for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, see the October 2004 *Sanctus* at www.iksynod.org, click on Our Ministries.)

First Sunday after Christmas – Year A

Color of the Day is White



GATHERING

Since this is a feast day, it is appropriate to omit the Order for Confession and Forgiveness and to include a bid for forgiveness during the intercessions. This liturgy is certainly an opportunity to sing Christmas carols. Use them as Gathering Hymns and Distribution Hymns. Hymns that could be used for gathering include:

(1st #'s are ELW; 2nd # is LBW or WOV) 287/47, 288/55, 299/53

A possible Greeting:

P Praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted,

C whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C And also with you.

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” or “Go Tell It on the Mountain” could be used as the Hymn of Praise.

WORD

This is a difficult day in the Christmas Cycle. The Gospel reading is the story of Herod’s massacre of the infants of Bethlehem (the Feast of the Holy Innocents is celebrated on December 28). [It is also strange to read about the magi leaving, when the Epiphany visit is still a week away.] But the Gospel and supporting readings make it clear that God is still in charge, and that not even the powers of death can destroy the love God has for this world. Indeed, the author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes that it is “through death that God destroys the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...”

The Christmas season is the perfect time for a Gospel Procession. The Procession is a visible sign of the “Word becomes flesh,” as the Gospel (Christ) moves into the midst of the assembly. “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (288/55) may be sung as the procession moves into the midst of assembly.

Possible Hymn of the Day choices include, LBW 273, 268/51 (The hymn is structured in ELW so that stanzas 1-3 and 12-14 are suggested, and others may be used. If you use this hymn, you may want to use different stanzas in different places in the liturgy; for example, sing some during the Gospel Procession).

The Nicene Creed is the appropriate Creed for feast days.

MEAL

An introduction to the Peace might be:

P Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And his name is Prince of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

Possible Offertory Hymns: 296/40 (esp. stanza 3), 286/52, 284/72, 294 (esp. stanza 3)

Eucharistic Prayer III (ELW p. 110) is suggested for Advent through Epiphany.

Invitation to Communion:

P Jesus Christ is the true bread which comes down from heaven, Emmanuel – God with us.

C Lord, give us this bread always.

Possible Distribution Hymns: 490/198, 270/60, other Christmas carols

“Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,” the song Simeon sang after holding the infant Jesus, would be an appropriate post-communion Canticle.

SENDING

For the dismissal:

A Jesus is not ashamed to call you brothers and sisters,

C and he has become like us in every respect

so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest.

A Go in peace. Praise the name of the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

C Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!