



GLORY TO GOD

THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

HYMNAL DEDICATORY LITURGIES

Congregational songbooks are friends and companions on the Christian journey. They accompany believers through the church year, amidst significant events like baptisms and funerals, and in times of great faith and doubt. Hymnals' worn covers are familiar and welcome sights in pews. The decision to retire a current hymnal is, thus, an important one. Consider taking time in worship to give thanks for the book being retired, as well as dedicating the new hymnal to God's glory.

These liturgies may be adapted for congregational worship. They may be used at any part of the worship service. There are good reasons for doing so in response to the reading and proclamation of God's Word. Leadership should be shared between pastor(s), musicians, and congregation members. If hymnals (old or new) were given in memory or honor of individuals, it may be appropriate to list those names in the bulletin.

These liturgies were shaped by prayers in the PC (U.S.A.), the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Mennonite Church USA, and Green Spring Presbyterian Church (Abingdon, VA).

OPTION ONE

We present these hymnals to the glory of God and for service in the life of this congregation.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we thank you for the gifts of music and song
through which creation has offered you praise and thanksgiving,
confession and lament, prayers and petitions.

May this new hymnal inspire our own songs in times of joy and sorrow.

Enable us to sing in one voice as your gathered people,
and to join in harmony with all who worship you.

By your grace, may the words and melodies shape our faith for years to come,
and in ways that forever give glory to you, the Triune God.

Amen.



GLORY
TO GOD

OPTION TWO

Litany: (Psalms 96 and 98, composite)

O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant, let the rivers clap their hands,

let the forests and the mountains sing for joy.

Make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing.

With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn, shout for joy before the LORD who reigns.

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Song: (choose one)

“Praise to God the Father / Da n’ase” (*Glory to God*, #605)

“Sing Out My Soul / Magnificat” (*Glory to God*, #646)

“We Lift Our Voices” (*Glory to God*, #710)

Prayer of Dedication:

To you, O God,

we offer our thanks and praise.

We know that your creative power is the source of every good gift.

Today, we take delight in the special gift of these hymnals.

Sing: “Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.” (*Glory to God*, #643)

Thank you for members of this congregation whose vision, energy, and resources
have helped to make this new hymnal available for our use.

**Thank you for all those who worked to create this song collection for your wider church:
composers, poets, and artists; editors, publishers, and committee members.**

Thank you for the guidance of your Spirit in the many decisions required
through long years of dedicated service.

Sing: “Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.”

Thank you for the gift of music that stirs our hearts,

instructs our minds,

strengthens our spirits,

and sets our bodies in motion.

Thank you for old songs that keep us connected with saints and traditions from our past,

and for new songs that create a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for songs from our culture that express our heritage in familiar melodies and rhythms,

and for songs from other cultures

that open us to the variety of ways in which your people

offer praise around the world.

Sing: “Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.”

We thank you for the gifts of music and song
through which creation has offered you praise and thanksgiving,
confession and lament, prayers and petitions.

May this new hymnal inspire our own songs in times of joy and sorrow.

**Enable us to sing in one voice as your gathered people,
and to join in harmony with all who worship you.**

By your grace, may the words and melodies shape our faith for years to come,
and in ways that forever give glory to you, the Triune God.

Amen.

The background of the entire page is a deep blue color. Overlaid on this background are several horizontal lines of musical notation, including staves with notes, rests, and beams, rendered in a lighter blue or white color. The notation is slightly faded and appears to be a background element.

GLORY
TO GOD

OPTION THREE

Hymn: *(choose one)*

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” (Glory to God, #1)

“Now Thank We All Our God” (Glory to God, #643)

“Sing Praise to God” (Glory to God, #645)

Questions of intent:

Music is an integral part of the work of the people of God. God’s people have always sung. When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, Moses and Miriam sang. When Samuel was born, Hannah sang. When the exiles were in Babylon, they wondered if their song was lost—it wasn’t, and they sang. When Gabriel brought good news of great joy to Mary, she sang. The early church sang hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs, and we have been singing ever since. God’s gift of music is not just to those with melodious voices, but to those whose hearts are tuned to praise of God. Our song requires all of our voices. Thus, as we dedicate this new hymnal, we also recommit ourselves to the singing work of the people of God.

To the choir: Do you promise to use your gift of song, of harmony, of weaving together instruments and voices as an offering to God of praise and thanksgiving?

We do, by the grace of God.

To other ensembles and musicians: Do you promise to use your musical gifts to share the message of the gospel, to combine voice, instruments, and much joy?

We do, by the grace of God.

To the congregation: Do you promise to add your voice to the hymns we sing? Will you sing with honesty and humility whether the song is old or new, comforting or challenging, triumphant or contemplative?

We will by the grace of God.

Litany: (Psalms 96 and 98, composite)

O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant, let the rivers clap their hands,

let the forests and the mountains sing for joy.

Make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing.

With trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn, shout for joy before the LORD who reigns.

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Song: (choose one)

“Praise to God the Father / Da n’ase” (Glory to God, #605)

“Sing Out My Soul / Magnificat” (Glory to God, #646)

“We Lift Our Voices” (Glory to God, #710)

Prayer of Dedication:

To you, O God,

we offer our thanks and praise.

We know that your creative power is the source of every good gift.

Today, we take delight in the special gift of these hymnals.

Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices." (*Glory to God*, #643)

Thank you for members of this congregation whose vision, energy, and resources
have helped to make this new hymnal available for our use.

**Thank you for all those who worked to create this song collection for your wider church:
composers, poets, and artists; editors, publishers, and committee members.**

Thank you for the guidance of your Spirit in the many decisions required
through long years of dedicated service.

Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices."

Thank you for the gift of music that stirs our hearts,

instructs our minds,

strengthens our spirits,

and sets our bodies in motion.

Thank you for old songs that keep us connected with saints and traditions from our past,

and for new songs that create a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for songs from our culture that express our heritage in familiar melodies and rhythms,

and for songs from other cultures

**that open us to the variety of ways in which your people
offer praise around the world.**

Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices."

We thank you for the gifts of music and song

through which creation has offered you praise and thanksgiving,
confession and lament, prayers and petitions.

May this new hymnal inspire our own songs in times of joy and sorrow.

Enable us to sing in one voice as your gathered people,

and to join in harmony with all who worship you.

By your grace, may the words and melodies shape our faith for years to come,

and in ways that forever give glory to you, the Triune God.

Amen.

Hymn: (choose one)

"Let All the World in Every Corner Sing" (*Glory to God*, #636)

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified" (*Glory to God*, #641)

"Halleluyah, We Are Singing" (*Glory to God*, #642)

OTHER SERVICE ELEMENTS

Prayer of Confession:

Holy One, Holy Three, you call all who dwell on earth to follow you, singing songs of praise.

We confess, however, that your song has been silenced within us.

We are unwilling to sing new songs—or to embrace sisters and brothers whose songs are different from our own.

We sing as we live—as if pleasing ourselves were more important than pleasing you.

Forgive us.

Cleanse our hearts of all that stifles your voice within us.

Join our songs with your whole Church

so that in all we sing, speak, or do, we may act to your glory, not our own.

(silent confession)

Amen.

Scripture readings:

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Psalms 96, 98, or 100

Isaiah 12

Luke 2:39-55

Ephesians 5:1-20

Sermon prompts:

Choose a biblical canticle and reflect on how that person (or community) used song. What did God do in their lives? How did they respond?

Choose a favorite congregational hymn. Sing it one stanza at a time, reflecting on each one before singing the following stanza. What theology is expressed? How does the melody exemplify or lift up the text? What is the history behind the hymn? Why should the church continue to sing it?

Example: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”(sing stz. 1); Reflection; Stanza 2; Reflection; Stanza 3; Reflection; Stanza 4

Charge:

“Go now, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father) for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 5:19)



GLORY
TO GOD