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Lutheran Book Of Worship: Pew Edition



Synopsis

Contains 569 hymns including 21 canticles, three musical settings for Holy Communion plus outline for a Chorale Service, Service of the Word, Propers, Responses, Psalms, Prayers, Morning and Evening Prayer, Marriage, and Burial of the Dead. Green cloth cover with embossed gold title and symbol.

Book Information

Series: Pew Edition

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Customer Reviews

The green LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP (1978) was compiled by four U.S. Lutheran denominations, three of which went on to merge into the E.L.C.A. in 1988 (meanwhile the fourth, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, went its own way, dropped out of the hymnal project, and released the blue LUTHERAN WORSHIP(q.v.) in 1982). The LBW replaced the red SERVICE BOOK AND HYMNAL from 1958 and when it appeared, many observers mourned the loss in hymn count from that book. However, the loss is not all that large -- the LBW has 547 hymns not counting roughly 20 standalone Canticles, SBH had 602. Generally the LBW headed more in the direction of ecumenism. Hymns in the LBW but not in the preceding book include "Amazing Grace," "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (though "In the Bleak Midwinter" was dropped), "Hail Thee Festival Day," and "What Wondrous Love Is This." Strangely, the addition of hymn no. 346, "When Peace, Like a River," by Horatio Spofford and Phillip Bliss, does not include the chorus by which the hymn is much better known, "It Is Well With My Soul."Liturgically speaking, the LBW did a good job of innovating

without offending. It was one of the first major hymnals to make use of the "two-track" presentation of modern and traditional language in worship elements like the Lord's Prayer. Thirty-five years later, much of the musicalized service lives on; The canticle "This Is the Feast of Victory for Our God" (p. 60, from Communion Setting #1) has, in fact, shown up as a standalone hymn in the hymnals of other denominations, not all Lutheran, such as the UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL, PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, VOICES UNITED (United Church of Canada) and COMMON PRAISE (Canada's Anglican hymnal). The LBW is very well manufactured and benefits much from higher-quality paper and cleaner, more modern typography and graphics. All told, the LBW, while not perfect, did a very good job of fusing multiple denominational traditions together. It has strength and majesty still, and it is available new still, from and ELCA publisher Augsburg Fortress. Used copies are not hard to find. After almost thirty years of service, the LBW was supplanted by the first pew hymnal produced by and for the unified ELCA (and its Canadian counterpart): EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP (2006), another red book but sometimes nicknamed the "cranberry book" to distinguish it from the multiple red hymnbooks that have been accruing under various Lutheran traditions.

I agree with the other reviewer that claims that the older hymnal is a better choice. Much of the language has been simplified in this book, and in my opinion, the simplification is completely pointless. It doesn't make the songs any more relevant to our life, it just makes them less poetic and spiritual. I do believe that hymnals should change and evolve over time, but I think this change should be in the form of including new music with the same level of poetic and harmonic sophistication, instead of just watering down the old music or including new, simpler music. One thing I like about the sections of this book used for worship is that they are structured in a way that makes it very easy to integrate musical chanting into the service instead of just reading text. This is in contrast to some other protestant hymnals, which don't really have this option, or don't make it as easy. This is a pretty good hymnal. I give three stars instead of four only because I feel the music has been substantially watered-down from previous editions, and, much like my criticisms of textbooks nowadays, I think that when a newer edition is inferior to an earlier one, the newer edition never deserves 4 or more stars.

Nearing 30 years in publication, the green Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) may have a few worn edges for those volumes that sit in the church pews, but it still remains a solid point of worship sourcing for the Lutherans today just as it was intended back in 1978. I am a relatively new

Lutheran, having not been exposed to the predecessor to the green volume, I won't compare the two. I have purchased my own copy for home to help me prepare for those Sundays when I find myself leading in church in the absence of our pastor. This volume is both an inspiration to me and an excellent reference tool. I know some have suggested the book be re-written, but what truly would be changed, it is of Lutheran origin and I am sure any future changes will be subtle in nature, one thing I've learned about becoming a Lutheran is that change comes slowly. This book is broken down into key areas that even for a lay pastor are extremely easy to follow. I sometimes get critical of the music but have come to love it knowing more about its origins. I so appreciate this being in a hardbound cover as well.

The Lutheran Book of Worship is a very important book to the Lutheran faith in following services. Having a copy at home helps me in knowing where certain songs are located so I can look over the words and be prepared for the worship service. The book arrived in very good condition and had a bonus of having colored page markers so I can mark the Psalms.

We can't rewrite this book! I just became a Lutheran after leaving a nondenominational evangelical church! Pop-Christianity gets old, anyway, no matter how new it stays.

Having been raised and grown through the Liturgy of the green book I can't imagine using any other. I don't know about the difference in the Hymns & Liturgy between the red and green book, but I'm moved as much by the traditional like "Amazing Grace", as I am by Barbara Streisand's "The Our Father", or Cristie Laine's (sp?) modern Hymns. I don't care for "Folk" version services, but I don't care for Folk music in general. There is only one particular service that I'm most moved by, as I'm sure most have a preference...that's how God made us :-). My suggestion to anyone "on the fence" should attend a service of both and see what touches your heart through the Holy Spirit. I realize we are each individuals with different likes and dislikes. I could not give a Liturgical and/or Hymnal anything but five stars, but I do LOVE this book.

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