



ASCENSIONNEWS

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Hymns Are Devotions Post published: July 18, 2016 by Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley

Our hymnal is a treasury of devotions. Although we mainly think of hymns in the context of corporate worship, they are also perfectly suited for devotional use in the home for both family and private daily worship. Hymns are prepackaged succinct poetic meditations that can be sung, spoken, and prayed. These hymns/devotions have been and continue to be composed by the Church's great theologians, from Ambrose of Milan, Luther, and Gerhardt to Franzmann and Starke.

What makes hymns suitable for meditation? In essence hymns and devotions are the same. Both are based on the truth of Holy Scripture. Both proclaim Law and Gospel. Both teach an aspect of God's plan of salvation. Both teach who God is and who we are. Both center on Word and Sacraments. Both point to the cross and the forgiveness of sins. Both make application to our lives today and express faith's response to God's mercy.

Hymns are excellent devotions for the Church Year. They entwine our lives with the life of Christ. They enable us to savor the various seasons on a daily basis from our Lord's incarnation, birth, baptism, ministry, transfiguration, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension to His return on Judgment Day. In hymn devotions our lives are encompassed in the full circle of Christ's redemptive work.

Hymn devotions teach doctrine. If you want to know what we confess as Lutherans, check out hymns. We sing what we believe and we believe what we sing. All of the teaching of Holy Scripture can be found in our hymnody. The *Lutheran Service Book* provides a great resource by listing Scriptural references foundational for each hymn.

Using hymns as devotions helps to review the previous week's divine service and/or prepare hearts for the upcoming Sunday. This is especially important for little children. It gives them opportunity to participate in worship as they hear familiar refrains of alleluias sung around the supper table or as part of bedtime rubrics and rituals.

Hymns are devotions that engrave themselves in our hearts and minds. The rhyme and rhythm of poetry wedded to music makes words memorable. Hymns are devotions that we carry with us. They become part of the fiber of our very being providing the comfort of Christ in all of life's challenging and brilliant moments. Hymns are devotions that nestle in our hearts ready to spring to the tip of our tongues at a moment's notice.

During times of uncertainty — "What God Ordains is Always Good" LSB 760

Comforting a child during the night— "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" LSB 740

A gathering of family— "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LSB 805

At the bedside of the dying— "Abide With Me" LSB 878

Joyful occasions— "Now Thank We All Our God" LSB 895

Oppressed by Satan— "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It" LSB 594

Confession and Absolution– “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB 611

Stress and anxiety– “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” LSB 656

Our hymnal is a treasury of devotions. Giving voice to the Word of God implants the peace, joy, and mercy of Christ in our hearts. And no one can take this from us!

Deaconess Carolyn S. Brinkley is the Military Project Coordinator at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.



The Sunrise From on High Posted on June 24, 2026 Posted By: Missouri District Categories: [News](#), [President](#)

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:76–79, ESV).

Zechariah’s song in Luke 1 packs a punch. In response to the question of, “What then shall this child be?” Zechariah speaks of God visiting and redeeming his people. He speaks of how the Lord, throughout the Old Testament, spoke through the mouths of prophets about the salvation of God’s people. Those Old Testament prophets were speaking in two ways, of an immediate salvation, as God saved His people time and time again from their enemies, and how He would send a Savior to bring ultimate redemption. But at the end of his song, Zechariah sings of his present reality. His child, the promised prophet, has come. This child will be the one to proclaim that the Lord is near and then point and say, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29b, ESV).

The tender mercy of God has visited us in Christ. John prepared the way by preaching repentance and forgiveness so that hearts would be ready to receive Jesus. We live in darkness and the shadow of death—cultural confusion, personal trials, grief, anxiety, and sin. Yet the Sunrise from on high has dawned upon us. Jesus, our merciful High Priest, shines the light of forgiveness and life into every dark corner. He guides our feet into the way of peace, not by our own works, but by His perfect life, atoning death, and victorious resurrection.

Like John, our calling is to decrease so that Christ may increase. In our vocations—as parents, workers, students, and neighbors—we point others to the Lamb of God.

*When all the world was cursed By Moses’ condemnation, Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation. With true forerunner’s zeal The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.*

“When All the World Was Cursed” (LSB 346:1)

Prayer: Lord God, by Your tender mercy the Sunrise from on high has visited us in Christ Jesus. Shine the light of Your salvation into our darkness and guide our feet into the way of peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Samuel M. Powell
Third Vice President
Missouri District





Sunday Worship Schedule:
Bible Study 8:15am,
Sunday School 8:30am
Worship Service 9:30am

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KC MO 64133

816-358-1919
secretary@ascensionlckc.org
Walkers M-F, 7-10am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10am	2	3 Office Closed	4 Basketball 10am-12pm
5 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am Bd. of Elders meeting following worship	6	7	8 Bible Study 10am	9	10	11 Basketball 10am-12pm
12 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	13	14 Church Council 6:30pm	15 Bible Study 10am	16	17 Basketball 7- 9pm	18 No Basketball Craft Day 9am- 6:30pm
19 New Dimensions of Praise 10am	20	21	22 Bible Study 10am	23	24	25 Men's Group 8am Basketball 10am-12pm
26 New Dimensions of Praise 10am Mite Box Sunday	27	28	29 Bible Study 10am	30	31	



For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

