

Copyright & Permissions

Do churches need to worry about copyright?

Yes! Even churches, schools, and individuals need to obtain permission before they copy, transcribe, print, project, livestream, or podcast copyrighted content.

How do I know if something is under copyright?

Check in the book, site, or source where you find the content. The copyright information might be right on the page where the content is, or it could be in the front or back of the book or source. With music, and especially with hymns, it is important to check all the different elements: there might be separate rights holders for the words, tune, arrangement, and possibly a translation. Each copyright on a piece needs to be cleared if you want to use that specific element. This process is known as getting permission for or licensing the content.

How can I get permission to use copyrighted material in worship (and what if I'm broadcasting a service)?

Reprinting, projecting, and/or broadcasting copyrighted material requires permission. There are two ways to get that permission: subscribing to a copyright license that covers that material, or obtaining permission directly from the copyright administrator for that material. This permission will look different depending on how you are planning on using the content—reprinting, projecting, podcasting, streaming, etc. Remember to get permission for online use if that's applicable, and remember that any hymn that will be *heard* (such as in a livestreamed service) as well as *shown* (on a slide or in a bulletin) will require permission for the tune and arrangement in addition to text (and, if applicable, the translation).

What specific options do I have for getting permission to use Augsburg Fortress liturgies and music?

Augsburg Fortress offers two different licenses that cover our liturgies. One covers only liturgical texts and liturgical music in the [Evangelical Lutheran Worship](#) family, which includes *All Creation Sings*. The second, the [Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License](#), covers all liturgical texts and liturgical music published or administered by Augsburg Fortress. This license is included in a sundaysandseasons.com subscriptions. You need the applicable license to reproduce, project, livestream, or podcast our liturgies.

Because many other rights holders are represented in our hymnals and worship resources, we encourage churches to use third-party licenses with broader coverage. Augsburg Fortress hymns are covered under [One License](#). To reprint, project, livestream, or podcast music not covered by either of our liturgies licenses, your best option is licensing from One License, which offers a reprint license and several podcast/streaming license options. We do offer a reprint license for hymns, but it does not cover podcasting, streaming, or hymns from other rights holders.

What are the limitations on copyright licenses?

All the listed licenses are only for local, one-time, not-for-profit use in a worship context. The licenses are also site-specific, meaning they're for use at your church only. Some rights holders for pieces published in Augsburg Fortress resources don't participate in any of the licenses listed here, and you would need to contact the rights holders directly for permission to use their content.

I have questions. How can I contact you for help answering them?

Specific questions regarding reproducing material under copyright to, or administered by, Augsburg Fortress can be sent via email to copyright@augzburgfortress.org Please include a phone number in your email. Our copyright phone number is [612-330-3530](tel:612-330-3530).