

THE WORSHIP MATTERS SERIES HANDBOOKS, SOURCEBOOKS, AND STUDIES

Resources for Understanding, Preparing,
Enacting, and Reviewing Worship

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AUGSBURG FORTRESS



From Your Publisher

Dear Partner in Ministry,
Greetings from Augsburg Fortress!

We invite you to deepen your assembly's worship life by exploring the resources in our Worship Matters series. Whether you are just discovering these resources or are familiar with several titles, they will equip you as you prepare, plan, lead, and learn about worship in your community.

What is Worship Matters?

Worship Matters is a collection of resources for you and your congregation to renew your encounter with the living God in worship. Here you will find useful handbooks, practical sourcebooks, and thoughtful topical studies that draw you deeper into the *hows* and *whys* of worship. You will be grounded in the foundations of worship and why it matters for the life of the world.

How do I use the resources?

The Worship Matters series includes resources that can be used as guidebooks, sourcebooks, and as aids for individual or group study. Smaller handbooks are perfect for equipping presiders, preachers, church musicians, readers, assisting ministers, intercessors, and hospitality ministers. Handbooks on marriage and funerals can be handed to those preparing for these services, deepening their understanding of these life passages. Larger sourcebooks such as *Leading Worship Matters* can be used by staff, worship committees, and lay leaders, and contain overviews of worship roles, tip sheets, sample invitation letters for worship participation, and more. Topical studies on baptism, communion, the lectionary, worship and ecology, and more can be used for adult forums as well as for individuals who seek greater understanding. Each study includes questions to guide conversation.

Why do I need them?

Those who gather for worship have important questions about worship, especially if they are new to Lutheran worship. When time is of the essence, it is essential to have resources you can count on. All the titles in this series explore how and why our worship matters in an accessible and helpful manner.

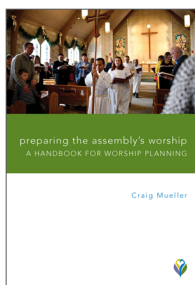
We hope you enjoy looking at these Worship Matters resources as you consider what is most helpful for you in your church's worship life. More information about each title can be found at augsburgfortress.org.

Blessings in your worship ministry,

Deacon Jennifer Baker-Trinity
Program Manager for Worship Resource Development
Augsburg Fortress Publishers and the ELCA

Rev. Suzanne Burke
Publisher, Congregational Resources
Augsburg Fortress Publishers

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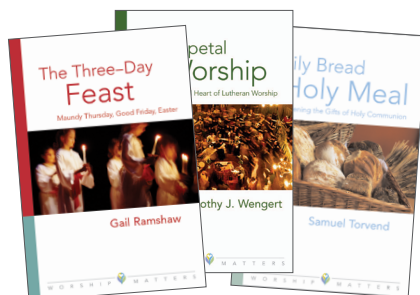
New release! Preparing the Assembly's Worship
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Handbooks Pages 6-10



Worship Matters
Sourcebooks Pages 11-13



Worship Matters Studies
Pages 14-18

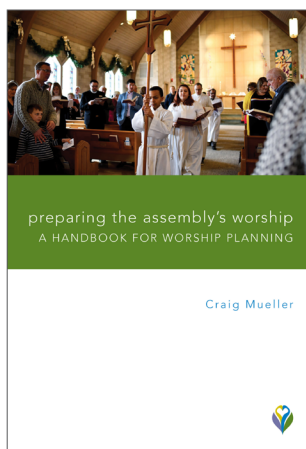
Whether you are building up your own library or preparing for a group session, having many of these titles on hand will aid your ministry.

Order 10 or more to get **free shipping!**

Use promo code **WORSHIP10** when ordering.



New Release!



Preparing the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Worship Planning

This Worship Matters handbook by Craig Mueller offers helpful guidance for preparing worship in your congregation, whether that preparation is done by a large worship committee, a small staff, or a group of volunteers. As worship leaders look ahead to worship next week or next year, *Preparing the Assembly's Worship* offers practical ideas and handy checklists, as well as questions for deeper reflection.

Chapter 1: Primary concerns for worship preparation

Chapter 2: Who is involved in worship preparation?

Chapter 3: Preparing and planning

Chapter 4: Involving the community

Chapter 5: Rehearsing and reviewing

Chapter 6: Through the church year

Chapter 7: Enriching the assembly's worship

Chapter 8: Things that come up

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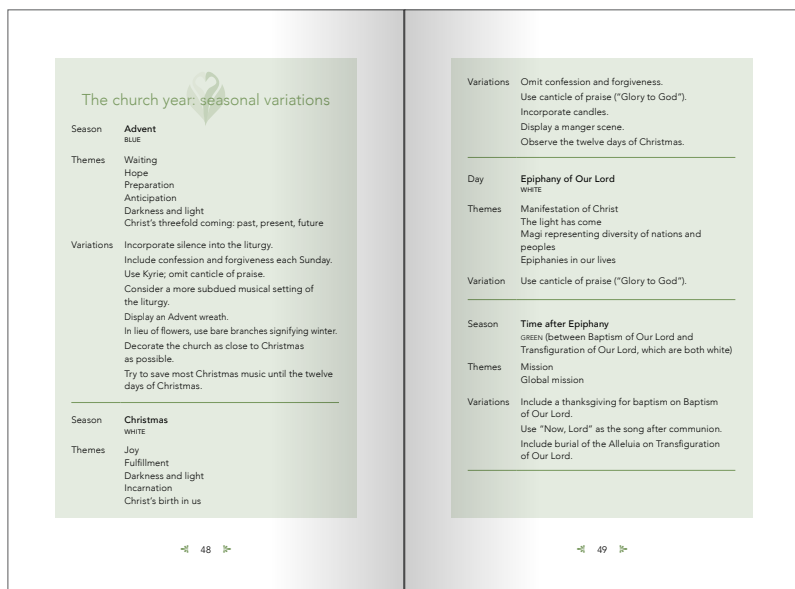
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Also included

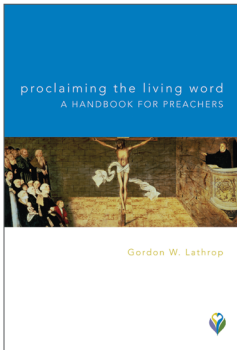
- Sample planning forms
- Index of liturgical texts
- Checklists
- Sample agendas
- Seasonal variations
- And more!



Interior pages from *Preparing the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Worship Planning*

Worship Matters Handbooks

Worship Matters Handbooks provide valuable resources for congregations that want to renew their worship life, deepen their understanding of worship as mission, and increase the involvement of lay people in leading worship. With important resources for pastors, those with worship roles, pre-marriage couples, families planning funerals, and more, these books cover the breadth and depth of the happenings in a church.



Proclaiming the Living Word: A Handbook for Preachers

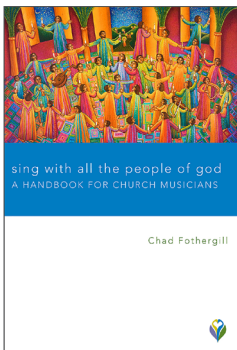
What is preaching for? To bring us again and again to faith, to trusting God, and to believing that what God has done in Christ gives us and all the world forgiveness, hope, and life. Preaching is intended to awaken faith in all its hearers—the new believer and the veteran Christian. How does the preacher faithfully proclaim the living Word in the Christian assembly? What is central to this vocation? How can the preacher carefully prepare for this task Sunday after Sunday? By offering wise counsel, gracious encouragement, and concrete tools for ministry, author Gordon W. Lathrop equips those who proclaim faithful preaching in their assemblies.

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Sing With All the People of God: A Handbook for Church Musicians

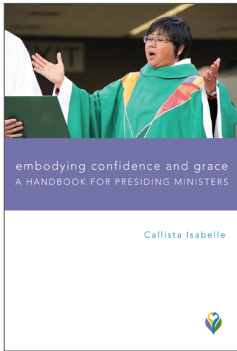
With wisdom and care, Chad Fothergill offers background and guidance on the role and vocation of the church musician and lifts up the importance of entering into a relationship with one's worshiping community, not just its music. Topics include skillful preparation, planning, and leadership of assembly song, working with volunteer musicians and staff, navigating questions of musical style, and more. This handbook will be especially valuable for church musicians as well as pastors, worship committees, and other rostered leaders.

978-1-5064-6923-2 | **\$11.99**

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Embodying Confidence and Grace: A Handbook for Presiding Ministers

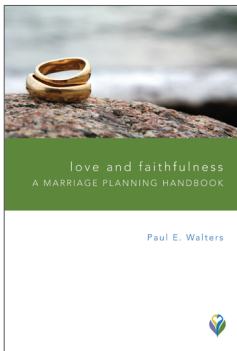
In a grace-filled manner, Callista Isabelle offers wise counsel on how presiding ministers plan, prepare, preside, and then reflect on the assembly's worship. The author encourages presiding ministers to carefully prepare their voices, bodies, and spirits as a sign of respect to the assembly to whom they have been called. This handbook invites presiding ministers to approach this calling with care and humility so that they can be fully present and confident in their abilities to lead and serve.

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Love and Faithfulness: A Marriage Planning Handbook

Love and Faithfulness provides couples with brief explanations and the entire text of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* marriage service, as well as more recent supplemental resources.

Explore options for scripture readings, hymns, and more, to help shape a marriage service that reflects both the church's faith and who the parties are as a couple. Couples can use the reflections as a springboard to talk openly and honestly, pray with one another, and build a foundation for the days and years to come in married life together. Pastors will find this resource invaluable for working with those preparing for marriage, and a free, downloadable pastor's guide is available at [augsburgfortress.org](https://www.augsburgfortress.org).

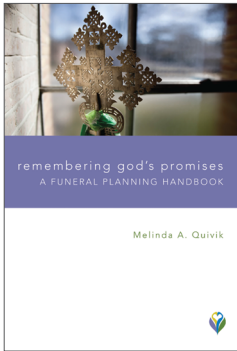
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One copy per couple is recommended—stock up today!

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5+ | **\$7.99**



Remembering God's Promises: A Funeral Planning Handbook

When a loved one dies, we soon face several questions. What happens now? How do we go about arranging a funeral or memorial service? What should it look and feel like? Useful for pastors and families alike, *Remembering God's Promises* by Melinda A. Quivik offers notes and commentary on the funeral service in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, lists of suggested scripture readings and hymns, and information on other planning options. When the family and friends meet with the pastor, the funeral planning worksheet provides space to write down information and keep track of decisions that need to be made. In addition, a free, downloadable pastor's guide includes an outline for four adult forum sessions on end-of-life decisions, hospice care, and funeral and burial planning. Pastors can also use the handbook to encourage individuals to plan their own funerals in advance.

978-1-5064-3146-8 | **\$11.99**

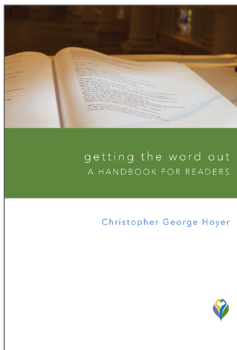
One copy per service or family is recommended—stock up today!

Quantity Discount available

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See also: *In Sure and Certain Hope: A Funeral Sourcebook* on page 13



Getting the Word Out: A Handbook for Readers

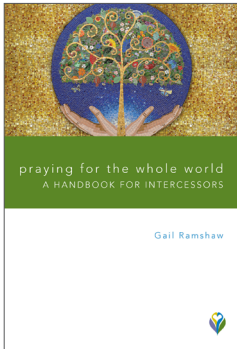
To strike the heart of the hearer with the power and peace of the word of God is the goal of the reading of scripture. Whether you are a beginning or seasoned reader of scripture, you will find in these pages help and encouragement for preparing to read in worship. In pithy and witty prose, Christopher George Hoyer provides valuable insight into both the why and the how of excellent reading. This handbook is filled with practical help, preparation exercises, and spiritual wisdom for readers. It also includes a pronunciation guide for the lectionary readings. *Getting the Word Out* invites readers to approach this role not just as a task, but as a ministry to the whole assembly.

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Praying for the Whole World: A Handbook for Intercessors

In the intercessions, the assembly asks God to respond to the needs of the whole world. Through these petitions, worshippers enact their baptismal calling to intercede for the well-being of all things. In many churches, laypersons prepare the prayers of intercession. In this concise, charming, down-to-earth handbook, Gail Ramshaw proposes seven steps, from Monday through Sunday, to assist your crafting of the prayers of the faithful.

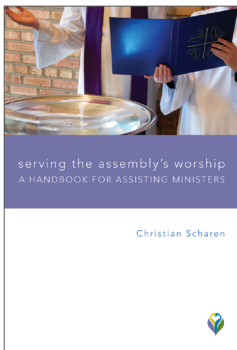
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See also: *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders* on page 12



Serving the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Assisting Ministers

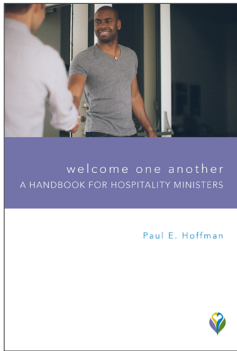
The assisting minister provides, alongside the presiding minister, a consistent presence guiding the assembly's worship, from Gathering to Sending. The assisting minister's leadership in such a significant role will only improve by knowing some history and theology of the liturgy alongside practice with competent teachers. In this handbook you will find a brief history of assisting ministers in Christian worship, what makes a good assisting minister, a step-by-step walk through the role, and lots of tips and encouragement. *Serving the Assembly's Worship* by Christian Scharen invites assisting ministers to approach this role not just as a task, but as a ministry to the whole assembly.

978-1-4514-7808-2 | **\$8.49**

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Welcome One Another: A Handbook for Hospitality Ministers

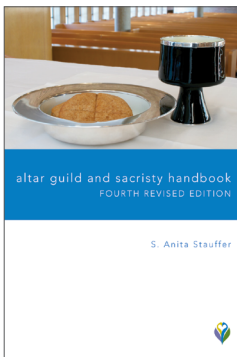
Most people in our towns and cities, in the neighborhoods and surrounding countryside of our church properties are completely mystified about who we are, what we do, and who is welcome—or not. Paul E. Hoffman's inviting prose, which includes many practical proposals, will expand your notions of who hospitality ministers are and why they matter. His own compelling experience suggests that the rewards of our efforts to welcome the stranger will deeply enrich our congregational ministry and our relationships with one another and with God.

978-1-5064-1597-0 | **\$8.49**

Quantity Discount available

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5+ | **\$5.99**



Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook: Fourth Revised Edition

S. Anita Stauffer's original work for altar guilds has been a fixture in churches everywhere since the 1970s. This fourth, revised edition of her classic reflects recent developments in liturgical practice and gives attention to the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* family of resources. Altar guild members and sacristans will appreciate the practical and expanded information on caring for the worship space, furnishings, appointments, vestments, and linens; the nuts and bolts of preparing for the sacraments and for funerals, weddings, and other occasional services; and a thorough overview of the church year. Also included are suggestions for organizing the altar guild's work and a helpful glossary. *Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook* invites you to approach this role not just as a task, but as a ministry to the whole assembly in God's service.

978-1-4514-7809-9 | **\$19.99**

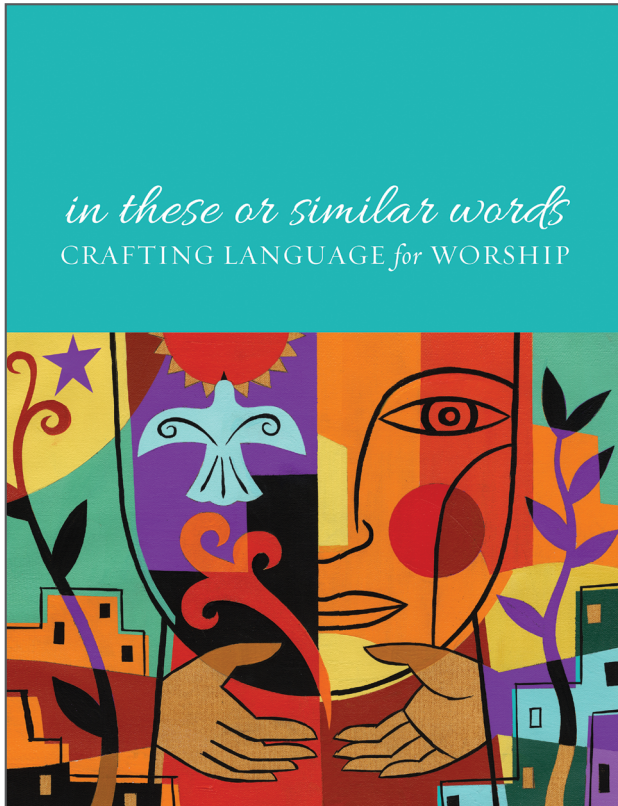
Quantity Discount available

1-4 | **\$19.99**

5+ | **\$14.99**

Worship Matters Sourcebooks

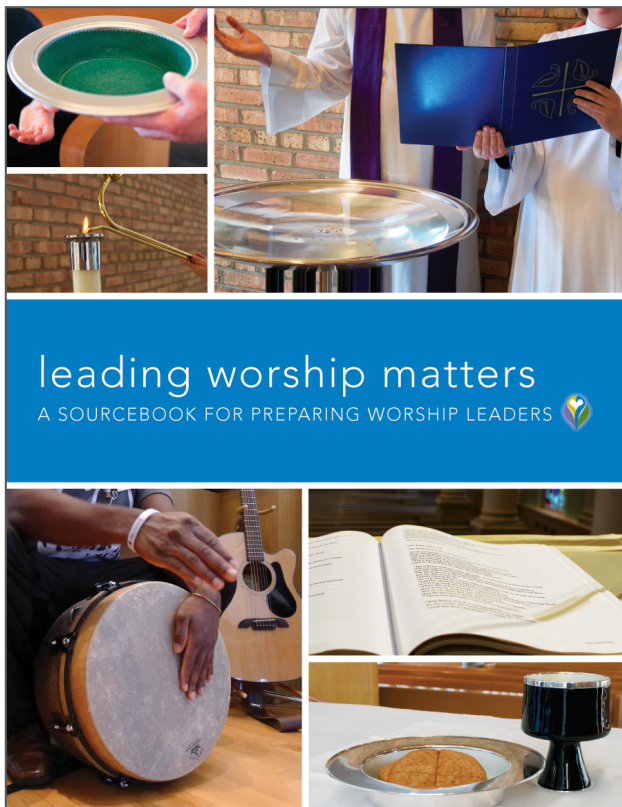
These comprehensive guides offer everything you might need on a topic from group discussion guides to reproducible resources. Ready to usher you through whichever process you require, these sourcebooks are a staple of any pastoral or congregational library.



In These or Similar Words: Crafting Language for Worship

In These or Similar Words: Crafting Language for Worship will guide individuals and groups who wish to prepare new worship texts for their communities. The resource includes some discussion of foundational principles for evaluating sources of language and images used in such texts, individual and group exercises to identify and describe your local worshipping community's makeup, values, and sensibilities, brief commentaries about "what's going on" in specific liturgical texts within the services of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, examples of locally crafted language for worship for illustration and inspiration, and reproducible pages with practical tips and helps for the actual process of writing new texts.

978-1-5064-0056-3 | **\$32.00**



leading worship matters

A SOURCEBOOK FOR PREPARING WORSHIP LEADERS 

Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders

Leading Worship Matters is a valuable resource for congregations that want to prepare their worship leaders for a ministry—not just a task—and that want to renew their worship life and deepen their understanding of worship as mission. It is a comprehensive guide with practical, succinct, easy-to-use tools and resources to support, plan, execute, and evaluate lay worship leadership development. More than 30 contributors have provided helps and training materials for assisting ministers, readers, intercessors, acolytes, ushers, greeters, communion ministers, altar guild, tech ministers, musicians, children's sermon ministers, and those who care for the worship space. Practical help and support are also provided for both new and seasoned worship leaders through a reproducible library of helpful topics available digitally, that includes handouts, sample training sessions, role descriptions, and newsletter articles, all editable and customizable to your local needs. Short video segments featuring real lay worship leaders reflecting on why they serve in particular roles are available online at youtube.com/@AugsburgFortress.

978-1-4514-7806-8 | **\$50.00**

See also: Handbooks for specific worship leadership roles on pages 6-10

See also: *Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship Participant Book and Leader Guide* on pages 14-15



In Sure and Certain Hope: A Funeral Sourcebook

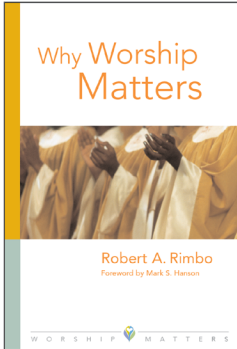
In Sure and Certain Hope: A Funeral Sourcebook is a comprehensive guide for planning, presiding, and preaching at funerals. An in-depth look at the funeral rite and sermon demonstrates how the funeral connects to baptism, proclaims the resurrection of Christ and promise of new life, and points to the communion of all the saints. Tools for discussing and planning a funeral with the family include a planning worksheet, suggestions for scripture texts and hymns, and essays on cremation, the use of a columbarium, natural or green burial, and military ceremonies. Additional resources address the unique dimensions of presiding and preaching at a funeral for a child, a funeral in the public eye, and a funeral following a suicide. The sourcebook also looks at the church's role in ministry with the dying and bereaved, and in facilitating conversations about end-of-life matters, death, and grief. Reproducible materials from the sourcebook including rites and liturgies, an adult forum series outline, and tools to help individuals plan their own funerals, all editable and customizable to your needs, are available digitally.

978-1-5064-3145-1 | **\$50.00**

See also: Remembering God's Promises: A Funeral Planning Handbook on page 8

Worship Matters Studies

The Worship Matters Studies examine key worship issues in a multi-session course and topical studies by pastors, musicians, and lay people from throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Features include informal and insightful writing for all readers and study questions at the end of every chapter. These books examine vital issues in weekly worship and help leaders and congregants understand and experience worship more richly.



Why Worship Matters

Authored by Robert A. Rimbo, the first volume in this series is written in the style of good preaching. This collection of bite-size essays is a conversation-starter for those who want to look at the assembly's worship in very broad terms.

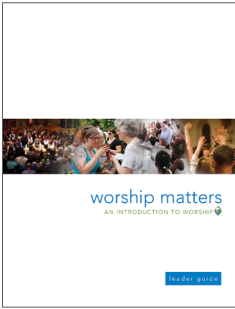
978-0-8066-5108-8 | **\$11.99**



Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship Participant Book

Worship Matters invites you to grow into a richer understanding of the foundations and practices of Lutheran worship. With a focus on the principal weekly gathering around word and sacrament, this book explores foundational questions about why we gather, how we encounter God in worship, and how that encounter shapes our response in both our communities and our world. Topics include the church year, the lectionary, holy baptism, holy communion, corporate prayer, worship and culture, and more. This book provides all the content a participant needs for each of the five sessions of the *Worship Matters* introductory course and serves as an excellent reference after the course is complete. Order one for each participant today!

978-1-4514-3605-1 | **\$8.49**

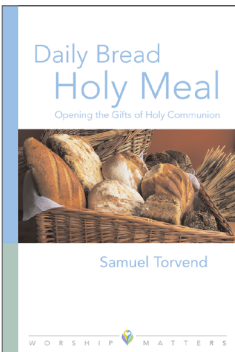


Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship Leader Guide

This five-session introductory course has been developed to help participants grow into a richer understanding of the foundations of Lutheran worship. With a focus on the principal gathering around word and sacrament, this course explores the foundational questions about why we gather, how we encounter God in worship, and how that encounter shapes our response in both our communities and our world. Topics include the church year, the lectionary, holy baptism, holy communion, corporate prayer, worship and culture, and more. Approachable and accessible, *Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship* will stimulate meaningful discussion about worship practices. An excellent resource for new member classes, adult forums, or seasonal and Lenten studies, this course promises to deepen the worship life of each participant.

978-1-4514-3604-4 | **\$30.00**

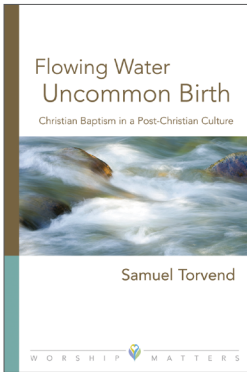
See also: *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders* on page 12



Daily Bread, Holy Meal: Opening the Gifts of Holy Communion

In *Daily Bread, Holy Meal*, Samuel Torvend invites Christians to reconsider that significance of eating and drinking with Jesus in a world of great need. Drawing on biblical and historical studies, this exploration of the Eucharist asks the seeker in every Christian to consider the ecological, theological, communal, and ethical dimensions of the Lord's supper. Through a careful weaving of biblical passages, medieval poetry, Luther's writing, familiar hymns, and liturgical texts, each chapter unfolds another "gift" of the Holy Communion and the sometimes-troubling questions each one raises for individuals who live in a fast-food culture yet seek community around a gracious table.

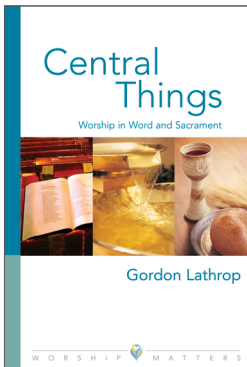
978-0-8066-5106-4 | **\$11.99**



Flowing Water, Uncommon Birth: Christian Baptism in a Post-Christian Culture

Author Samuel Torvend wonders, “how is our baptismal preparation, the celebration of baptism, and ongoing baptismal and eucharistic formation shaping a people who will not only survive but flourish—perhaps in small ways—in a culture which remains skeptical of religion, religious people, and religious communities?” These reflections on Christian baptism draw on the work of biblical and liturgical scholars, church historians, sociologists of religion, theologians, poets, cultural analysts, filmmakers, and writers, the witness of the New Testament, the sermons, hymns, and architecture of early Christians, ancient and modern liturgical texts, medieval mystics, reformation leaders, and modern martyrs and reformers.

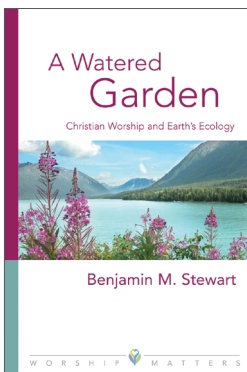
978-0-8066-7063-8 | **\$11.99**



Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament

Gordon Lathrop identifies the central things of Christian worship as these: an open and participating community gathered in song and prayer around the scriptures read and preached, the baptismal washing enacted or remembered, the holy supper, and the sending to a needy world. These things may be done in diverse ways, in diverse cultural situations, responding to diverse times, but they nonetheless unite Christians throughout the world. Taken seriously, they may shape the spirit and the details of our worship. By them, the divine continually brings people into faith, hope, and love.

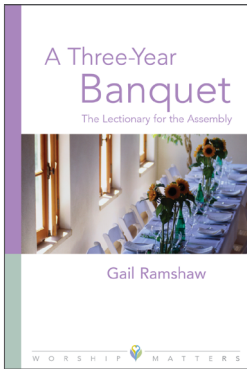
978-0-8066-5163-7 | **\$11.99**



A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology

A Watered Garden by Benjamin M. Stewart explores the deep ecological connections within our patterns of worship and the inherent wisdom that ties us to creation. From the waters of baptism to the ashes to which we return, our sacraments and natural world are inseparable. Insight, meditation, and conversation around these various roots can lead us to a renewed relationship with an ailing earth.

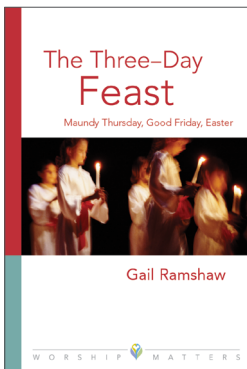
978-0-8066-5393-8 | **\$11.99**



A Three-Year Banquet: The Lectionary for the Assembly

A *Three-Year Banquet* by Gail Ramshaw invites the entire worshipping assembly, lay and clergy, to understand and delight in the three-year lectionary. This study explains how the Revised Common Lectionary was developed and how the gospels and the first and second readings are assigned. Further chapters describe the many ways that the three readings affect the assembly's worship and the assembly itself. Like food at a banquet, the fare we enjoy in the lectionary nourishes us year after year.

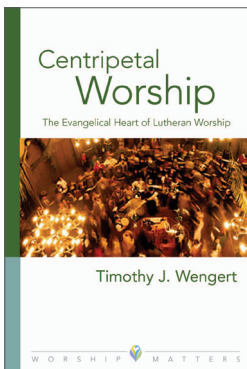
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The Three-Day Feast: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter

This title is an introduction to the great Three Days in the church's year that celebrate Christ's passage from death to life. Using the motifs of "telling the story" and "enacting the meaning," Gail Ramshaw illuminates the significance of each day's worship and makes plain the history, symbolism, meaning, and centrality of these core days of the church's life together. This book gives a little history and a lot of suggestions about how these services can enrich the worship life of your entire assembly.

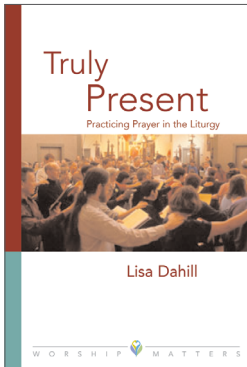
978-0-8066-5115-6 | **\$11.99**



Centripetal Worship: The Evangelical Heart of Lutheran Worship

At the heart of Christian worship, we encounter the Trinity. Our liturgy with its prayers, proclamations, sacraments, and songs, witnesses and draws the worshipping assembly into that heart. In *Centripetal Worship*, Timothy J. Wengert examines how worship is, and should be, at the center of the assembly. Contributors Dirk Lange, Mark Mummert, and Melinda Quivik look at the historical and contemporary factors that influence how and why we worship the way we do.

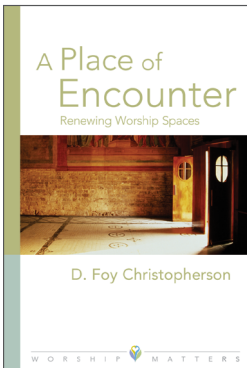
978-0-8066-7017-1 | **\$11.99**



Truly Present: Practicing Prayer in the Liturgy

In this readable and practical volume, Lisa Dahill connects the liturgy to a series of spiritual practices that carry Sunday worship into the rest of the week. Each chapter is rooted in a central element of worship and is intended to help you engage that dimension of worship more fully and attentively, showing us how each contemplative practice both roots within and deepens our experience of worship.

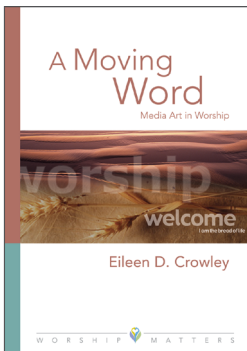
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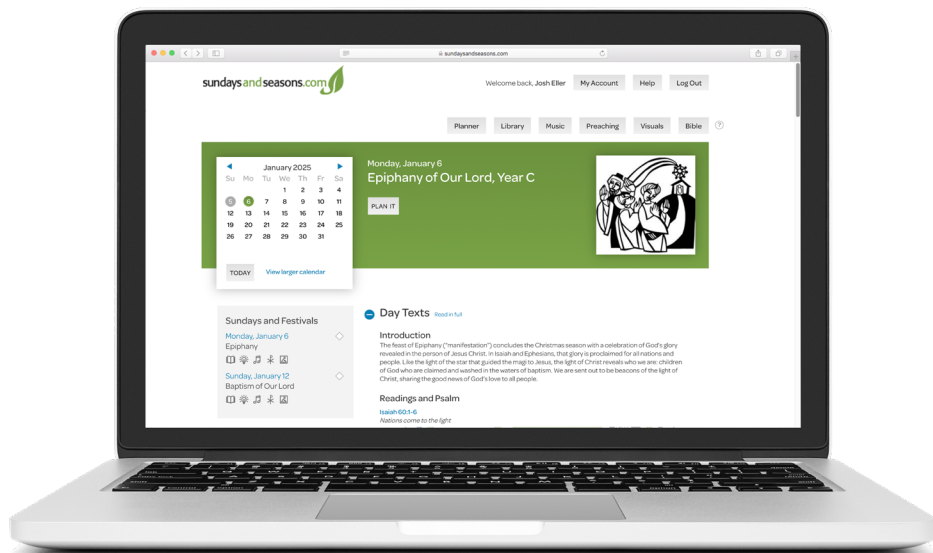
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