

The Entrance Hymn (or Opening Hymn)

After the Confession & Forgiveness and the Sharing of the Peace, we as a forgiven people of God now begin our worship in earnest. And we begin our worship by singing together the Entrance Hymn (also called the Opening Hymn).

A hymn is a prayer that is sung in unison. These hymns are decades or even centuries old and echo the prayers of Christians throughout the generations.

The Entrance Hymn dates back to the worship in the Temple in Old Testament times. Jewish men would sing a psalm of prayer together as they entered the Temple to worship.

In some villages throughout Europe during the Middle Ages, the church bell would ring on Sunday morning to wake people for church. A priest led by a crucifer and torchbearers would process out of the church throughout the streets of the village. People would join in the procession when it passed their homes. And together the entire community processed into the church building where a choir would be singing (like the choirs of angels in heaven praying for all creation and praising God).

Many Lutheran churches today begin their service with a processional. While the congregation sings the Entrance Hymn, the crucifer, acolytes, worship leaders, and pastor (and sometimes the choir) would process in. And in many Lutheran churches, the members strive to sing the hymns in 4-part harmony. This is to start the service with praise to the God whom we have come to worship.

Here at Community Lutheran Church, we simply start the worship by standing and singing the Entrance Hymn together.

Read Psalm 24.

- This was a traditional hymn that was sung as people entered the Temple.

Read both Psalm 145 and Psalm 148.

- These praises were sung in the Temple courtyard.

Read Matthew 21:1-11.

- Jesus entered Jerusalem in a procession where people were praising God.
- “Hosanna in the highest” means “Praise the Lord in the highest heavens”.

Close by singing to God one of these hymns:

- “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” Hymn # 413 in ELW
- “Beautiful Savior” Hymn # 838 in ELW
- “Jesus Loves Me!” Hymn # 595 in ELW