

# Responsive Opening Dialogues for Worship

WELS Arizona-California District Worship Committee

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The following responsive dialogues were developed to be used at the start of worship on special occasions. After the opening hymn and invocation or greeting, an appropriate dialogue from below replaces the Confession of Sins, Absolution, and Kyrie. A festive setting of an appropriate canticle may follow, concluding with the Prayer of the Day and leading into the Word portion of the service. The Scripture translation used in these dialogues is the NIV 1984, with occasional modification.

## DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*from Luke 1-2 & John 1*

**M:** My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests!**

**M:** Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

**C:** **He has raised up salvation for us in the house of his servant David.**

**M:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**C:** **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.**

**M:** In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

**C:** **My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**

**M:** I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you.

**C:** **He is Christ the Lord!**

## DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

- M:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
- C:** **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- M:** The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- C:** **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.** *Psalm 98:1-3*
- M:** But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? *Malachi 3:2*
- C:** **If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?** *Psalm 130:3*
- M:** Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.
- C:** **Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.** *Psalm 85:4,7*
- M:** Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and has redeemed his people. *Luke 1:68*
- C:** **My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.** *Luke 1:46-47*
- M:** When the time had fully come, God sent his Son,  
born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law,  
that we might receive the full rights of sons. *Galatians 4:4-5*
- C:** **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.  
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,  
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *John 1:14*
- M:** I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.
- C:** **Glory to God in the highest!** *Luke 2:10,11,14*

## DIALOGUE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

*from Ecclesiastes 3 and Psalm 90*

**M:** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

**C:** **Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.  
Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**M:** A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.

**C:** **The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,  
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

**M:** Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**C:** **May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.**

## DIALOGUE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

*This dialogue was originally prepared for a church anniversary service that used Psalm 90 as the sermon text.*

- M:** Now the dwelling of God is with men,  
and he will live with them.  
They will be his people,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God. *Revelation 21:3*
- C:** **Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.  
Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.** *Psalm 90:1-2*
- M:** Do not forget this one thing, dear friends:  
With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,  
and a thousand years are like a day. *2 Peter 3:8*
- C:** **For a thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.** *Psalm 90:4*
- M:** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.  
Everything is uncovered and laid bare  
before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. *Hebrews 4:13*
- C:** **We are consumed by your anger  
and terrified by your indignation.  
You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.** *Psalm 90:7-8*
- M:** In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps. *Proverbs 16:9*
- C:** **Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** *Psalm 90:12*
- M:** This is how God showed his love among us:  
He sent his one and only Son into the world  
that we might live through him.  
This is love: not that we loved God  
but that he loved us and sent his Son  
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. *1 John 4:9-10*
- C:** **Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.** *Psalm 90:14*

**M:** Lord, I have heard of your fame;  
I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord.  
Renew them in our day,  
in our time make them known.

*Habakkuk 3:2*

**C:** **May your deeds be shown to your servants,  
your splendor to their children.**

*Psalm 90:16*

**M:** God says, “In the time of my favor I heard you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”  
I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor,  
now is the day of salvation.

*2 Corinthians 6:2*

**C:** **May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.**

*Psalm 90:17*

## DIALOGUE FOR EASTER EVE

*This dialogue, adapted from the ancient Easter Vigil, could also be used for Easter Dawn or Easter Day by changing the five instances of the word "night" below to "day."*

- M:** Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels! Rejoice now, all creation!
- C:** **Sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.**
- M:** Rejoice, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you  
and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King.
- C:** **Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.**
- M:** Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light.
- C:** **Let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.**
- M:** This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin  
and are restored to life and immortality.
- C:** **This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead.  
The seal of the grave is broken  
and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.**
- M:** How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.
- C:** **How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen  
and joy is given to those downcast.**
- M:** How blessed is this night when man is reconciled to God in Christ.
- C:** **Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts,  
he who gives light to all creation.**

## DIALOGUE FOR EASTER DAWN

**M:** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

**C: I will exalt you, O Lord,  
for you lifted me out of the depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.**

*Psalms 30:1*

**M:** If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

*1 Corinthians 15:16-19*

**C: What gain is there in my destruction,  
in my going down into the pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?  
Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me;  
O Lord, be my help.**

*Psalms 30:9-10*

**M:** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23*

**C: O Lord my God, I called to you for help  
and you healed me.  
O Lord, you brought me up from the grave;  
you spared me from going down into the pit.**

*Psalms 30:2-3*

**M:** Christ must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

*1 Corinthians 15:25-26*

**C: Sing to the Lord, you saints of his;  
praise his holy name.  
For his anger lasts only a moment,  
but his favor lasts a lifetime;  
weeping may remain for a night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

*Psalms 30:4-5*

**M:** Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

**C: You turned my wailing into dancing;  
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,  
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

*Psalms 30:11-12*

## DIALOGUE FOR EASTER DAY

**M:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Liturgical statement*

**M:** This is the day the Lord has made.

**C:** **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Psalm 118:24*

**M:** I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

*Exodus 15:1-2*

**C:** **Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song.**

*Psalm 95:2*

**M:** I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

*Psalm 118:17*

**C:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Liturgical statement*

**M:** The Lord's right hand is majestic in power.

The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy.

In the greatness of his majesty he threw down those who opposed him.

*Exodus 15:6-7*

**C:** **Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

*1 Corinthians 15:54*

**M:** The Lord will not abandon me to the grave.

He has made known to me the path of life.

*Psalm 16:10-11*

**C:** **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

*John 20:29*

**M:** Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

**C:** **Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*1 Corinthians 15:55,57*

**M:** I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

*Job 19:25*

**C:** **The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,  
and he will reign forever and ever.**

*Revelation 11:15*

**M:** Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

*Revelation 7:10*

**C:** **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!**

*Revelation 5:12*

**M:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Liturgical statement*



## DIALOGUE FOR THE ASCENSION

**M:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

**C:** **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

*Psalm 148:1-2*

**M:** How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

**C:** **He has set his glory above the heavens.**

*Psalm 8:1*

**M:** For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

**C:** **He is exalted far above all gods.**

*Psalm 97:9*

**M:** God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

**C:** **God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

*Psalm 47:5,8*

**M:** The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

**C:** **He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.**

*Psalm 99:1*

**M:** The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

**C:** **A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.**

*Psalm 45:6*

**M:** Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

**C:** **His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

*Psalm 148:13*

## DIALOGUE FOR PENTECOST

- M:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
Now the earth was formless and empty,  
and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. *Genesis 1:1-2*
- C:** **The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.** *Job 33:4*
- M:** Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
- C:** **If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.** *Psalms 139:7-8*
- M:** The Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever.” *Genesis 6:3*
- C:** **O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.**
- M:** Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony.
- C:** **Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.** *Psalms 6:1,2,4*
- M:** Jesus said to his disciples, “Receive the Holy Spirit.  
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;  
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” *John 20:22-23*
- C:** **No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.  
Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** *John 3:5-6*
- M:** The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. *Isaiah 61:1*
- C:** **There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,  
because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life  
set me free from the law of sin and death.** *Romans 8:1*
- M:** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. *2 Corinthians 3:17*
- C:** **Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia!** *Liturgical statement*

## DIALOGUE FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

**M:** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.  
All the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

*Psalm 139:14,16*

**C:** **I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

*Luther's Small Catechism, Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed*

**M:** The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.  
You open your hand  
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

*Psalm 145:15-16*

**C:** **I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.**

*Small Catechism, First Article*

**M:** O Lord, how many are my foes!  
How many rise up against me!  
Many are saying of me,  
“God will not deliver him”  
But you are a shield around me, O Lord;  
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.  
To the Lord I cry aloud,  
and he answers me from his holy hill.

*Psalm 3:1-4*

**C:** **God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

*Small Catechism, First Article*

**M:** I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:  
He said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”

*Psalm 2:7*

**C:** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

*Small Catechism, Second Article*

**M:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from the words of my groaning?  
All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:  
“He trusts in the Lord;  
let the Lord rescue him.  
Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him.”

*Psalm 22:1,7,8*

**C: Christ has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

*Small Catechism, Second Article*

**M:** I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.  
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

*Psalm 118:17,21*

**C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

*Small Catechism, Second Article*

**M:** Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

*Psalm 51:10-12*

**C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

*Small Catechism, Third Article*

**M:** If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness;  
therefore you are feared.

*Psalm 130:3-4*

**C: In this Christian Church, the Holy Spirit daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.**

*Small Catechism, Third Article*

**M:** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,  
because you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.  
You have made known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

*Psalm 16:9-11*

**C: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

*Small Catechism, Third Article*

## DIALOGUE FOR REFORMATION

- M:** No one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. *Romans 3:20*
- C:** **All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”** *Galatians 3:10*
- M:** Whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. *Romans 3:19*
- C:** **You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.** *Galatians 5:4*
- M:** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. *Romans 1:16*
- C:** **When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.** *Galatians 4:4-5*
- M:** Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. *Romans 4:25*
- C:** **You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.** *Galatians 2:26-27*
- M:** A righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. *Romans 3:21-24*
- C:** **Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!** *Galatians 1:8*
- M:** Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. *Romans 10:17*
- C:** **We have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.** *Galatians 2:16*
- M:** Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. *Romans 5:1-2*
- C:** **God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. You are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.** *Galatians 4:6-7*
- M:** What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? *Romans 8:31-32*
- C:** **I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** *Galatians 2:20*

## DIALOGUE FOR REFORMATION

*from Galatians and Psalm 119*

*This dialogue was originally prepared for the celebration of the 475<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 2005.*

- M:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.
- C:** **My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.**
- M:** The Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.
- C:** **Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.**
- M:** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- C:** **May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.**
- M:** When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.
- C:** **I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.**
- M:** It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
- C:** **I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.**
- M:** May we never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C:** **Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.**

## DIALOGUE FOR REFORMATION

- M:** I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” *Psalm 122:1*
- C:** **One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.** *Psalm 27:4*
- M:** Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?
- C:** **He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.** *Psalm 24:3-4*
- M:** The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see  
if there are any who understand, any who seek God.  
All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;  
there is no one who does good, not even one. *Psalm 14:2-3*
- C:** **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.** *Psalm 51:1-3*
- M:** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him. *Psalm 32:1*
- C:** **I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths;  
O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.** *Psalm 30:1,2*
- M:** Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name.  
For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime. *Psalm 30:4-5*
- C:** **I am a sinner and I am a saint. This is what the Lord says. I am a sinner in God’s sight, not  
because God made me a sinner, but because I inherited the sin of my parents and because I  
sin every day. At the same time I am also holy in God’s sight, not because of what I have done,  
but because God has declared me righteous for the sake of the perfect life and atoning death  
of his Son. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who  
believe. I am a saint, God’s own child, and an heir of heaven.**

## DIALOGUE FOR REFORMATION

*Excerpts from Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses  
and corresponding verses from the Scriptures*

- M:** When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent,” he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. *Thesis 1*
- C:** **Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.** *Psalms 51:1-2*
- M:** Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally condemned, together with their teachers. *Thesis 32*
- C:** **All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written:  
“Cursed is everyone who does not continue  
to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”** *Galatians 3:10*
- M:** Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters. *Thesis 36*
- C:** **Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases.  
He does not treat us as our sins deserve,  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as far as the east is from the west,  
So far has he removed our transgressions from us.** *Psalms 103:2,3,10,12*
- M:** Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church. This is given to him by God, even without indulgence letters. *Thesis 37*
- C:** **A righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known,  
to which the Law and the Prophets testify.  
This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is  
no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
and are justified freely by his grace  
through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.  
God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.** *Romans 3:21-25*
- M:** The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God. *Thesis 62*
- C:** **Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have gained access by faith  
into this grace in which we now stand.  
And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.** *Romans 5:1-2*



**M:** Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell, and thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace.

*Theses 94 & 95*

**C:** **Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ,  
so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.  
And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,  
after you have suffered a little while,  
will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.  
To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.**

*1 Peter 4:13 & 5:10-11*

## DIALOGUE FOR CHRIST THE KING

*based on Psalm 93*

*This could also be formatted so that, in each section, the minister speaks lines 1 & 3 and the congregation speaks lines 2 & 4.*

**Minister:** The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
**Women:** **The Lord is robed in majesty,**  
**Men:** **He is armed with strength.**  
**Everyone:** **The Lord reigns!**

**Minister:** The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.  
**Women:** **Your throne was established long ago;**  
**Men:** **You are from all eternity.**  
**Everyone:** **The Lord reigns!**

**Minister:** The seas have lifted up, O Lord,  
**Women:** **The seas have lifted up their voice;**  
**Men:** **The seas have lifted up their pounding waves.**  
**Everyone:** **The Lord reigns!**

**Minister:** Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
**Women:** **Mightier than the breakers of the sea –**  
**Men:** **The Lord on high is mighty.**  
**Everyone:** **The Lord reigns!**

**Minister:** Your statues stand firm;  
**Women:** **Holiness adorns your house**  
**Men:** **For endless days, O Lord.**  
**Everyone:** **The Lord reigns!**

## DIALOGUE FOR THANKSGIVING

*Psalms 100 & 150*

- M:** Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- C:** **Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.**
- M:** Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- C:** **Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**
- M:** Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- C:** **Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet;  
praise him with the harp and lyre.**
- M:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
- C:** **Praise him with tambourine and dancing;  
praise him with strings and flute.**
- M:** Give thanks to him and praise his name.
- C:** **Praise him with the clash of cymbals;  
praise him with resounding cymbals.**
- M:** For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.  
His faithfulness continues through all generations.
- C:** **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

## DIALOGUE FOR THANKSGIVING

*from Psalms 103 and 145*

- M:** Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.
- C:** **I will exalt you, my God the King;  
I will praise your name forever and ever.  
Every day I will praise you  
and extol your name forever and ever.**
- M:** He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;  
he redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion.
- C:** **The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.  
The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.**
- M:** He does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- C:** **The Lord is faithful to all his promises  
and loving toward all he has made.  
The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up all who are bowed down.**
- M:** As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.  
From everlasting to everlasting  
the Lord's love is with those who fear him.
- C:** **The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.  
You open your hand  
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.**
- M:** Praise the Lord, all his works  
everywhere in his dominion.  
Praise the Lord, O my soul.
- C:** **My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.  
Let every creature praise his holy name  
forever and ever.**

## DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

- M:** Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and has redeemed his people. *Luke 1:68*
- C:** **Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.** *Luke 2:14*
- M:** He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty. *Luke 1:51-53*
- C:** **Our eyes have seen his salvation,  
which he prepared in the sight of all people,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to his people Israel.** *Luke 2:30-32*
- M:** Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. *Revelation 7:10*
- C:** **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!** *Revelation 5:12*
- M:** Jesus Christ, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! *Philippians 2:6-8*
- C:** **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.** *John 1:4*
- M:** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy set before him endured the cross,  
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:2*
- C:** **God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.** *Philippians 2:9-11*

**M:** Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!  
Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?  
Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?  
For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever!

*Romans 11:33-36*

**C:** **Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.**  
**Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.**  
**All nations will come and worship before you,**  
**for your righteous acts have been revealed.**

*Revelation 15:3,4*

## DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works!

**C:** **The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His name is worthy of praise!**

**M:** O Father Most Holy, gather us together in the name of Jesus whom the saints and angels adore as the Lamb on his throne and whose name is above every name,

that all we do might be done at your bidding,  
filled with your grace,  
directed by your wisdom,  
informed by your truth,  
accomplished to your glory.

**C:** **The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His love endures forever!**

**M:** O Father Most Gracious, bring us together in the name of Jesus, that in him we might be a spiritual temple, that founded on him we might be built together as living stones, that in him we might offer to you the spiritual service

of praise and thanksgiving,  
of lives lived in your love,  
of proclaiming your words and work,  
of sharing your gifts to us.

**C:** **The works of the Lord are great and glorious. Tell of all his wonderful deeds!**

**M:** O Father eternal, you have sent out an invitation, you have prepared a great feast that all might enter the courts of your presence and the mansions of your paradise. Grant to us your blessing and peace,

that we may be witnesses of your truth,  
the reflection of your glory,  
the ambassadors of your kingdom.

**C:** **The works of the Lord are great and glorious. May our mouths be filled with his praise!**

**M:** To you, O Father, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God from all eternity and to all eternity, be glory, wisdom, power, and dominion forever.

**C:** **Alleluia! Amen!**

## DIALOGUE FOR A CHURCH DEDICATION

**M:** Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**C:** **Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

**M:** Know that the Lord is God.

**C:** **It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**M:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

**C:** **Give thanks to him and praise his name.**

*Psalm 100:1-4*

**M:** I rejoiced with those who said to me,

**C:** **“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

*Psalm 122:1*

**M:** How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty!

**C:** **My soul years, even faints, for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

**M:** Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

**C:** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**M:** For the Lord is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.

**C:** **No good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.**

*Psalm 84:1-2,11-12*

**M:** But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you.

**C:** **How much less this temple we have built.**

**M:** May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you have said,  
“My name shall be there.”

**C:** **Here the supplication of your people when they pray toward this place.  
Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.**

*1 Kings 8:27,29,30*

**M:** You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood,  
offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**C:** **You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,  
that you may declare the praises of him  
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

*1 Peter 2:4,9*

**M:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

**C:** **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

*Psalm 98:1*



## DIALOGUE FOR A CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

*Excerpts from the Explanation of the Third Article of the  
Apostles' Creed from Martin Luther's Large Catechism  
and corresponding verses from the New Testament*

*This dialogue was originally prepared for Pentecost Day.*

- M:** We could never know anything about Christ, believe in him, or have him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the gospel.
- C:** **No one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.** *1 Corinthians 12:3*
- M:** The Spirit has his own congregation in the world, which is the mother that conceives and bears every Christian through God's Word. Through the Word he reveals and preaches, he illumines and enkindles hearts, so that they understand, accept, cling to, and persevere in the Word.
- C:** **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.** *Romans 8:16-17*
- M:** I believe that there is upon earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, under one head, Christ. This group is called together by the Holy Spirit in one faith, one mind and understanding, with many different gifts. I am also a part and member of this same group, a sharer and joint owner of all the goods it possesses.
- C:** **There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.** *Ephesians 4:4-6*
- M:** In this Christian Church we have forgiveness of sin, which is wrought through the holy sacraments and absolution and through all kinds of comforting promises from the entire gospel. God's grace is secured through Christ, and sanctification is wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian Church.
- C:** **Jesus said to his disciples, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”** *John 20:23*
- M:** We have already received creation. Redemption is also finished. But the Holy Spirit carries on his work without ceasing to the Last Day. For that purpose he has appointed a congregation upon earth by which he speaks and does everything. For he has not yet brought together all his Christian Church or granted all forgiveness. Therefore, we believe in him who daily brings us into the fellowship of this Christian Church through the Word.
- C:** **Jesus said, “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”** *John 10:16*
- M:** We could never grasp the knowledge of the Father's grace and favor except through the Lord Christ. Jesus is a mirror of the fatherly heart, outside of whom we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But we also could not know anything about Christ unless it had been revealed by the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.** *1 Corinthians 2:12*

## DIALOGUE FOR A MISSION FESTIVAL

*This dialogue was originally prepared for the Commemoration of St. Luke, Evangelist (appointed for October 18).*

- M:** Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and has redeemed his people.  
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David. *Luke 1:68-69*
- C:** **Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.** *Isaiah 60:1-2*
- M:** His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. *Luke 1:50-51*
- C:** **Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!** *Isaiah 64:1-2*
- M:** I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God  
over one sinner who repents. *Luke 15:10*
- C:** **Our offenses are many in your sight,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our offenses are ever with us,  
and we acknowledge our iniquities.** *Isaiah 59:12*
- M:** The Son of Man will be handed over to the Gentiles.  
They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him.  
On the third day he will rise again. *Luke 18:32-33*
- C:** **He was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.** *Isaiah 53:5*
- M:** My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all people,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel. *Luke 2:30-32*

- C: I will praise you, O Lord.**  
Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.  
Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation. *Isaiah 12:1-2*
- M:** Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. *Luke 2:14*
- C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;**  
let this be known to all the world.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you. *Isaiah 12:5-6*
- M:** The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day  
and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name  
to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. *Luke 24:46-47*
- C: How beautiful on the mountains**  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”  
Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem. *Isaiah 52:7,9*

## DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

**M:** O Lord, open my lips,

**C:** **And my mouth will declare your praise.**

*Psalm 51:15*

**M:** All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord;

**C:** **And they in turn would tell their children.**

*Psalm 86:9*

**M:** Future generations will be told about the Lord.

**C:** **They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn.**

*Psalm 22:30-31*

**M:** Let this be written for a future generation,  
that a people not yet created may praise the Lord:

**C:** **“The Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high,  
from heaven he viewed the earth,  
to hear the groans of the prisoners  
and release those condemned to death.”**

*Psalm 102:18-20*

**M:** My mouth will tell of your righteousness,  
of your salvation all day long,  
though I know not its measure.

**C:** **Even when I am old and gray,  
Do not forsake me, O God,  
Till I declare your power to the next generation,  
Your might to all who are to come.**

*Psalm 71:15,18*

**M:** One generation will commend your works to another;  
they will tell of your mighty acts.

**C:** **They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.**

*Psalm 145:4-5*

## DIALOGUE FOR A SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

**M:** Great are the works of the Lord;

**C:** **They are pondered by all who delight in them.**

**M:** Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

**C:** **And his righteousness endures forever.**

**M:** He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

**C:** **The Lord is gracious and compassionate.**

**M:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**C:** **To him belongs eternal praise.**

*Psalm 111:2-4,10*

**M:** We give thanks to you, O God, for your name is near.

**C:** **We will tell of your wonderful deeds.**

*Psalm 75:1*

**M:** We will not hide them from our children;

**C:** **We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.**

*Psalm 78:4*

## DIALOGUE FOR EVENING WORSHIP

**M:** Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who minister by night in the house of the Lord!  
Lift up your heads in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

*Psalm 134:1-2*

**C:** **It is good to praise the Lord and to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.**

*Psalm 92:1-2*

**M:** From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the Lord is to be praised.

*Psalm 113:3*

**C:** **Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.**

*Micah 7:8*

**M:** You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning;

**C:** **My God turns my darkness into light.**

*Psalm 18:28*

**M:** Stay with us, Lord, for it is nearly evening,

**C:** **And the day is almost over.**

*Luke 24:29*

**M:** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,

**C:** **But will have the light of life."**

*John 8:12*

*The congregation sings:*

**O Christ, you are the light and day;  
You drive the gloom of night away;  
Grant, Light from light, your Word to show  
The light of heaven to us below.**

**Arise, O God, our shield, repel  
The swords and subtleties of hell;  
Let your right hand, outstretched above,  
Guard those who serve the Lord they love.**

*Suggested tune: O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT*