



“Glory to God”

Hymnal Dedication –
February 9, 2014

Pastor: Music is an integral part of the work of the people of God. God’s people have always sung. When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, Moses and Miriam sang. When Samuel was born, Hannah sang. When the exiles were in Babylon, they wondered if their song was lost—it wasn’t, and they sang. When Gabriel brought good news of great joy to Mary, she sang. The early church sang hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs, and we have been singing ever since. God’s gift of music is not just to those with melodious voices, but to those whose hearts are tuned to praise of God. Our song requires all of our voices. Thus, as we dedicate this new hymnal, we also recommit ourselves to the singing work of the people of God.

Pastor: Choir and musicians: Do you promise to use your musical gifts as ministers of congregational singing to share the message of the gospel, to combine voice, instruments, and much joy?

All: We do, by the grace of God.

Director of Music to the Congregation:

Do you promise to add your voice to the music we sing? Will you sing with honesty and humility whether the song is old or new, comforting or challenging, triumphant or contemplative?

All: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: To you, O God, source of all creation and creativity we offer our thanks and praise. As we gracefully retire our current hymn book and dedicate our new one, bless us with a sense of deep gratitude for all your gifts of vision, energy and resources through which composers, poets and artists have been inspired.

All: May the gifts of holy words and music stir our hearts, instruct our minds and set our bodies in motion.

Thank you for the old songs that keep us connected to the saints and traditions of the past. Thank you for the new songs that create a legacy for future generations.

May the gift of music and song represented in this book express our praise, our joy, our confessions, our lamentations, our prayers and our petitions.

As your people gathered in this place, enable us to raise our voices in praise with all our sisters and brothers; past, present and future, in this and every land.

By your grace, may the words and melodies shape our faith for years to come, and in ways that forever give glory to you, the Triune God. Amen.