



DSL CONNECTION

MAY 2017



**Divine Savior
Lutheran Church
405 Ingram Rd.
Devine, Texas
78016**

www.divinesaviorlc.org

**9:00 AM
Sunday School
&
Bible Class**

**10:00 AM
Fellowship**

**10:30 AM
Divine Service**

**7:30 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study**

**Pastor:
Randall
Wehmeyer**

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830-663-3735**

**Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod**

If you attended Lenten services this year, you'll remember that the order of service was Vespers. Within that service, after the Psalmody, we sang "The Office Hymn." Did you happen to wonder what the "Office" hymn was? Perhaps you were not the only one.

Vespers (and Matins) were part of the daily life of the Early Church, known as the "Daily Offices." Here, the word "Offices" simply means "Services." These services were to be used daily for the purpose of prayer and meditation on Scripture. In fact, there were set times for prayer each day.

Matins, which means "of the morning," was to be prayed at the break of day. Review over that service and note how you petition God's blessings, protection, and guidance on the duties of your day. Vespers, which means "evening," was to be prayed in the late afternoon or early evening.

The main component of the Daily Offices consists of the Psalmody.

Looking at the Office of Vespers (Service of Vespers), the opening verses are from the Psalms, followed by a Psalm that is prayed or sung. Later, there is the Responsory, which is a Psalm, the Antiphon is a Psalm, and the Benedicamus is a Psalm. Glance through the Bible and note how often God's people sang and prayed the Psalms. (Jesus lived and died Psalm 22.)

Within both of these services you will find "The Office Hymn." This hymn is similar to "The Hymn of the Day" (sometimes called "The Sermon Hymn") in the Divine Services. Both titles make us aware that the hymn is the chief hymn. These hymns (Office Hymn & Hymn of the Day) reflect the theme of the day or season of the Church Year. So the next time you hear "The Office Hymn," take note. See if you can make the connection to the Scripture readings or Sermon.

It would be wise for all of us to make daily use of Matins and Vespers. As noted in *Lutheran Worship History & Practice*, "The prayer forms of the daily office....are not merely the vehicles of the Christian's prayer; they are also instructors that cement the believer to the Word of the Lord and tutor the faithful in that conversation with God, which is prayer." Using one of "The Daily Offices" provides a discipline for your prayer life.

And note Martin Luther's high regard for The Daily Offices: "And though these daily services might not be attended by the whole congregation, the priests and pupils, and especially those who, one hopes, will become good preachers and pastors, should be present."



*God's Blessings,
Pastor Wehmeyer*