A

Customary

for

praying the

Offices and Services

of

The Order of Saint Luke

in community

as envisioned by

Br. Dwight (Brendan) Vogel, OSL

May 2022

*Preface*

 *(especially for the Chaplain General or worship planner)*

The developmentof offices and services for the Order of Saint Luke by the Daily Office Revision Team included repeated field testing at fall retreats and spring council meetings. Revisions were made in light of our experience. As I reflected on what we learned, it seemed it would be helpful to let members of the Order know why we did what we did, and how I envision the actual doing of these offices and services in the communal life of the Order.

My aim is to provide suggestions and explanations in the form of a “customary,” that is, the way I envision these offices and services being customarily done. Both the discussions around these offices and services by the revision team and the work of present and past chaplains general in “making them happen” have contributed to my understanding.

This customary is designed primarily for retreats, convocations, and general council meetings of the Order. It may also be useful for chapters and associations. I want this material to be as usable as possible. While the Chaplain General (and perhaps some priors and other interested persons) will have the entire document, this customary provides:

1) a basic guidance page to be sent to all persons assigned to lead one of the offices and services, and

2) guidelines for each particular office and service to be sent to the person(s) assigned to lead one of the offices or services.

These guides are not “carved in stone;” they are intended to be living documents. While it is hoped that this ordinary will be saved “as is” for future reference, it is my expectation that the chaplain general (or chapter or association chaplain) will adapt and revise the guides to meet the needs of each council, chapter, or general chapter retreat.

For the good of the Order and the glory of God,

 Br. Dwight (Brendan) Vogel, OSL, General Editor

 May 4, 2022

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*Guidelines for the Chaplain General*

Two observations are expressed over and over again throughout the years:

* The essence of the Order is most clearly evident when we meet to worship and pray together.
* Praying the offices and services is the most important thing the Order does when it comes together.

First time attendees often say that they first sensed what the Order is all about the first time they sang and worshipped and prayed with us. You have answered the call to service by overseeing our communal worship and prayer life. More than one abbot has observed that there is no more important calling in the life of the Order. We pledge our prayer and support as you live out your answer to that calling.

*Overall Design*

Our time together customarily *begins and ends with a Service of Word and Table*. The abbot (or a person designated by the abbot) preaches at one of these services and presides at table for the other, selecting the Great Thanksgiving for that service. Discovering your abbot’s preferences in this regard is a good place to start.

Identify the day on which the *Feast of Saint Luke* will be celebrated (whether on October 18, Luke’s feast day, or a transferred date). Resources for a Lukan Festive Evensong (on the evening before or the evening of the feast day) and Morning or Evening Prayer of the Feast Day itself can be found in *A Lukan Book of Feasts and Holy Days* (pp. 201 ff)

We celebrate a Service of Word and Table each day of the retreat, but the time of day may vary. Services of Word and Table on the intervening days sometimes include one of the pastoral offices (the service of prayer for healing, the service of prayer for reconciliation, or the transitus as a memorial rite—although the transitus memorial rite is more frequently observed with Compline). Note that the pastoral services may also stand on their own.

Experience has shown that, while the service of prayer for healing may include the healing of relationships, the service of reconciliation is less able to meet the needs of prayer for healing. There is thus a need for prayers for healing to be included in some way every year.

The service of prayer for reconciliation, with the omission of the optional homily, may stand on its own, replacing one of the diurnal offices. In years when it is not included as a service, provision should be made to provide the rite of reconciliation for individual persons in a “confessional room” during one of the free or optional activity times.

These services, together with morning and evening prayer and compline, constitute the heart of our prayer and worship together. The diurnal offices (mid-morning, mid-day and mid-afternoon prayer) can be scheduled when and where they fit into the overall design. It is good for the community to experience each of these at least once. Customary practices for each of these is provided in the material which follows.

At least once during a retreat, scheduling a half-hour before one of the offices or services for corporate silence is a good way to provide for more silence during the retreat.

Early in the planning schedule, take the initiative in suggesting to the prior general (or retreat master) the overall design of services you foresee for the following meeting of the Order, recognizing that this pattern will need to be revised in coordination with other elements of the retreat into an overall schedule.

*A “Lukan Season” as Special Liturgical Time*

When it meets, the gathered Lukan community can experience a “season” commemorating Saint Luke the Evangelist, appropriated as a liturgical time special to the Lukan order (an *extraordinarius tempus liturgicum).* The liturgical color used throughout can be red.

Assign psalms and readings to the various services, using the following as a suggestive, but not directive, resource. Adaptations related to the theme of each retreat may be made, even as a Lukan perspective on the topic at hand is kept in mind.

Lections and Psalms for the Lukan Season

These passages help us hear through Lukan ears. They provide a reservoir from which lections and psalms can be selected, being appropriated creatively anew each year in relation to the theme and particular services. Additional passages should be added as we discover and use them. I invite each chaplain general, as each year’s lectionary is created, to add other passages to those listed here, thus making this a “living document.”

We have inherited some lections from those recommended in earlier OSL Daily Office resources. Note: In any given year, only certain ones of the following will be observed! The lections for services not observed that year may be used in other services.

 *The Feast of Saint Luke*

Festive Evensong

 Psalm 145

 II Timothy: 4:1--11

Morning Prayer

 Psalm 116

 Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2

Service of Word and Table

 Psalm 148

 Isaiah 35:5-8

 Colossians 4:10-14

 Luke 4:14-21

Evening Prayer

 Psalm 147

 Luke 19;1-10 or Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 38:1-15

Compline

 Psalm 134

 Acts 1:6-8

Passages listed for a 7-lesson Vigil Service

 *(which has been replaced in current resources by Festive Evensong))*

Luke 1:1-4\*

Luke 1: 46-55

Luke 4:16-21\*

Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24:44-49

Acts 1:1-5\*

Acts 28:11-16, 30-31

 \*lections already included in the services above

*The Lukan Book of Hours* provides two additional resources among its canticles:

 Isaiah 12:2-6 (p. 142) and Isaiah 55:6-12 (p. 116)

Additional lections listed in other denominational resources in connection with St. Luke:

 Isaiah 43:8-15 (Lutheran) Isaiah 52:7-10 (BCP, RC) Ezekiel 47:1-12 (BCP, RC)

Lections as selected from Luke or Acts, for example:

 Luke 5:1-11 Luke 7:36-50 Luke 9:18-25 Luke 10:25-37

 Luke 15:1-10 Luke 15:11-32 Luke 16:19-31 Luke 24:13-35

Psalms as selected from those recommended in the indices of *A Lukan Psalter:*

*Morning Prayer*

19 34 63 (see WR 62 in *BOS* ) 95:1-7 100 143 146

*Evening Prayer*

8 23 27 36:5-10 46 66 113 121 141

*Word and Table*

34 85:7-13 91 103 111 126 146