

## Lutheran Service Book Bible Class:

“*To Amen or Not to Amen; that is the Question*”

(there is a difference between saying and singing “Amen”)

From “A Guide for Introducing *Lutheran Service Book*, page 40

“As in *Lutheran Worship*, most of the hymns in *Lutheran Service Book* will not have an ‘amen’ added at the conclusion. In the history of Christian hymnody the practice of concluding every hymn with an ‘amen’ is relatively rare, confined for the most part to a few hymnals published in the early twentieth century. The Synod’s first official English language hymnal, *The Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book* (1912) did not include the ‘amens.’ In fact, *The Lutheran Hymnal* is the only LCMS hymnal ever to have included ‘amens.’

For hymns that use chant melodies, the more elaborate ‘amen’ of the chant has been provided. Because of the longstanding tradition, an ‘Amen’ has been provided for the common doxology, ‘Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow’ (805).

Though the ‘amens’ are generally not included, congregations have the freedom to append them if they wish to continue that practice. Perhaps a more intentional use of ‘amens,’ such as after doxological stanzas, might be employed.”

### Lutheran Hymnals:

+German Hymnal:		no Amens are printed
+ <i>Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book</i>	1912	Amen only on Creedal (2) hymns and chants
+ <i>The Lutheran Hymnal</i>	1941	Amen for all hymns
+ <i>Service Book and Hymnal</i>	1955	About half of the hymns have Amen and half do not
(Other Lutheran church bodies)		(there is no rhyme or reason for this)
+ <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i>	1978	No “Amen” at all
+ <i>Lutheran Worship</i>	1982	No “Amen” at all
+ <i>Christian Worship</i>	1993	No “Amen” at all
(Wisconsin Synod)		
+ <i>Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary</i>	2001	No “Amen” at all
(Evangelical Lutheran Synod, ELS)		

### Outside of Lutheran Hymnals:

+ <i>Evangelical Hymnal</i>	1922	Amen only for chants, not hymns
+ <i>Inspiring Hymns</i>	1951	About 5% of hymns have “Amen” the rest do not
+ <i>Methodist Hymnal</i>	1964	Almost all hymns have Amen
+ <i>Great Hymns of the Faith</i>	1968	Only one hymn with “Amen”
+ <i>Book of Worship for United States Forces</i>	1974	Traditional hymns (majority) have “Amen” Spirituals and newer songs (minority) have no “Amen”
+ <i>Worship and Rejoice</i> (non-denominational)	2001	No hymns with “Amen”

The synod’s Commission on Worship does provide on its website a listing of “Amens” that organists can play at the end of hymns in *Lutheran Service Book* if congregations so desire it.