

Church Services in Sixteenth-Century Lutheran Germany

From the *Kirchenordnung unser, von Gottes genaden Julii, herzogen zu Braunschweig und Lüneburg etc. Wie es mit lehr und ceremonien unsers fürstenthumbs Braunschweig, Wulffenbütlischen theils . . . gehalten werden sol* (Wolfenbüttel, 1569), 6–54. The liturgies are retained with minor changes in the orders of 1615 (reprinted in 1649 and 1651), 1657, and 1709 (reprinted in 1769).

Schedule of services

	Schedule in Cities	Schedule in Villages
<i>Saturday</i>		
2:00 p.m.	Vespers sung in Latin or German by the schoolboys, followed by private confession for those receiving Communion the next day	Vespers in German, followed by private confession for those receiving Communion the next day
<i>Sunday</i>		
5:00 a.m.	Matins sung in Latin or German by the schoolboys	
6:00 a.m.	Early sermon (especially for domestic workers)	
7:00 a.m.	Mass in German, Latin, or both, with sermon on the Gospel	Mass in German, with sermon on the Gospel
1:00 p.m.	Catechism instruction	Catechism instruction with Vespers in German
2:00 p.m.	Vespers sung in Latin and German by the schoolboys, with sermon on the Epistle	
<i>Weekdays</i>		
7:00 a.m.	Sermon (daily in larger cities; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in smaller cities)	Sermon held on Wednesday or Friday (time not specified)
[time not specified]	Prayer service with sung Litany held on Wednesday or Friday	Prayer service with sung Litany held on Wednesday or Friday

Order of Mass

Introit	In Latin.
Kyrie	At times in Latin and at times in German.
Gloria & Et in terra	At times in Latin and at times in German.
Salutation	In German; the priest chants “The Lord be with you,” and the people answer “And with your spirit.”
Collect	Chanted by priest; the people answer “Amen.”
Epistle	Chanted or read by the priest in German.
Sequence, Alleluia, or Tract in Latin, if pure OR a German psalm	The congregation sings along on the psalm.
Gospel	Chanted or read by the priest in German.
Patrem (Latin) OR German Creed “We all believe in one true God” (LSB 954)	When the German Creed is sung, the organ is not played.

[The preacher enters the pulpit.]

Gospel	Read again.
Exhortation to prayer	
Our Father OR “To God the Holy Spirit let us pray” (LSB 768)	
Sermon	About an hour long.
Public confession and absolution	
Exhortation to prayer	

The communicants assemble in the choir.

Preface and Sanctus	On [Sundays and] festivals in cities, if time allows.
Exhortation to communicants	
Our Father and Verba	Chanted by the priest in German. The Elevation is omitted.

During the communion houseling cloths are used. The following are sung: “Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior” (LSB 627), “O Lord, we praise thee” (LSB 617), the Sanctus, the Agnus Dei, “Isaiah, mighty seer” (LSB 960), another hymn, or “Lamb of God, pure and holy” (LSB 434), as many as are needed to cover the time.

Thanksgiving collect	Chanted [by the priest].
Benediction	

If there are no communicants, the preacher should exhort the people to commune more often. Then the Litany is sung, the priest reads a collect and the Benediction, and “Lord, keep us steadfast” (LSB 655) and “Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord” (LSB 778) are sung.