

# Enriching Our Worship (EOW) - Volume 1

## Guidance from The Episcopal Diocese of Texas *Diocesan Liturgical Commission*

By action of Resolution 2018-A046, The General Convention authorized *Enriching Our Worship* (EOW) for use without the permission of the bishop.

*Enriching Our Worship* contains 6 volumes of liturgical resources. Volume 1 of *Enriching Our Worship* contains liturgies for: Morning and Evening Prayer, The Great Litany, and the Holy Eucharist.

Formation, education, and conversation is key in the congregation, before using liturgical changes. The people should be given an opportunity to consider the power of words and word choices, especially in our references to God and to people. Opportunity may also be given for feedback, in exploring how new expressions change or do not change the worship experience. Context is also important in contemplating liturgy, by discerning the congregational context, as well as the context of the wider community.

The document of EOW Volume 1 is full of great explanatory and educational material, such as the Preface, Introduction, The Use of Supplemental Materials, and Notes.

In the opening preface of EOW from Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, it states that: “EOW is not intended to supplant the Book of Common Prayer,” yet it is a resource for “expanding our vocabulary of prayer.”

In using the Holy Eucharist in EOW Volume 1, the diocesan Liturgical Commission recommends using EOW in its entirety for the whole worship service, to maintain its integrity, rather than “cherry picking” between 1979 BCP and EOW language.

There are many rich offerings in these liturgies, including the use of the expanded canticles as Songs of Praise in the Daily Offices and at the Eucharist, the Confession, and a new collection of Blessings. Also, the Great Litany and Post Communion Prayer have much to offer.

The Confession expands our view of sin, especially systemic sin, as in “the evil done on our behalf.”

The role of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in these liturgies is lifted up and

highlighted.

The use of new scriptural allusions is refreshing and expands our faith perspectives.

The removal of the title of “Lord” for Jesus can be problematic, as it is against scriptural witness and history, especially in the Old Testament / Hebrew Scriptures, where the usage of “LORD” is a specific witness and allegiance to God. Proclaiming that “Jesus is Lord” contains extensive scriptural, theological, historical, ecumenical, and political depth.

The removal of references to “kingdom” and “king” is an issue, as we are under authority in a true and real kingdom, which Jesus references in the Lord’s Prayer.

Although God is not male, the removal of the usage of the term “Father” can be problematic, as Jesus calls God “Father,” especially in the Lord’s Prayer. Also, care should be given not to minimize the vocation of fatherhood or the role of fathers.

By declaring that certain words are unusable in our liturgy, we may be implicitly stating the certain traumas, histories, and situations are unredeemable.

In the Sanctus, changing “Blessed is he...” to “Blessed is the one...” can imply that we are the ones who are blessed, not Jesus. A suggested substitute, which is from biblical Palm Sunday accounts is: “Blessed is the King...” Yet that also brings up the issue of the word “king.”

In the Eucharistic words of Institution, changing “poured out for many...” to “poured out for all” can foster a robust discussion, on many levels.

The removal of the *filioque* in the Nicene Creed provides an opportunity for robust formation, including a discussion regarding history, theology, and ecumenical relationships, especially with the Orthodox traditions.

In Spanish, both the masculine and feminine expressions may be needed for words (ie. “hijos y hijas”), as it can be difficult to translate into more inclusive and expansive language.

It is difficult to find an appropriate Spanish translation of EOW. Christ Church Cathedral in Houston has utilized resources from the Diocese of Olympia, augmented by Diocese of Texas translation assistance.

All volumes of *Enriching Our Worship* can be located on the Episcopal Common Prayer website:  
<https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org>