

Liturgy and Worship

Lesson 7 Presentation and Homework

What is WORSHIP? A worship service consists of God giving to His people His gifts of His Word and Sacraments, and His people giving back to Him praise and thanks.



Going to church is something you do to show God how much you love Him.

True False

I go to church because I WANT to receive what God gives me (Holy Communion, His Word taught by a pastor, Prayer and fellowship with other believers)

True False

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True False

Why do we have an Order of Worship? There is no *one right way* of structuring a worship service. However, our services are not haphazardly structured. There is meaning to the structure. This structure is what we call *liturgy* and it is all based on the Word of God.

LITURGY:

Invocation – calling on God to be with us; reminding us we worship in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the name which we received in our baptism.

Confession – we begin by recognizing our sinfulness before the perfect and holy God.

(See 1 John 1:8-9 This Scripture is often used in our traditional worship services.)

Absolution – receiving God's forgiveness

What is the **Office of the Keys?** (see John 20:22-23)

The authority which Christ gave to His church on earth

to forgive sins of repentant sinners,

but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant
as long as they do not repent.

Confession & Absolution occur in several ways:

1. Confessing sins to the pastor and then hearing the words of forgiveness from the pastor as if from Christ Himself.
2. Confessing sins corporately; that is, with the large group of believers, as in a Sunday morning worship service. The pastor speaks the Absolution and you hear the forgiveness of God as if being said by Christ Himself.
3. Confession sins privately. God still forgives a truly repentant heart; yet when done privately, a person is not able to actually 'hear' the absolution. Nevertheless, God's promise of forgiveness is there for all who believe and confess. See 1 John 1:8-9

Hymn of Praise – In God's Grace, we sing praises for His goodness and mercy, love and strength in our lives!

Readings:

Old Testament/1st Lesson – Usually books of Moses or a prophet

Epistle/2nd Lesson – Usually one of St. Paul's letters

Gospel – from either one of the four Gospels

The Lectionary – a organized, structured list of readings assigned to the Church to use as she chooses. There are several different lectionaries. Many Lutheran churches use the 3-year lectionary based on the Lutheran Service Book (hymnal). It, like other 3-year lectionaries, is divided into Years A, B, and C. These readings are applicable to the various Seasons of the Church. This lectionary (schedule of readings) is a guide, not a law to follow, and some pastors do move off the lectionary at appropriate times. We at St. John Lutheran Church haven't followed the lectionary for more than a decade now. Instead, the Senior Pastor selects the themes and the preaching pastor selects the readings for that particular Sunday.

Sermon – Through prayer, study and hard work, the pastor is engaged in the Holy Bible (God's Word) and seeks to relay its spiritual blessings and truth in a relevant way to our lives, helping people understand and receive the forgiveness of sins and the encouragement and strength to live a life in the righteousness of Christ. How does this relate to the white tab worn in a 'clergy shirt' that you sometimes see on a pastor or priest?

Creed – As a statement of faith, God's people may recite one of the various creeds: Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These are excellent summaries of our Christian faith passed on through generations. Unfortunately, many church bodies no longer use them as they feel the people don't really like them. But let us remember, the truth of the Bible doesn't change just because people don't like something in it. God's Word is still God's Word and the truth that comes from God's Word is still the Truth! *The Apostles' Creed is great!*

Offerings – the people of God are called to give offerings {usually understood as a tithe (10% of one's income)} to support the work of God's kingdom. The amount is not as important as the heart from which it is given. A millionaire who tithes and a single mother living off a minimum wage job will tithe different amounts. However, both of their offerings are pleasing to God. Yet, when a wealthy person gives only what a poorer person might give, there may be a problem with the wealthy person's heart and faith. Who do you think would have more difficulty tithing, a wealthy person or a poor person?

Passing of the Peace: Originally meant to provide an opportunity for someone who had a 'problem' (i.e., holding a grudge against someone else) to seek "peace" with that individual before coming to Holy Communion. In today's culture, it has turned into a Holy Howdy. Both have their place in worship but it would be beneficial if people used the Passing of the Peace as it was originally intended when needed. The casual greeting is beneficial, but seeking true reconciliation is far greater!

Holy Communion – Receiving the Lord's Body and Blood along with the Bread and Wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. It is also a foretaste of the feast to come (heaven). In Holy Communion we experience the F.A.C.E. of Jesus (Forgiveness, Acceptance, Community, Endurance).

Benediction – Back in the days of Moses, the LORD told Aaron to bless the Israelites with this benediction (blessing). See Numbers 6:22-27. Isn't it amazing, after thousands of years, we are still using the same words to bless God's people. People who leave worship early miss out on this special blessing.

POSTURES:

Kneeling is an act of humility.

After the Absolution, we stand in that freedom and forgiveness we've received because of Christ Jesus' sacrifice. Psalm 95:6; Eph 3:14

Raising Hands is a posture of praise, recognizing God's authority and receiving (catching) His blessings. Psalm 134; Psalm 119:48; Psalm 141:1-2

Q: Do you have to kneel to receive forgiveness or raise your hands to praise God?

There are many other items/aspects of worship that could be explained here; however, these are the foundational elements that you should understand. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. Chances are . . . others have the same question! May God bless you as you worship Him . . . *in Spirit and Truth!* John 4:23

Church Year

Just as the calendar year has different months and seasons, the church year has different seasons and designated colors for each of the seasons. The church year begins with Advent.

(See pp. 377-382 in LSC)

List the colors of the various church seasons:

Advent	_____	(December)
Christmas	_____	(December)
Epiphany Sunday	_____	(January)
Epiphany	_____	(Jan – Feb)
Lent	_____	(Feb – Apr)
Good Friday	_____	(Friday before Easter)
Easter	_____	(April)
Pentecost Sunday	_____	(May)
Pentecost	_____	(June – Oct)
Reformation Sunday	_____	(Last Sunday in Oct)
All Saints Day	_____	(First Sunday in Nov)

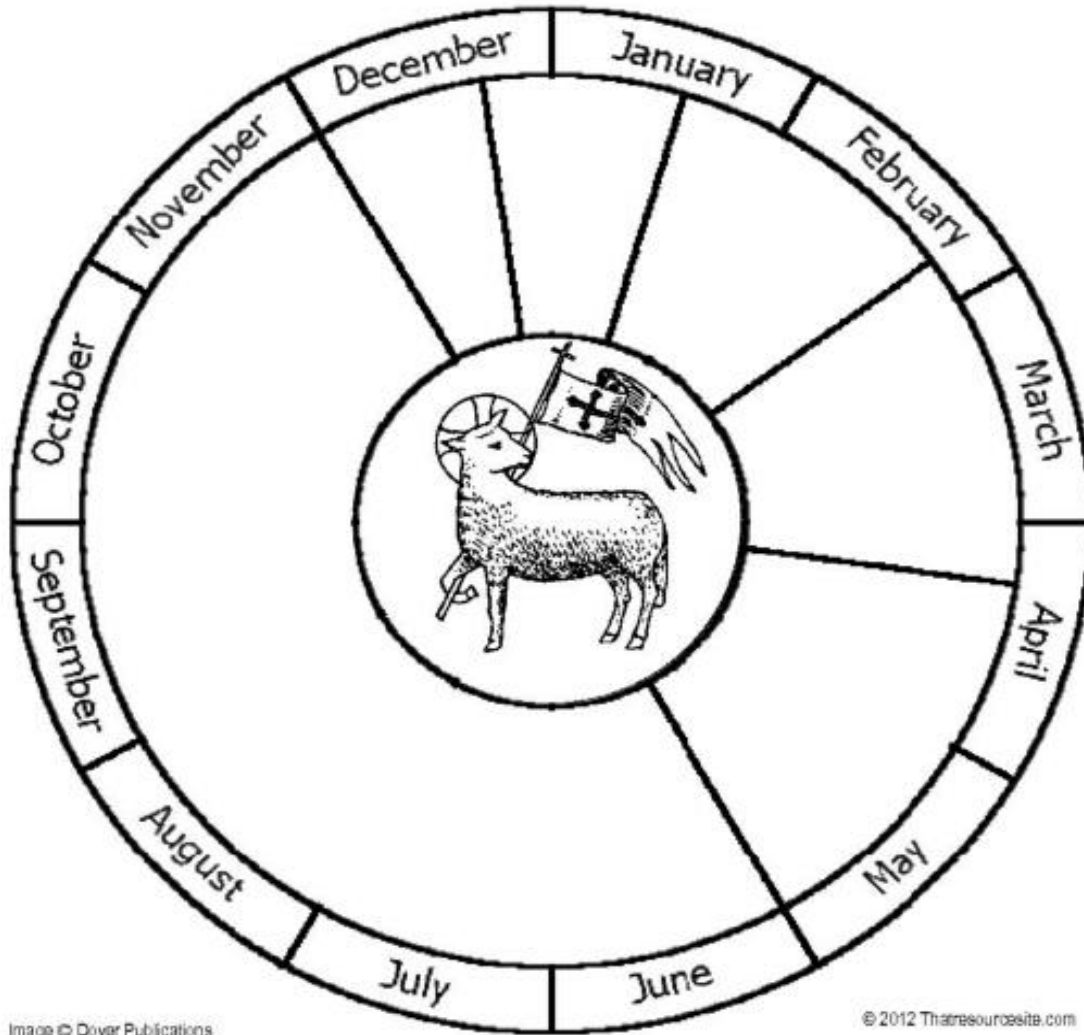


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HOMEWORK: Review (and learn) the vocabulary words and the aspects of the liturgy. Also, color the above Church Calendar based on this year's church calendar. It doesn't have to be exact, but just make the colors approximate. For example, Advent runs for a few weeks in December, but not the whole month, of course. 😊 Lent and Easter are not set dates but change each year. Nevertheless, they happen approximately the same time each year.

SUNDAY DISCUSSION

Answer as many of these questions before our Sunday class. Be sure to learn the following vocabulary words as well. It's good to be a knowledgeable Christian. 😊

1. When entering our Worship Center (sanctuary), you can easily determine the season of the Church Year we are in. How is this so?
2. Which worship service do you primarily attend?
3. How often do you attend the 'other' worship service?
4. What do you appreciate about the worship services?
5. What do you *not* appreciate about the worship services?
6. Why do you think we value Confession of Sins and the Absolution?
7. Why do you think we emphasize the cross of Jesus above an altar?

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Worship Vocabulary

Learn the simple definition of each word. While some words below are heard more often than others, it is good to know them all. This will be helpful throughout life. There are additional words/definitions found in the LSC Glossary (pp. 394-398) but focus on these.

1. **Omnipresent** (always present; everywhere)
2. **Omniscient** (all knowing)
3. **Omnipotent** (almighty; all powerful)
4. **Just** (fair and impartial)
5. **Mercy** (pity; not getting something we deserve)
6. **Grace** (God's *undeserved* favor toward sinners; getting something we don't deserve)
7. **Eternal** (without beginning or end)
8. **Faithful** (being true to one's promises; obedient)
9. **Holy** (pure; set aside for a special purpose)
10. **Repentance** (turning away from sinful ways)
11. **Absolution** (forgiveness of sins)
12. **Justification** (being made right with God)
13. **Sanctification** (being made holy)
14. **Disciple** (follower of Jesus)
15. **Apostle** (sent one; one sent by Christ)
16. **Christ** [anointed One (Greek)]
17. **Messiah** [anointed One (Hebrew)]
18. **Doctrine of Trinity** (the teaching of God being "three-in-one")
19. **Confess** (Confession) (1. to say you're sorry; 2. to state what you believe)
20. **Liturgy** (elements/form/flow of a worship service)
21. **Means of Grace** (ways in which God brings us His gift of grace)
22. **Covenant** (a formal agreement where one or both sides agree to fulfill a promise)
23. **Law** (God's commands/expectations; Shows Our Sin)
24. **Gospel** (Good News of Jesus' perfect life, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection on our behalf; Shows Our Savior)
25. **Benediction** (Blessing)