



Living the Liturgy

the gifts of God in all of life

The Spirit of the Liturgy

Baptized into Christ, Christians are also baptized into the Holy Spirit who permanently rests on Christ. Where Jesus Christ is, there is the Holy Spirit: the two are always together. So how is this Holy Spirit at work in the liturgy?

The Gospel of John shows the way: "He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure" (John 3:34). "Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'" (John 6:68). The Holy Spirit works eternal life in us through the words of God, spoken first through Christ and transmitted through His Church in speech, writing, and action ("word and sacrament"). For this reason, the liturgy is a workshop of the Holy Spirit, relying on God's words, and not our own:

- 1) **Scripture First.** Rather than giving you words written by contemporary authors, or dreamed up by men, most of the liturgy is taken directly from Scripture: it is Scripture either set to music or spoken as prayers and blessings.

For the Home: The Biblical references for each part of the liturgy are on the back of this sheet. Take the list and worship bulletin home. Look up the Bible references, and read the portion of liturgy to which they apply, as part of your devotion. To learn Scripture is to learn the liturgy; to learn the liturgy is to learn Scripture, the "words of eternal life" on your lips.

- 2) **Scripture Always.** Those portions of the liturgy that don't come directly from Scripture use Scriptural language and reflect its teaching. They come to us from the earliest centuries of the Church (almost all portions of the liturgy were in use by 380 A.D.), and have survived the "test of the faithful": they faithfully confess the truth we hold dear.

For Work, School, and Play: Have you (or your household) memorized the liturgy, especially its musical portions? To commit the liturgy to heart is to commit Scripture and the Church's faith to heart, and to have it ready at hand to hum, sing, or recall quietly in your head throughout the day. Try starting with the Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God"), sung at Holy Communion.

“Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. Music is drawn into this thankfulness and praise, enlarging and elevating the adoration of our gracious giver God. Saying back to him what he has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure The rhythm of our worship is from him to us, and then from us back to him. He gives his gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.”

*~ The Rev.
Norman Nagel,
Lutheran
Worship,
1980 A.D.*

Scripture References for the Liturgy

Invocation.....Matthew 28:18-20
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Confession/Absolution.....1 John 1:8-9, James 5:16,
John 20:19-23, Galatians 6:1**
The act of confessing our sins and hearing forgiveness.

Greeting.....2 Corinthians 13:14
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, etc.

Kyrie.....Mark 10:47
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria.....Luke 2:14
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

Prayer of the Day.....2 Timothy 4:22
“The Lord be with you.”

The Public Reading of Scripture.....1 Timothy 4:13

Alleluia Verse.....John 6:68
Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words, etc.

Creed.....Matthew 10:32-33
The act of confessing our faith.

Prayer of the Church.....1 Timothy 2:1-4
The act of praying for the church, the world, and all in need.

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.....2 Timothy 4:22
Lift up your hearts.....Colossians 3:1
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.....Psalm 136

SanctusIsaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9
Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might, etc.

Words of Institution.....Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Cor. 11:23-25

Lord’s Prayer.....Matthew 6:9-13

Agnus Dei.....John 1:29
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Benediction.....Numbers 6:24-26
The Lord bless you and keep you, etc.