

Liturgy: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Session 1

An Introduction to Lutheran Liturgy

1. What comes to mind when you think of “liturgy”? _____
2. What might liturgy mean to:
 - a. An elderly member who has been a life-long Lutheran? _____
 - b. Parents with very *young* children? _____
 - c. Teenage members of the congregation? _____
 - d. The non-Lutheran person who visits for the first time? _____

(View the video segment at this time.)

3. The Greek word “leitourgia”
 - a. It’s a secular word that meant to serve, for example, by paying your _____, fulfilling your _____, or following through on your _____. People were moved to serve in such ways for the sake of the _____.
 - b. The church eventually adapted the word for its own use. This is an example of the use of leitourgia in the Bible: “But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.” (NIV Philippians 2:17) God serves us in worship by giving us His Son for our spiritual lives themselves and for the nourishment of our spiritual lives; furthermore, we receive God’s service, namely the gifts He distributes, for the _____ of the _____.
4. How do we receive God’s gifts? (choose one)
 - a. Actively – as if we have the ability of ourselves to take them.
 - b. Passively – through the gift of faith, which God has freely given to us.
5. How does a Christian actively respond to God’s gifts? With the singing of _____, the praying of _____, and the confessing of his _____. Why can we say that both our receiving and responding are “for the life of the world”? (Compare 1 Peter 2:9) _____

6. How might knowing that the Christian's “leitourgia” is to receive the Lord's gifts, change the way your think about Sunday worship? _____

7. The word "synaxis"

- a. What does it mean? To come _____ to do something in _____.
- b. What benefit do you think there is for the World when the Church comes together in her liturgy to speak and sing and receive? _____

8. In the Lutheran hymnal called Lutheran Worship, why are some services called "Divine Service"? _____

9. Where does God first serve us in worship? In the _____ of Holy _____.

10. During what times of worship does God serve us with His very word? _____

11. During what time of worship do we actually taste God's gifts to us? _____

12. What gifts does the Lord give through His service or liturgy? (Compare Luther's Small Catechism, The Sacrament of the Altar, "What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?")

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

13. What are the means through which God gives those gifts?

- a. James 1:18 - _____
- b. Acts 2:38-39 - _____
- c. Matthew 26:26-28 - _____

14. Name two very important points regarding worship, liturgy, God's service to us:

- a. Jesus Christ is _____ for us.
- b. God _____ to us in his _____.

15. Considering that the *liturgy is* really the lord *Serving* people with His gifts, suggest a response to the following:

- a. "Aw, Dad . . . do we HAFTA go to church this morning?" _____
- b. "I just don't understand why we've got to do the same old boring thing each week. Can't we pep up things a bit? You know . . . make it fun?" _____
- c. "Going to church is fine, I guess, but I can be a Christian without it. You can worship God anywhere, you know." _____