

Liturgy: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Session 6

The Liturgy and the Word

1. Up to this point in our study of the liturgy, we have been bringing together the _____ origins of _____ liturgy. So far we have talked about the Temple, the Synagogue, the Passover Seder, and the House Seder – the places from which Christians received the _____ out of which they created their own liturgy and worship.
2. What are the two most important parts of the liturgy? _____
Rate the following:
 - a. The importance of the word of God in our weekly Divine Service: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
How could we improve? _____
 - b. The importance of the word of God in your daily life: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
How could you improve? _____
3. Why was the word of God fundamental to every part of Jewish worship? The people understood the word of God to be *the _____ of the Lord, *the place where the Lord _____ to His people, *the _____ of the Lord, and *the means through which God distributes His eternal _____.
4. From what two sources did Christians borrow for their worship? _____
5. Why did Christians not borrow from the temple liturgy? _____
6. For approximately how many years did early Christians worship in homes? _____
7. Synagogue worship and house worship:
 - a. How were they similar? _____
 - b. How was the structure of their readings different? _____
8. What do each one of us have today that most were lacking in the early church? _____
9. Regarding the reading of the word of God in the early church:
 - a. What particular reading was the climax? _____
 - b. Why was a large portion read each time the people gathered? _____
 - c. What was the attitude of the people? _____
What is your attitude today regarding long readings, a long sermon, or a long worship service?

 - d. What else did the people take time to do with the word of God? _____
Why? _____
 - e. If you add the sermon to the reading, how long was the liturgy of the word? _____

10. After hearing the word read and preached, what did early Christians, and what do we modern Christians, do? _____
11. In house worship, all people gathered to hear the word of God; however, before coming to the distribution of the sacrament, some people were dismissed:
- Those who were unworthy and unprepared to receive – what does that mean? “A person is unworthy and unprepared when he or she does not _____ or _____ Christ’s words, since the words ‘for you’ require all hearts to _____.” (Small Cat. Explanation, 239)
 - Catechumens – those who were preparing for _____; the term simply means “_____ of the _____.”
12. Who remained to receive the sacrament? The _____ who confessed the common _____ and were _____ to one another. Identify some of the basics of what we believe:
- We are _____, who deserve eternal _____. (Rom. 6:23)
 - God makes us sorry for our _____. (2 Cor. 7:10)
 - God gave His only begotten _____, who died for _____, once for all. (Jn. 3:16; 1 Pet. 3:18)
 - We receive Jesus’ _____ and _____, in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy _____, for the _____ of our _____. (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:27; 10:16)
13. What was symbolized by the kiss of peace? (Matt. 5:23-24) _____
14. The liturgy of the word moves worshipers toward the liturgy of the _____, which will be our focus in session 7.