

The Parts of the Liturgy

What are the parts of the liturgy?

Invocation

Every service begins “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” These are the same words spoken at your baptism when God made you his child. These words are a reminder that we enter God’s presence as his children, to listen to him, to receive from him and to thank and praise him.

Confession and Absolution

In every service we humbly confess our sins to God and then gladly hear his proclamation that each and every one of them has been forgiven. It’s included in every service because we can never hear those amazing, comforting words too often.

Song of Praise

In response to the forgiveness given so freely to us, we join our voices in a song of praise to God. One of the common songs of praise we sing at this point is called the Gloria in Excelsis (Glory in the highest). These are the words the angels sang when Jesus was born. It is because of Jesus and what he did when he came to this earth that we receive God's forgiveness. It makes sense to respond as the angels did that night outside Bethlehem, “Glory to God in the highest!”

Prayer of the Day

We pray the appointed prayer for that Sunday of the church year. The prayer fits with the theme for the day.

First Lesson

The first lesson is usually taken from the Old Testament. Many times we will hear about a prophecy that was fulfilled by Christ in the Gospel lesson for the day.

Psalm of the Day

For 3,000 years believers have worshiped God by singing and reciting psalms.

Second Lesson

The second lesson is usually taken from the Epistles—the part of the New Testament after the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Typically, they apply God's Word specifically to the believer's life.

Verse of the Day

A short song of praise to God, based on the theme of the day, that thanks God for and prepares us to hear the Gospel lesson.

The Gospel

The entire service revolves around the Gospel lesson. We stand to hear the words of Christ our King, just like people stood in the presence of royalty in ancient times.

Sermon

The pastor preaches a message based on one of the lessons or the gospel for the day. The sermon teaches how God's word applies to our Christian life.

Confession of Faith

After the sermon we proclaim what we believe—what the Christian Church has always believed. To do that we use the words of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds—both of which have been used in the Christian Church for almost two millennia.

Prayer of the Church

We join to pray to God about specific joys and troubles in our church and in the Church around the world. This is followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is offered on the first and third Sundays of the month. We, united with our brothers and sisters in the faith, approach God's altar to receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

Benediction

We then receive the same blessing that God gave to the ancient Israelites.