

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

TIMELESS TRUTH

God has called me to be His own.

LESSON FOCUS

The confirmands will understand the fundamentals of Christian worship.

Please be free to express your thoughts, but don't let this turn into a gripe session or personal attack on any member of the church staff.

3 WHAT IS WORSHIP?

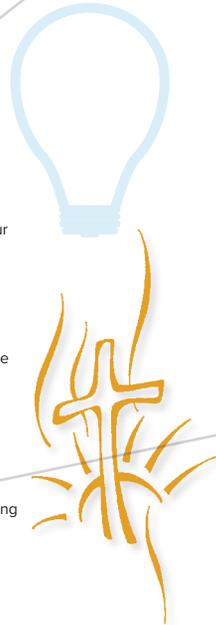
CONSIDER THIS

What's your favorite part of worship in your congregation? What's your least favorite part? Be honest!

Why do Christians gather together for worship? See the section on the Third Commandment in your catechism for help if you need it.

Martin Luther spoke at the dedication of a new church, saying, "Nothing else may ever happen in it except that our dear Lord Himself may speak to us through His holy Word and we respond to Him through prayer and praise" (LW 51:333). What was Luther's desire for this newly dedicated church?

Think about your church. Is it historic or modern? Very small or very large? In the space below, draw a simple picture of your church.



GOD HAS CALLED ME TO BE HIS OWN.
UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO CONFIRMATION

Understand that it was Luther's sole desire that churches always clearly share God's Word in its fullness and deliver the Sacraments to people in their congregation.

I can understand the fundamentals of Christian worship.

For students who have not mastered the skill of skimming quickly, have a parent read it to you.

"God wants to be worshiped through faith so that we receive from Him those things He promises and offers" (Ap IV 49).

Some of these words may be new for many students. Read the passage aloud and identify the new words. Talk with parents about what these words mean and what those actions look like in worship.

This is a key question. The Law convicts us of our sins, and then we realize the despair of our situation. But God in His mercy makes us clean through the blood of Christ.

Use Biblegateway.com or another source for an audio version of these Bible texts.

The Jewish people would have been well acquainted with the concept of sacrifice as part of their worship. Here, Paul connects the idea of sacrifice that does not require the death of the sacrifice; rather, we live out our sacrifice every day.

DIGGING DEEPER

Skim the "What Is Worship?" essay in the Appendix of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*. Then read the verses in each of the boxes on this page and answer the questions about worship. Share your answers with a friend.

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF WORSHIP?

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

WHEN WE ARE REMINDED ABOUT OUR SINS, HOW DO WE REACT? WHAT IS GOD'S SOLUTION?

I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." (Isaiah 6:1-7)

WHAT IS ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP?

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:1-5)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LIVING SACRIFICE? HOW IS THIS RELATED TO WORSHIP?

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)



WHAT IS LITURGY?

Look up the word *liturgy* in the dictionary or online. How do we use liturgy in the church?

What does liturgy look like in your church? Rate your congregation's liturgy on a scale from "Straight out of *Lutheran Service Book*" to "What's a hymnal?"

Liturgical worship follows this pattern: Christ speaks His Word and gives His Supper; the church receives and answers in confession, thanksgiving, and petition. In this way, the liturgy keeps us focused on Christ.

WHAT IS THE DIVINE SERVICE?

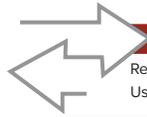
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Discuss this quote from the catechism with your parents. How do you see this applied in the liturgy and in your congregation?

People often think worship in the church service is about what we do for or toward God. The reality is quite different. In the Divine Service, God provides His service for us. In the reading, the preaching, and the proclamation of His Word and in His Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, God comes to us. In worship, God gives His grace and we respond with thanks and praise.

For students who struggle with a page full of print, this might be overwhelming.

If you look, I've given you the meanings - just figure out which verse goes with which!



CONNECTIONS

Read **Question 53** and the Bible verses to match up the sections of the liturgy. Use your hymnal to help complete the chart.

LITURGY	SCRIPTURE	MEANINGS
Invocation		Latin for "call upon"
Confession and Absolution		Admit sin and receive forgiveness
Introit		Latin for "enter"
Kyrie		Greek for "Lord, have mercy"
Gloria in Excelsis		Latin for "glory [to God] in the highest"
Salutation and Collect of the Day		Greeting and collected prayers
Alleluia and Verse		Hebrew for "praise the Lord"
Prayer of the Church		Prayers for all
Offertory		Sacrifice of praise
Preface		Proclamation of praise and thanksgiving
Sanctus		Latin for "holy"
Lord's Prayer		The prayer Jesus taught
The Words of Our Lord		Also called the "Words of Institution" for the Lord's Supper
Pax Domini		Latin for "peace of the Lord"
Agnus Dei		Latin for "Lamb of God"
Distribution		Serve Communion
Nunc Dimittis		Latin for "now let [your servant] depart"
Benediction		The Lord blesses His people

MEANINGS

Hebrew for "praise the Lord" / The prayer Jesus taught / Prayers for all / Admit sin and receive forgiveness / Latin for "now let [your servant] depart" / Latin for "peace of the Lord" / Greek for "Lord, have mercy" / Greeting and collected prayers / Latin for "call upon" / Sacrifice of praise / Also called the "Words of Institution" for the Lord's Supper / The Lord blesses His people / Latin for "Lamb of God" / Latin for "holy" / Serve Communion / Proclamation of praise and thanksgiving / Latin for "enter" / Latin for "glory [to God] in the highest"

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:47 / Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 / Luke 2:29-32 / Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / John 1:29 / 1 Timothy 2:1-4 / 2 Timothy 4:22 / Numbers 6:24-26 / John 20:19 / John 20:19-23; 1 John 1:8-9 / John 6:68; Joel 2:13 / Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9 / 2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136 / Mark 14:23 / Psalm verses / Matthew 6:9-15 / Matthew 28:19 / Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

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CHECKS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Don't forget to do your journal and memory work!