

Worship – Lesson 2
A Worship Service – Liturgy
Part 1

Liturgy – the active elements of a group gathered to worship; a worship agenda

Leitourgeo – the works done by a formal group of people (simple definition)

Luke 1:23 – Zacharias’s “ministry” in the temple was an obvious act of worship

II Cor. 9:12 – Paul accentuates the act of financial offerings as that of “service.”

Every church service has a liturgy.

It may be traditional – Roman Catholic (scripted, familiar, ornate)

It may be contemporary – Non-denominational (spontaneous, comfortable, trendy)

It may be something in between

Every church’s liturgy tends to be unique, though similarities are abundant.

Unique because of the personality of the church, and its particular leadership.

Similar because of the traditions that influence us (singing, preaching, etc.)

I. The history of liturgy

1. We’ve learned from our Jewish forefathers:

Pre-rabbinical – the cultus of the priests in the tabernacle and temple

Sacrifice operations

Wash basin, alter, lampstand, alter of incense, table of showbread – Ex.

Offerings (heave, wave, animal) – Lev. 1-6

Prayer – Lk. 18

Singing – Neh. 12

Rabbinical – the traditional worship within the synagogue

Prayer – Three times daily – Acts 16:13

Singing – Early in the synagogue melody was employed to teach Torah, but has evolved through the centuries to now accompany with devotional qualities.

Reading the Torah – The cornerstone of all synagogue meetings. - Acts 13:15
(And many other scriptures)

2. We’ve been influenced by Christian movements:

The Roman Catholic mass (Per the Missal of John Paul II, 2002):

The Introit – formal entry, beginning prayers, and acknowledgments

The Word – readings of Scripture incorporate singing, and is followed by a “sermon”

The Eucharist – the sacrament is prepared, dedicative prayers are made, and the doxology is sung

The Communion Rite – partaking of the body and blood of Christ

The concluding rites – possible announcements, a formal dismissal

Reformational transitions:

Traditional Lutheran, Methodist, and Anglican churches – more formal

Contemporary Lutherans and Methodists, as well as, Baptists, Presbyterians.

Cultural influences:

The charismatic movement – elevated emotion

Seeker sensitivity – elevated marketing strategies