

# 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. A non-Lutheran person who visits for the first 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. The is an example of the use of **leitourgia** in the Bible:

Philippians 2:17 “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.”

God serves us in worship by giving us His son for your spiritual lives themselves and for the nourishment of our spiritual lives; furthermore, we receive God’s serve, namely the gifts He distributes, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. How do we receive God’s Gifts? (choose one)
  - ☐ Actively—As if we have the ability, of ourselves, to take them.
  - ☐ Passively—through the gift of faith, which God has freely given to us.
5. How does a Christian actively respond to God’s gifts?
  - a. With the singing of \_\_\_\_\_ , the praying of \_\_\_\_\_ , and the confessing of your \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - b. Why can we say that both our receiving and responding are “for the life of the world”?

(Compare 1Peter 2:9) \_\_\_\_\_
6. How does knowing that the Christian’s “leitourgia” is to receive the Lord’s gifts, change the way you 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 our hymnal, Lutheran Service Book (LSB), 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 gives 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, and God’s service to us:

- a. Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
- b. God \_\_\_\_\_ 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.” \_\_\_\_\_