



LITURGICAL CATECHESIS

Week 11 (May 3, 2017) - The Liturgy and the Word (Session 6 of DVD)

Introduction:

“People think: If I could hear God speaking in His own Person, I would run so fast to hear Him that my feet would bleed. If in former times someone had said: ‘I know of a place in the world where God speaks, and when you arrive there, you hear God Himself talking;’ and if I had come there, had seen a poor preacher baptize and preach, and people had said: ‘This is the place, there God is speaking through the preacher, he is teaching God’s Word.’ Then some, no doubt, would say: ‘Ha! I have taken pains to come here, and I see only a minister! We should like to have God speak with us in His majesty.’ But I advise you, if He were to speak in His majesty, you would see what a running would begin! As there at Mount Sinai, where, after all, only the angels spoke; yet the mountain smoked and trembled. But now you have the Word of God in church, in books, in your home, and this is as certainly God’s Word as if God Himself were speaking.” -Martin Luther

Last Week: Liturgy in the Life of Jesus

Up to this point in our study of the liturgy, we have been bringing together the Jewish origins of the Christian liturgy. So far we have talked about the Temple, the Synagogue, the Passover Seder and the House Seder and how from these things the early Christians formed the liturgy and worship of the Church, even in the 1st Century—and is the form we still use today in our common Christian liturgy.

Why was the Word of God fundamental to every part of Jewish worship?

What are the two most important parts of the liturgy?

Read Acts 2:42-47. What is the description of the early Christians worship?

Faith is not merely thinking, "I believe." Your whole heart must be seized by the gospel and come to rest in it. When that happens, you are transformed and cannot help but love and serve God... The Gospel does not say, 'you must do good works.' Rather it fashions us into human beings, into creatures who cannot help but serve God and fellow human beings. Without a doubt, a precious effect!" -C.F.W. Walther

From what two sources did Christians borrow for their worship?

Why did the early Christians not borrow from the Temple liturgy?

After hearing the word read and preached, what did early Christians (and thus also we today) do?

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. Who remained to receive the sacrament?

Identify some of the basics which we believe and are confessed and practiced in our liturgy:

_____ *(Rom 6:23) We are sinners, who deserve eternal punishment.*

_____ *(2 Cor 7:10) God makes us sorry for all of our sins.*

_____ *(John 3:16, 1 Peter 3:18) God gave His only begotten Son, who died for sins, once for all.*

_____ *(Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:27; 10:16) We received Jesus' body and blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins.*

What was symbolized by the kiss of peace? (Matthew 5:23-24)

*The liturgy of the word moves worshipers toward the liturgy of the _____.
(Which will be our focus next week in Session 7)*