

## September 2025 Newsletter

But all things should be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40

I received a wonderful request from a member of the congregation. While it is always good to study the small catechism (which we will continue to do), it is very good that we understand why we gather together in this place, what worship is, what the various parts of the Divine service mean, and what (most importantly) we receive from God.

The 2017 edition of the Luther's small catechism and explanation gives an introduction to what is worship in the appendix on pages 358-359. It follows:

### What is Worship?

“God wants to be worshipped through faith so that we receive from Him those things He promises and offers” (AP IV 49).

The highest worship of God is faith that receives all that He promises in His Word. Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17), and faith speaks back to God, using the words He has given. In a sermon preached at the dedication of a new church, Luther prayed that “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). The Divine Service is structured around Christ Jesus speaking to us in His Word and the Sacrament of the Altar and our answering in confession, thanksgiving, praise, and prayer.

The whole of the Divine Service is encompassed in the Lord's name as Christians are gathering in His name (Invocation) and sent back into the world in the same name (Benediction). The whole service – in Word and Supper – is centered in Jesus Christ. Confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness, we glorify our Triune God using words He has given us in the Scriptures: psalms and biblical hymns of praise. The liturgy (order of worship) seeks to assist Christians in hearing the whole counsel of God. The lectionary is a system of Scripture readings (Lessons) from the Old Testament, the Epistles, and the Gospels arranged according to the Church Year. Having heard God's Word, we confess the faith in of the Church's creeds. God's law and Gospel are proclaimed by the pastor in the sermon. We answer this proclamation with prayers for the Church, the world, and ourselves (1 Timothy 2:1-5). Our offerings support the life and mission of the Church in grateful response to all of God's gifts to us.

God gives us His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation in more than one way. Along with His preached Word, the Lord gives us His body and blood to eat and to drink in His Supper. We come to the Lord's Table praising the Savior who comes to us, acknowledging