



THE DIVINE SERVICE

Our worship is based on how God taught his children, through the Bible. He graciously gives us everything, and there is nothing we can do to purchase His gifts, nor deserve them. Thus again, the divine service is the Father serving us through forgiveness, absolution and instruction.

The liturgy is the order and structure of worship that has survived for 2,000 years and is relevant today with its foundation in the Old Testament and its completion in the New Testament.

This guide is created to assist you in understanding the elements of the Liturgy and the Divine Service, including explanations of the elements, Biblical references justifying those elements, and practical application for your growth in the church and individually.

Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church and School

The Divine Service

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Service of Preparation		
Divine Service Element		
Preservice Music	Meaning or Relevance	This creates and presents a time to separate yourself from the previous week's clutter. A time to focus on God and enter into worship.
	Supporting Scripture	1 Samuel 16:23 – “And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.”
	For Daily Living	Take brief moments throughout the day, especially when things are challenging or troublesome and refocus on God - in your life.
Processing the Cross	Meaning or Relevance	<p>The procession of the cross is not relegated to the Lutheran Church only, as in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, processional crosses are used, and at times during feast days or High Church it may also be preceded by incense. The processional cross in these denominations is usually flanked or followed by acolytes with candles. The cross is brought up to the altar by someone who has been chosen to serve as crucifer and precedes the Pastor and the Gospel if carried.</p> <p>You will also notice among the Roman Catholics, Lutherans and High Church Anglicans, the processional cross will almost always be a crucifix. In more Protestant oriented churches, the processional cross will usually be an empty cross.</p> <p>It is reported to have entered tradition when supplicants would carry the wood of the Venerable Cross through the streets of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city in August of each year. This was done because illnesses were more common in August at that time.</p> <p>Although there are scriptures that are relevant to carrying the cross, many compelling reasons exist in the hymn, <i>Lift High the Cross</i>. One of those is, “Led on their way By this triumphant sign, The hosts of God In conquering ranks combine.” Leading our hearts and minds from a worrisome week into a service of worship – as where two or more are gathered, He is among us. How wonderfully symbolic to see the high lifted cross enter the sanctuary, as Christ truly is among us.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	Mark 8:34-35 – “And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life ^a will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.”
	For Daily Living	<p>"Lift High the Cross" reveals many implications of the cross of Christ. It rallies his people behind him. It gathers his people from throughout the world. It gives healing to the despair of the world. Christ's victory enjoins our praise to him.</p> <p>Read and ponder the hymn for strength and encouragement.</p>

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Service of Preparation		
Divine Service Element		
Invocation	Meaning or Relevance	<p>Invocation - the act or process of petitioning, the call, or entreaty to worship.</p> <p>There are several elements of importance in the Invocation. The immediate invocation is when the pastor calls out, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Here we are confessing whom we believe in, the one true God, and we worship the Trinity and none other.</p> <p>Next, we are asking for and acknowledging God’s presence in the service as described in Matthew 18:20 – “or where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”</p> <p>Finally, it is significant that the Invocation is accompanied by the sign of the cross. This is a reminder to us that God, who washed us and claimed us in Baptism, is the one who has brought us into eternal life.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	Colossians 3:17 – “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
	For Daily Living	Each morning you can cross yourself and invoke the Holy Trinity as a reminder you are sanctified and saved to eternal life.
Confession	Meaning or Relevance	God is Holy. We are not. Christ is without sin. We are not. We enter into His presence as sinful beings and should not approach Him carrying our sins. Confession allows us to shed those sins and prepares us for Divine Service and the Lord’s Supper.
	Supporting Scripture	Psalm 51:1-2 – “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!”
	For Daily Living	Each day we pray, or whenever the Holy Spirit pricks us – bringing to our mind the sins of our actions, we should confess them to the Father and seek, by asking, His forgiveness – and repent of those sins.
Absolution	Meaning or Relevance	It is His Grace and Mercy that frees us from sin for Christ’s sake. The Pastor’s words of forgiveness are as though Jesus Himself were speaking that forgiveness to us. We have been set free from the burden of our sins and the conviction of the law. This assures to us that we can completely receive the fullness of His gifts.
	Supporting Scripture	<p>Matthew 16:19 – “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^{al} in heaven.”</p> <p>John 20:23 – “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”</p>
	For Daily Living	In our confession, we are forgiven and, in our absolution,, we are set free, as our sins are removed by the Father as far as the East is from the West. He will absolve our daily confessions of our sins and transgressions.

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Service of Preparation		
Divine Service Element		
Introit	Meaning or Relevance	The entering in; entering into the presence of the Father. We draw closer to the Father as we sing the words of God's love found in the Psalms
	Supporting Scripture	Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Psalm 150:1 - Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
	For Daily Living	In daily observances, or in strife and all things we should look to the Father, and keep our eyes on the cross, encouraging ourselves because of the grace and salvation given us.
Kyrie	Meaning or Relevance	Kyrie Eleison is a Greek phrase that means Lord have mercy. We have received the forgiveness for our sins in the absolution, and now we ask God for His mercy upon all of the shortcomings in our lives, those things known and unknown, that hinder us in our daily spiritual lives.
	Supporting Scripture	Luke 18:13 – “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’” Mark 10:47-48 – “And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me’ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’”
	For Daily Living	At any time, at any juncture, at any challenge, in any shortcoming think of the Kyrie and utter the simple pray, Lord have mercy.
Gloria in Excelsis	Meaning or Relevance	Gloria in Excelsis (Deo), Latin for Glory to God (in the Highest). We have appealed to the Lord for forgiveness, mercy and blessings, of which we received in Absolution. We now praise Him because He is the all-powerful One, and Jesus Christ, the Lamb worthy of our praises for His sacrifice. When we sing the Gloria, we are you are singing along with the angels who announced Jesus' birth, and just as He was present in the manger, so He is present with us in His body and blood upon the altar before us.
	Supporting Scripture	Luke 2:13-14 – “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”
	For Daily Living	Just as the angels did, and just as we do on Sunday, we should glorify the Lord each day, regardless if we are troubled or joyful. The act of glorifying Him, on a bad day – may just be the need prescribed.

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Service of Preparation - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Salutation	Meaning or Relevance	“The Lord be with you.” The Pastor stands before us, in front of the altar and the crucifix, as the servant of Christ, to speak God’s peace over and upon us. “And also, with you.” We respond to affirm his calling and vocation with the Love of Christ.
	Supporting Scripture	2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 - “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Luke 1:28 - “And he came to her and said, “Greetings”, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”
	For Daily Living	What a great greeting to anyone. We may find ourselves reserved to say it just anywhere today, but many may find it balm when hearing it on a bad day. At least offer up this salutation if you meet one your parish family members in church, or in the community, sharing the Lord’s peace.
Collect	Meaning or Relevance	Collect from the Latin collecta, or the gathering of the people. This is a short prayer. A Collect prayer is not always the same and has five parts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <u>invocation</u> or address: indicating the person or persons of the Trinity addressed, usually God the Father. (Almighty God,) 2. The <u>acknowledgement</u> of a divine attribute that relates to the petition. (You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority.) 3. The <u>petition</u> is typically for one thing only and that in the simplest language. (Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit) 4. The <u>aspiration</u> of the petition, the desired result or further purpose is spoken. (that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth) 5. The <u>pleading conclusion</u> indicating the mediation of Jesus Christ. (through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever)
	Supporting Scripture	Jude 25 – “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”
	For Daily Living	If you have trouble formulating a pray you might find this five Collect to be a nice help and may enrich your daily prayers.

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Service of the Word		
Divine Service Element		
Old Testament Reading	Meaning or Relevance	The Old Testament is the foundation that the New Testament sits upon. When we hear it we should meditate on it as Christ Himself did.
	Supporting Scripture	Luke 24:44 – “Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.””
	For Daily Living	Read the Old Testament to reveal all that as written, leading to the New Testament and the coming Christ.
Gradual or Psalm	Meaning or Relevance	The Gradual (Latin: graduale or responsorium graduale) is a chant or hymn in the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist, and like the Alleluia, is one of the responsorial chants. Responsorial chants derive from early Christian traditions of singing choral refrains called responds between psalm verses. In our regular services we use the responsorial Psalm. Psalms echo the Old Testament reading and anticipate the Gospel of the Day.
	Supporting Scripture	Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
	For Daily Living	Everyone should seek to know the connections between the Old and New Testaments. You may also enjoy listening to the Psalms being sung with the Antiphons (short sentence sung or recited before or after a psalm). They can be listened to here: http://llpb.us/Canticles-Psalms-Ants.htm The antiphons help contextualize the psalm and help keep them in your mind through the week.
Epistle	Meaning or Relevance	An epistle is a letter directed or sent to a group of people and is typically in a graceful and yet official form. The early church was devoted to the teaching of the Apostles, and so is and should the church be today. This is why we include the Epistles in each service.
	Supporting Scripture	Acts 2:42 – “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
	For Daily Living	The Epistles were written to discuss specific problems or situations, offer encouragement or direction, and the ones from each week’s service are still relevant today and are great for further study and contemplation during the week.
Alleluia and Verse	Meaning or Relevance	The Alleluia and verse are sung as we prepare to hear of the deeds, and of the very words of Christ. We stand to sing the Alleluia (Praise the Lord) recognizing that His presence is in our midst.
	Supporting Scripture	Psalm 113:1 – “Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!” Revelation 19:1 – “After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,”
	For Daily Living	Praise the Lord daily, continuously for He has the words of eternal life. When challenged, fearful or tempted remember to reach out to, and trust Christ in all things.
Gospel	Meaning or Relevance	The Gospel reading of the day is comes from the teachings of Christ. The prayers, psalms, and other readings lead toward the Gospel which establishes the theme for the service.
	Supporting Scripture	1 Corinthians 15:1-2 – “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”
	For Daily Living	Discussing the words of Christ with family would be a great activity. But equally, reading what he said, and pondering those very words, as the true teachings of Christ, in context with your life can be very enriching.

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Service of the Word - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Creed(s)	Meaning or Relevance	After the sermon the congregation rises and attests to and verifies their unity in the faith. This is most often the Nicene Creed. In some churches the Nicene Creed begins as, “We believe in one God...”, whereas in the Lutheran Church it begins as, “I believe in one God...”. The attestation (what you say you believe), and witness (as it is spoken in front of others (witnesses)) is your personal commitment to your faith and the truth.
	Supporting Scripture	<p>Romans 10:9-10 - “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”</p> <p>Matthew 10:32-33 - “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”</p> <p>1 Timothy 6:12 - ”Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”</p>
For Daily Living		<p>Read the Nicene Creed for its relevance to your faith, and search it’s supporting scripture. Read all of the creeds, as they hold great witness to the truth, and statements of theological fact.</p> <p>The <u>Apostles' Creed</u>, maybe the simplest, least complex creed is an early statement of Christian belief thus written in a trinitarian structure affirming our belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is proposed to be written in the early 4th Century, and the earliest mention of it under the title of the ‘Apostle’s Creed’ is in a letter from a synod in Milan dated approximately 390 A.D.</p> <p>The Nicene Creed is again a statement of belief widely used in Christian liturgy, but in this a very deliberate, definitive and directed writing. It is titled the ‘Nicene’ as it was originally adopted in the city of Nicaea (present day İznik, Turkey) by the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. It was written to respond to and resolve what was known as the Arian controversy.</p> <p>The controversy (later stated a heresy) was contrived by a clergyman named <u>Arius</u> of Alexandria. This heresy did not show that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were of the Triune of the church, nor were the Father and Son coeternal.</p> <p>In the First Council, those assemble, created the Nicene Creed to clarify the key tenets of the Christian faith in response to what had become a widespread adoption of Arius' doctrine.</p> <p>The <u>Athanasian Creed</u> was written by Athanasius, the Bishop of Alexandria in the mid 5th century A.D. He is called the Defender of Nicene theology, and it is said he may have written as a defense to orthodoxy. It establishes the equality of the three persons of the Trinity is explicitly stated throughout as it ascribes the divine attributes and divinity to each person of the Trinity, thus avoiding subordinationism as we read the reference about in the Arian heresy.</p> <p>It also sets the path for heaven as it begins with the words, “Whosoever wishes to be saved”, the ultimate statement of Christian faith, focusing on the Trinitarian doctrine, and Christ – and describing truths of the Godhead in concepts such as uncreated, incomprehensible, eternal, and almighty (omnipotent). This is shown in the banner currently displayed above the altar.</p> <p>The creeds you can read and study. There is such depth and beauty in their creations that they truly paint a wonderful picture of our faith.</p> <p>You can download the Triglotta 2 app for your smartphone and have access to these and much more in the Book of Concord.</p>

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Service of the Word - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Hymn of the Day	Meaning or Relevance	The hymn of the day is typically doctrinal in nature, teaching the theme of the day through music with our own voice lifted in song. It is said that only Lutheran addition to the historic Mass is the hymn of the day.
	Supporting Scripture	Ephesians 5:19 – “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,” Colossians 3:16 – ”Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
	For Daily Living	Many hymns can be read as a prayer. Pick your favorite hymn and read it, meditating on its words in contemplative prayer.
Sermon	Meaning or Relevance	As did Christ, the Apostles and the prophets, the Pastor delivers the sermon, delivering God’s words and instruction.
	Supporting Scripture	Ephesians 3:7-9 – “Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,” Psalm 78:4 – “We will not hide them from their children but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”
	For Daily Living	You can use the basis of the sermon, and your notes for further Bible study during the coming week. As well, you can take special note to things that have touched you specifically during the sermon and explore those items as they relate to your physical and spiritual life.

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Service of the Word - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Offering Offertory	Meaning or Relevance	When we come to this point in the service, we typically have a flash of the thought of passing baskets in our mind, but offerings are much more. All that we have is absolutely God's and all things of creation are His. In that, we are glad to give back to him, or give out to others.
	Supporting Scripture	Psalm 116: 12-14 and 17-19 - "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!"
		Deuteronomy 16:17 - "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you."
		Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."
	For Daily Living	<p>Hebrews 13:16 - "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."</p> <p>Reflect on Psalm 51:10-12, 15 when you think of the word offering.</p> <p>"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise."</p> <p>But what else can we offer? Singing in worship – singing – not just reading the words in melodic prose but reflecting on those words as we lift them from the page and project them out into the sanctuary.</p>

Notes or Contemplations:

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Service of the Word - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Prayer of the Church	Meaning or Relevance	<p>As the children of God, we are responsible to pray for one another - those in our church, not in our church and those who know not God at all.</p> <p>We pray for their physical and spiritual health and well-being, as asked, and as needed rather a request is made or not.</p> <p>And as well we pray for our earthly leaders at all levels in that they should keep the peace, and preserve our ability to worship God in quietude, and deliver His word to others.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	<p>Philippians 4:6 - “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”</p> <p>Ephesians 6:18 - “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”</p> <p>James 5:16 - “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working”</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:1-6 - “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.”</p> <p>“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, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”</p>
	For Daily Living	<p>Prayers are needed almost everywhere at every time, for all things, and for all people. Reflect on your own daily prayers and what you might add to it. If the list seems too long, then write down those topics and divide them among the day. Some for morning, afternoon and evening.</p>
	Meaning or Relevance	<p>A doxology is an expression of praise sung to the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, often added to the end of canticle, psalms and hymns. We’ve already discussed the ‘Greater Doxology’ when we learned about the Excelsis Deo. Many may be familiar with the term, ‘Old 100th’ – the Common Doxology (805 in your current hymnal). Doxologies take many forms and are seen in many places. If you are familiar with the Catholic Mass, Orthodox Services, including the Lutheran Church you may be familiar with the Gloria Patri: “Glory [be] to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, and now, and always, and into the ages of ages. Amen”.</p>
Doxology	Supporting Scripture	<p>Luke 2:14 - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”</p> <p>John 4:23-24 – “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”</p>
	For Daily Living	<p>Meditate every day. It may be hard to initially put time aside and stick to it but try. Focus your meditation on truth, discernment, praise and thanksgiving. When you are finished, end your time with a doxology, may be the Gloria Patri.</p>
	Meaning or Relevance	<p>A doxology is an expression of praise sung to the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, often added to the end of canticle, psalms and hymns. We’ve already discussed the ‘Greater Doxology’ when we learned about the Excelsis Deo. Many may be familiar with the term, ‘Old 100th’ – the Common Doxology (805 in your current hymnal). Doxologies take many forms and are seen in many places. If you are familiar with the Catholic Mass, Orthodox Services, including the Lutheran Church you may be familiar with the Gloria Patri: “Glory [be] to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, and now, and always, and into the ages of ages. Amen”.</p>

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Service of the Lord's Supper		
Divine Service Element		
Preface and Proper Preface	Meaning or Relevance	<p>Here the Liturgy moves us from the portion of the service which was about personal preparation and the word of God, into the portion of the service that is centered in the supper instituted by Christ. The PREFACE is the segue.</p> <p>In the PREFACE, the Pastor encourages us to give thanks to God, in anticipation for what we are about to receive. We respond to encourage the pastor to pray a prayer of thanksgiving on our behalf, known as the Proper Preface.</p> <p>In the PROPER PREFACE the Pastor confirms, "It is truly good, right, and salutary [producing good effects/beneficial]] that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You...", praying to God as if He were present with us.</p> <p>The PROPER PREFACE concludes, "Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying..."</p> <p>In these words, we are reminded that we are united in Christ in Holy Communion, and we are also united with all those who have died in the faith, and the Father's created angels.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	<p>2 Timothy 4:22 - "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you."</p> <p>Colossians 3:1 - "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."</p> <p>Psalms 136 - "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.</p> <p>Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;"</p>
	For Daily Living	<p>In daily observances, we should consider: the death and suffering of Christ, the Lord's Supper itself, and what it has done for and brought to us. It is worthy of our remembrance and thanks every day.</p>

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Service of the Lord's Supper - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Sanctus	Meaning or Relevance	<p>The Sanctus (Holy) forms part of the Ordinary and is sung as the final words of the Proper Preface before the Prayers of thanksgiving, and the consecration and is thought to have been in the Liturgy since the 5th century with it's origins in worship back to the 2nd century.</p> <p>The Sanctus is derived from Isaiah's vision of heaven (Isaiah 6) and John's vision of heaven in Revelation (Revelation 4) and includes a phrase from the Palm Sunday Gospel, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest" (Matthew 21:9).</p> <p>Christ's presence is among us. When they heard the song or shout of the angels, "Holy, holy, holy," Isaiah and John were in the presence of God.</p> <p>The shepherds heard, "Fear not, (Christ is here) in Luke 2, The Palm Sunday acclamation also states, "He who comes (Your Savior is here)."</p> <p>And in the Sanctus is spoken a connection between the Sanctus and the real presence in the Lord's Supper.</p>
Supporting Scripture		<p>Isaiah 6:3 – "And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"</p> <p>Matthew 21:9 - "and the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is <u>he who comes in</u> the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"</p> <p>Revelation 4:8 - "...within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"</p>
For Daily Living		<p>This is a point of sheer reverence for the holiness of God, and thoughts and ideas and songs we should carry with us every day, reflecting on the nature of the Trinity.</p>

Notes or Contemplations:

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Service of the Lord's Supper - Continued

Divine Service Element		
The Lord's Prayer	Meaning or Relevance	<p>References to The Lord's Prayer, also called The Our Father, can be found in the gospels: a longer version within the Sermon on the Mount in the book of Matthew, and a shorter form in the Gospel of Luke when "one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples'". The Lord's Prayer contains seven petitions. The first three in Matthew address God, the other four are related to our needs and concerns.</p> <p>The First Petition - Hallowed be Thy name. What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.</p> <p>The Second Petition - Thy kingdom come. What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.</p> <p>The Third Petition - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.</p> <p>The Fourth Petition - Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.</p> <p>The Fifth Petition - And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.</p> <p>The Sixth Petition - And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.</p> <p>The Seventh Petition - But deliver us from evil. What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	<p>Matthew 6:9-13 - "Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"</p> <p>Luke 11:2-4 - "And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."</p>
	For Daily Living	<p>Each day we, the baptized people of God, should pray. If you are troubled by how to pray, the Our Father is a great place to start. It is a model prayer established by Christ and is a great beginning to longer prayers. Pray the Our Father – whenever. There is no pre-scripted or assigned time or reason – it is given to you for comfort in prayer.</p>

The Divine Service

Service of the Lord's Supper - Continued

Things to know about the Consecration

The consecration is a very reverent time in the service and should be attentively observed. We believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially present in, with and under the forms" of consecrated bread and wine (the elements of the sacrament), so that we eat and drink both the elements and the true Body and Blood of Christ himself.

This doctrine of the Real Presence is also known as the sacramental union, and was first formally and publicly confessed in the Wittenberg Concord (1536). In this case, we do not consider it to be a valid sacrament unless the elements are used according to Christ's mandate and institution (consecration, distribution, and reception).

The first and foremost action then is consecration, which is the act of declaring the bread and wine to be Holy and contain the Real Presence. It is clear from the Scripture (1 Cor. 11:23-26), and our confession that we (the church) will follow the Lord's guidance in speaking the Words of Institution over the elements in Holy Communion.

When the words of institution are spoken for each of the elements you will see the Pastor (genuflect) kneel before the altar. This act of adoration is reserved for the most blessed sacraments that are upon the altar. "Oh come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our maker" (Psalm 95:6). It is the moment of sacramental union.

After the elements are consecrated the Pastor elevated the Body/bread and Blood/wine – the sacrament - showing the congregation, as an act of reverence, that which they are about to receive

When you approach the altar, it is with quietness and reflection on what you are about to receive. We bow before the altar in respect and humble thanksgiving for what we will receive.

When receiving the host, it is permissible to receive it in your non-dominant hand so placing it to your mouth with your dominant hand may prevent in accidental drop of the Host. If you it is accidentally dropped, the Pastor or one of the Deacons will retrieve it at once, making sure there no visible particles are left on the floor. This will be placed on the altar for consumption by the Pastor or Deacons.

When receiving the wine, if you wish to receive the chalice (the Common Cup), place your hands out one atop the other (like you di for the Host), and the Deacon with the tray will pass by, and the Deacon with the chalice will know to offer you the chalice. You may take the cup in your hands if you wish, the Deacon will assist you.

In the same manner, if any of the wine is spilled, it will be as quickly as possible absorbed by one of the Deacon's with a purificator (the small white cloths held in the hands of those at the altar). Do not wipe it up yourself with a cloth hat you might have with you. The purificators are cleaned in a specific manner.

Any consecrated, unconsumed wine, and any wine absorbed on the purificator are rinsed in the piscina (a small basin) in the sacristy and the drain, called the sacrarium, that empties directly into the earth, returning the precious or sacred items to the ground.

When you have received the sacraments, and have received the blessing to go in peace, reflect on what we received, and bow before the altar in respect and humble thanksgiving for what we have received.

- ❖ Intinction - You may see the Pastor dip the Host into the wine, for someone. This is called intinction and is an acceptable method of receiving the sacrament. If this is a method you prefer, you may not dip the Host yourself, but allow the Pastor or the Deacon with the chalice to do this for you.

Of special note: Closed communion relates to the point where someone seeking to partake of the sacrament must be of the same confession as we are. You must know what and why you're doing what you are doing. In Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 17:27-29) he writes, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so

The Divine Service

eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

This is why we, the confirmed of the Parish are even asked to examine ourselves before we partake in the Lord’s Supper.

But, although the sacraments may be closed to some, the altar is not closed to anyone. Those who are guests, that do not share our confession and ourselves if we are in duress – or feeling uncertain in our self-examination may come to the altar for an individual blessing. Simply coming to the altar and crossing your arms over your chest with each hand toward the opposite shoulder will notify the Pastor that a blessing is requested.

Service of the Lord’s Supper - Continued

Divine Service Element

Consecration	Meaning or Relevance	The words of our Lord, spoken in the manner in which He prescribed, truly and substantially provides to us in, with and under the forms of the bread and wine, His Body and His Blood.
	Supporting Scripture	Matthew 26:26-28 - Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
		Mark 14:22-24 - And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.
		Luke 22:19-20 - And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood
		1 Corinthians 11:23-25 - For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
		Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
	For Daily Living	The Lord provides food for our tables that nourishes our bodies and keeps them strong and healthy. The Lord also provides for us a meal at His table, that nourishes and cleans us bring forgiveness, healing and wholeness, perfecting us from His sacrifice.

Things to know.

After the consecration and before the distribution we sing the Pax Domini (*The peace of the Lord be with you always...*) and the Agnus Dei (*O, Christ thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world*).

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Service of the Lord's Supper - Continued		
Divine Service Element		
Pax Domini	Meaning or Relevance	<p>Pax (peace) Domini (Lord) – Peace of the Lord</p> <p>Luther lifted this brief blessing out of relative obscurity and gave it something more than its original dignity and significance as a blessing of the people, and, indeed, a form of absolution. In his <i>Formula Missae</i> (1523), he says: “It (the pax) is the voice of the gospel announcing the forgiveness of sins, the only and most worthy preparation for the Lord’s table.”</p> <p>Reed, L. D. (1985). <i>The Lutheran liturgy: A study of the common liturgy of the Lutheran Church in America</i>. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
		John 16:33 – “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
		John 20:19 – “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, ¹⁴ Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
For Daily Living	<p>Consider John 20:19, as the disciples were locked in a room fearful, as in the times and situations when people are locked inside themselves (the room that is their fear), and yet Christ enters in - bringing peace.</p> <p>You might also consider the 5th petition of the Lord’s Prayer where forgiveness is requested, and here in the Pax, the peace that accompanies absolution is real.</p> <p>In reflection of these, and Luther’s words above, the Peace of the Lord can surround you.</p>	
Agnus Dei	Meaning or Relevance	<p>Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) – The purpose of which is the perfection of the Gospel, in that He takes away the sins of the world. In the song we ask for mercy be granted to us twice, and we ask for His peace to be granted to us. It is the final prayer of confession and request for mercy as before we approach the Lord’s table.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	Exodus 12:11-13 – “For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you...”
		1 Peter 1:19-20 – “but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you”
		Revelation 5:11-12 – “Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
		Revelation 12:11 – “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb...”
For Daily Living	<p>John 1:29 – “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”</p> <p>Life can be stressed from what we see, from what we hear and from those things we have done and left undone. Many times, we are not worthy. We should always reflect on the absolution we have received from Christ’s sacrifice, His presence within the elements of the consecrated meal that cleanses and nourishes us, and the peace that exceeds all understanding that is given to us.</p>	

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Closing and Benediction		
Things to know.		
Nunc Dimittis which means “now dismiss” or “now let us depart”, also called the Song of Simeon.		
Divine Service Element		
Post Communion Collect Nunc Dimittis	Meaning or Relevance	<p>Nunc Dimittis means “now dismiss” or “now let [us] depart”.</p> <p>Simeon was a devout and righteous man of Israel who had it revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen Jesus. As he was in the temple Jesus’s parents brought him into the temple. Simeon took him up in his arms and blessed God, speaking what is quoted in Luke 2:29-32 – he can now depart in peace as he has seen the promise of his salvation.</p> <p>We too have seen the promise of our salvation as our sins have been forgiven, we have refreshed our souls, been reassured of eternal life and salvation, and we give thanks to the Lord as we depart in peace. We end this portion of the service with a prayer of thanksgiving.</p>
	Supporting Scripture	Luke 2:29-32 - “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”
	For Daily Living	<p>If you notice the service is longer leading to the invitation to the Lord’s Table and the time of communion, than it is afterwards. The service ends comparatively rapidly. And the Nunc Dimittis gives us the focus on what is ultimately important, the understanding that we may now depart in peace, and we are expressly thankful.</p> <p>Think on the Song of Simeon every time you leave for work, or go to sleep and remember all His words and deeds – walking in the blessing you have from them - a light for revelation to all those who’s path you cross.</p>
	For Daily Living	
Benedicamus	Meaning or Relevance	Benedicamus is Latin for "Let us bless the Lord". We will bless him for all he has done, and should regularly as described in <u>Psalm 103</u> . He forgives our iniquities. He redeems our lives from the pit. He crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. And as the Pastor sings, “Bless we the Lord” we respond, “Thanks be to God”. What a suitable way to move to the end of the Liturgy.
	Supporting Scripture	<p>Psalm 103:1-5 – “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!</p> <p>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity,</p> <p>who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”</p>
	For Daily Living	Read Psalm 103 in its entirety and see the character of God and His nature toward us.
	For Daily Living	As you leave the parking lot you will see a sign that says, “You are now entering the mission field”. How, true. Walk each day with confidence, taking the promises in the Way we were taught to the world, <u>knowing</u> that God has put his name upon us and His blessing and presence is always with us.

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Benediction		
Divine Service Element		
Benediction	Meaning or Relevance	Bene = Good, Diction = Pronouncement or Good Pronouncement – the end of the service. The Benediction is used in many Christian churches and Synagogues alike. The Benediction, also known as the Aaronic Blessing, was given to Moses as God instructed him to tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel, and so the Pastor blesses us in the same manner. Although the blessing is documented in Numbers 6:24-26, there is one more relevant verse (27) that is not spoken, but is of importance to us; it is: “So shall they <u>put my name upon the people</u> of Israel, and I will bless them.” God marks us as His own, before we depart.
	Supporting Scripture	Numbers 6:22-26 – “The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ‘The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.’”
	For Daily Living	As you leave the parking lot you will see a sign that says, “You are now entering the mission field”. How, true. Walk each day with confidence, taking the promises in the Way we were taught to the world, <u>knowing</u> that God has put his name upon us and His blessing and presence is always with us.

Notes or Contemplations:

The Divine Service

Additional Topics in Worship

Crossing Yourself (Making the Sign of the Cross)

From where does it come?

Crossing one's self is a must to many, and may seem a bit weird to others, and either of these perceptions may spring from the traditions in which we were raised in the Lutheran, where we were raised in the Lutheran Church, or at what point in life did we join the Lutheran Church. And some may think it's too Catholic. But, the Lutheran Church steadfastly encourages believers to continue making the sign of the cross whenever you feel it is appropriate, but also notably at a number of places during the Divine Service. These points in the divine service are marked by a + cross in the service narrative.

Luther, in the small catechism, made a point to instruct and encourage us to retain the practice of making the sign of the cross. This practice is an ancient one, and is discussed by Tertullian¹, and Jerome² and is also derived from scripture such as:

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Ezekiel 9:4 "And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it."

Also see: Revelation 7:3, 9:4 and 14:1

How and when should I do it?

There are differences in tradition on how to make the gesture, both with respect to the shape of the hand and also what direction to trace the cross from shoulder to shoulder.

There are three primary variations of finger positions that are used. One is to use two fingers (either index & middle or thumb and index) to indicate the two natures of Christ; another is to bring the tip of the thumb, index, and middle finger together to signify the three persons of the Trinity; or the third is to extend the thumb, index, and middle finger while folding the ring and little finger back against the palm, thus indicating both the Holy Trinity and two natures of Christ.

There are also variations when making the sign of the cross, but the predominant one begins with the first two steps. Beginning at the forehead with a touch of the fingers from the right hand (described above) and then moving down to the base of the sternum (breastbone) – this is the upright of the cross.

¹ **Tertullian** (*Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus*), 155 – 240 AD was a prolific early Christian author from Carthage. He was the first Christian author to produce an extensive body of Latin Christian literature. He was an early Christian apologist and a polemicist against heresy, including contemporary Christian Gnosticism. Tertullian has been called "the father of Latin Christianity" and "the founder of Western theology." Though conservative in his worldview, Tertullian originated new theological concepts and advanced the development of early Church doctrine. He is perhaps most famous for being the first writer in Latin known to use the term *trinity* (Latin: *trinitas*).

² **Jerome** (*Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus*); 342 – 30 September 420, also known as Jerome of Stridon, was a Latin priest, confessor, theologian, and historian; he is commonly known as Saint Jerome. He was born on the border of Dalmatia and Pannonia. He is best known for his translation of most of the Bible into Latin (the translation that became known as the Vulgate) and his commentaries on the Gospels.

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Then the fingers touch the right side of the chest just below the collar bone and move to the left side of the chest just below the collar bone completing the cross – the beam which Christ was stretched upon.

These four points in order correlate to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Rather you make the sign of the cross, or not does not make you more or less confessional, more or less liturgical, or more or less Lutheran. Many find comfort in it, making the sign of the cross in the time of trepidation or tragedy, in the face of fear and danger, or in the presence of evil. You will see some make the sign of the cross in the Lord's Prayer at the speaking of the words, "And lead us not into temptation, but + deliver us from evil." The sign of the cross may also be made at the Invocation, the Absolution, prior to the reading of the Holy Gospel, when anything is proclaimed in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit, and at the words "and the life + of the world to come" in the creed.

You may or may not feel comfortable making the sign of the cross in public, but do not let that hinder you at any other time. You may not do it as often as others, but do not feel convicted by that either. Consider, that when the sign of the cross is made, whether by the pastor or you, let it be understood Christ has died for your sins upon the cross; and the power of that act is real and true today.