

## Chapter 1

### PLACE AND PURPOSE OF WORSHIP

When we hear about the place of worship we usually think of the church as a building. Regardless of the architecture, size or location, if it is the place where we worship God there is truly a place of worship.

But let us use "place" in another sense of the word. Let us look upon the word as the part of our life -- not confining it to any particular location. When you were 4 or 5 years old, or even younger, did your mother or father put you to bed at night and then read to you about God? Did one of them ever take you up in his lap and read and pray with you? Did you take a few minutes at the breakfast table or at the close of the evening meal and read from the Bible, perhaps sing a hymn, and pray? That too is worship.

All people are religious by nature, though some do not have the Christian religion.

If worship is to have the proper place in our lives every day in the week we must form habits. Now a habit is a custom or practice which is acquired by constantly repeating it. So then to worship daily we must form these habits: - praying as soon as we awaken in the morning, spending some time in reading Bible stories every day, praying for God's blessing before and after each meal, and at the close of day when we go to bed either reading a portion of our Bible or having an older member of the family read to us. Our last conscious act each day then should be a prayer, thanking God for His protection over us through the day, for all the blessings he has heaped upon us, seeking His protection through the night to come, and whatever else we have on our mind.

That leads us to the purpose of worship in our lives. God is our Father who has promised to supply our every need. He expects us to cast all our cares and burdens upon Him and He will give us rest. When we worship then it is our way of saying "Thank you" to God, of adoring Him. It isn't that we have anything God needs but it is His will that we come to Him and talk over everything with Him. Whenever we are talking to God we worship.

1. List several ways in which we as children may worship God.
2. What should parents do to help children worship at home?
3. Write a short prayer with which to begin the day.
4. Write a prayer to use before meals.
5. Write a prayer to use after meals.
6. Write a prayer to use before we go to sleep at night.
7. God answers our prayers. Look up what the Bible has to say about this in the following passages. Copy the verses:

Matt. 21:22; Acts 10:31; I John 3:22

Read over: Acts 16:19-40

## Chapter 2

### HISTORY OF WORSHIP

We will discuss here only the history of worship in New Testament times, since the time of Christ. After Jesus had ascended into heaven the apostles met daily to worship. Gradually others came to worship with them. As the apostles told the story of how Jesus gave his life on the cross for the sins of the whole world, great numbers were added to the church.

The enemies of the Christian religion did all in their power to wipe out the Christians. Many followers of Christ were killed. Consequently, it became necessary at times to worship in secret. The Christians buried their dead in what they called catacombs. These were secret rooms which they dug below the surface of the earth. They had secret entrances to the catacombs and to be safe from their enemies they met together down there to worship.

Gradually, the number of Christians grew as the Gospel spread from one country to another. The apostle Paul traveled from one country to another starting little congregations here and there.

As the churches began to organize there developed a certain form of worship that they followed. Following is the way, the worship naturally developed. Notice how closely the Church of today worships in the same way.

1. Opening - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
2. Hymn
3. Confession of sin
4. Absolution of sin - declaring the forgiveness of sin
5. Prayer
6. Scripture lesson - Gospel, Epistle
7. Creed. The answer of the church to God who has given the Gospel to them.
8. Hymns
9. Sermon
10. Sacrament of the Altar. The early church wanted the Sacrament often, at least once a week.

More lessons about the meaning of the order of this service will follow.

1. Read about the worship of the wise men as found in Matt. 2:1-11
2. In your lesson you will find an order of service the first Christians followed when they met for worship. Copy that order carefully.
3. Now turn to your Hymnal on Page 3. Copy carefully this order.

## Chapter 3

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We have spoken of worship as speaking to God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. God is not confined to any particular place for He is everywhere present and knows all things and hears us when we lift up our hearts and voices to Him. But today let us spend some time talking about our worship in the church. Luther once said "He who would find Christ must first find the church."

As we enter the church on Sunday morning or at some special service during the week what will be our attitude? When we are in church we forget ourselves as individuals and should, as far as possible, realize we are a part of the congregation, of the communion of saints. We pray with others for the needs of all men.

As we enter the pew with our family we ought to fold our hands and bow our heads in prayer. By taking such a position we show that we are reverent and that we are but humble sinners in the presence of God. Then too, we can be sure that our neighbor to the right or to the left of us will not start a conversation and thus disturb others about us that are praying. At that time it is our privilege to pray for whatever we think best. But included in our prayer should be a petition to God to help us to understand the Word which we are to hear that day. We should also pray for our church, for our pastor who is to lead in the worship, and that through the worship of the day we may grow in knowledge of and faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

As the service opens we can all take part in the hymns and prayers. As the pastor prays it is our duty and privilege to pray right along with him. As the sermon is preached we should listen closely for it is for our benefit as well as for the grown-ups.

It is so easy to let our minds drift away to something which is going to happen after church, next week or something which has happened in the past. Satan likes to draw our attention from our worship of God to himself and worldly attractions. If that happens, close your eyes for a minute and pray in your heart that those thoughts may be taken away from you.

1. How should we act when we come into the church to worship?
2. Copy a prayer to use as you enter the pew on Sunday morning.
3. Why is it better to worship in church than out in a park?
4. What does Jesus call His house. Copy and learn Matt. 21:13
5. Read and copy Hebrews 10:25 and see what it says about the attendance at public worship.
6. List things to be avoided when coming into the church to worship.

## Chapter 4

### THE OPENING PRAYER

After the organist has played a prelude, during which time the worshippers should be preparing their hearts for the service to follow, the pastor enters the chancel and faces the altar. Here we have the liturgical service beginning. The Church uses the liturgy as a means of helping the congregation worship together in a beautiful and orderly manner. Liturgy gives the congregation an opportunity to take an active part, you will notice, for the pastor faces the altar part of the time and then he will turn toward the congregation. The altar is in our church as a sign that Christ is there in an invisible way. When the pastor turns to the altar he is speaking to God as the representative of the congregation. When he turns to the congregation he speaks to the people as a messenger of God.

Now turn to your Hymnal, Page 5. Let us look closely at its contents. It is a prayer which is several hundred years old. It is one of the many prayers in our church that have been so outstanding through the years that it has been preserved. Christians coming into the presence of God are reminded of their sinfulness and unworthiness. They realize they are not able to worship God as they ought to. Neither can they pray as they should. Christ's disciples felt that too, so they asked him to teach them to pray. So Christians down through the ages have found they must ask God to help them to worship properly. This prayer is addressed to the Triune God -- three in one -- maker, Father; Redeemer, Son; Comforter, Holy Spirit. We tell God here that we have come to hear His Holy Word and we ask Him, by the help of the Holy Spirit to open up our hearts so that Word may find room in them. When this Word comes into our hearts we will repent of our sins and believe on Jesus Christ. Last, but not least, we pray that each day we may grow stronger in our faith and thus be able to overcome sin and Satan.

1. To whom is this prayer addressed?
2. What are some of things asked for?
3. Why does the pastor face the altar when he prays this prayer?
4. Learn this prayer so as to be able to pray it silently every time the pastor prays it on Sunday.
5. Copy Ps. 95:16; Isaiah 63:16; John 14:26. Here we see God called by different names. Copy the names.

## Chapter 5

### HYMNS

The E and R Church has always been a singing church. We find that the many hundred hymns of our own Hymnal are those which have been tried, tested and found to be the finest way an individual worshipper can express himself.

The first great hymn book, sometimes called God's own hymn book, is the Psalms. However, many of our best hymns are simply the words of Scripture set to music.

You know a soldier would not go on the battlefield without being fully equipped. These great hymns we sing are a part of the Christian soldier's equipment on the field. You will notice in reading through most of our hymns that they are all excellent prayers. They are a means whereby we may confess our faith and express our hope for a life forever in heaven.

Our hymnary has so divided the hymns that they express a message which is along the same line of thought as the text on which the pastor is to preach for that Sunday.

Among some of the greatest composers of hymns and church music within the Lutheran Church are Bach, Handel, Grieg, Wennerberg, Paul Gerhardt, Martin Luther, Lindemann, Stainer, Nicolai, Schmalck, only to mention a few. As you go through your hymn book notice the names of those who have written them. The name at the top is the composer of the melody. The author of the text appears at the end. Notice also the dates given. Must it not be truly great music that can live such a long time and grow in popularity with the ages.

The oldest Christian hymn we have is No. 453 - "Shepherd of Eager Youth."

As you sing these hymns over from day to day note the things you ask for and the things you praise and give thanks for.

1. Make a list of your favorite hymns.
2. Take part of your time to read the words of some favorite hymns.
3. During opening and closing exercises read the words first; then sing them.
4. What was the first great hymn book?
5. Look up and read the following New Testament passages. What do they tell us about hymns?

Matt. 26:30

Col. 3:16

Acts. 17:25

6. Where do the words that are used in many of our hymns come from?
7. Why are so many of our hymns good prayers?

## Chapter 6

### CONFESSION

Now we come to the part of our service which we call the confession of sin. The Christian's sins have been washed away by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. It was shed on Calvary on that long Black Friday about 2000 years ago. However, all men, even Christians still have their sinful natures as long as they live on this earth.

In view of that fact then, the Christian will find that he must turn to God for daily forgiveness, and for daily strength to meet the many temptations that come to him.

As we read the prayer confession of sin, we confess all our sins, not merely those which we count one by one. We have so very many sins that we neither see, nor remember.

Following the confession in some churches, comes the Kyrie, No. 518. This is a Greek word which means "Lord." The congregation has confessed their sins and now pleads to God for mercy. Here is one of the oldest prayers on record for we find the saints of the Old Testament would also plead, "Lord have mercy upon us." This plea is repeated three times because the grace which it asks for is from the Father, through the Son, Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit. The musical setting to which this prayer is chanted is sorrowful and pleading rather than joyful. That is the natural way a sinner would express his sorrow over sins, not in a jubilant, joyful manner. During the confession of sin and the Kyrie, the pastor and congregation have been facing the altar, speaking to God their confessions. There is no other source to turn to than Christ at the altar.

1. What does it mean to confess our sins?
2. To whom should we confess our sins?
3. Why do Christians have to confess their sins too?  
Copy Rom. 7:23 Gal. 5:17
4. What good does it do us to confess our sins?  
Copy and learn I John I:9
5. What does the word Kyrie mean?
6. What do we pray for in the Kyrie?
7. Why do we repeat the same prayer three times?

## Chapter 7

### ABSOLUTION AND GLORIA

A. ABSOLUTION - We have seen in Chapter 6 how the congregation has made a confession of all their sins and prayed for mercy from Almighty God. Now comes the Absolution. The sinner has admitted his guilt of sin. When the pastor is ordained he is given the divine authority, or the right from God, to declare or pronounce the sinner a forgiven person. This is a comforting message for us all to hear... the glorious news that our sins are forgiven.

With the words of the absolution before us as found on Page 5, let us see what is contained in it. Looking at it as a whole we see that it contains the whole way of salvation to eternal life. Because it is complete it becomes a complete answer to the prayer for grace. It declares:

- I. That God has had mercy upon us and given His Son to die for us.
- II. That for Christ's sake He now forgives us all our sins.
- III. That to those who believe He gives the increase of knowledge and obedience for which they pray, by giving them power to become the sons of God, and by giving them His Holy Spirit.

B. GLORIA - Now after such a glorious declaration it is only natural that the pastor, as the leader of the congregation, should break into the joyful Gloria. It is rightly called "The Gloria in Excelsis" which is Latin and means "Glory in the highest." It is one of the oldest morning hymns of the Christian church. It is a hymn in which we pay honour to the greatest of all gifts to men - God's son Jesus. The opening words were first sung by the angels at the birth of Christ. Luther said of this part, "It did not grow; nor was it made on earth; it came down from heaven." We may divide this hymn in the following manner:

- I. Honoring God the father, (a) In the words of the angels, (b) Praise and Thanksgiving by the church.
- II. Honoring God the Son. (When we call him Lord, the only-begotten Son, the Christ, God, The Lamb of God.)
- III. Prayer to God the Son. (a) As the One who brings mercy, by taking away sin of the world. (b) As the one who gives mercy, sitting at the right hand of God, the Father.
- IV. Praise to God the Son. (The closing part shows us that God the Son is of equal holiness, power, and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit.)

1. What does the word absolution mean?
2. What right does the pastor have to declare our sins forgiven?  
Copy John 20:22
3. Into what three divisions may we divide these words of absolution?
4. Why do we sing the Gloria at this point in the service?
5. Who first sang this great hymn of praise? See Luke 2:13-14
6. Copy these verses in your notebook.

## Chapter 8

### INTROITS AND COLLECT

Introit - to enter or go within. - The beginning.

The collect is a brief prayer which varies with the festivals and seasons of the church year. It is called a "collect" because it is a united or "collective" prayer of the entire congregation. Also of importance is the fact that it points to the main thought of the word of God which follows in the reading of the epistle and Gospel lessons for the day. For example: on Good Friday we expect to hear about the death of Jesus upon the cross. Can you see how this collect prepares the congregation to receive the words about the cross which they would hear on such a day as Good Friday?

We should learn to use the collect form in our prayers. It is short but to the point, and it is Scriptural. It avoids all wordiness, is clear, and is not sentimental. It has been handed down to us from Christians through many hundreds of years. In these prayers we all unite with Christians of all land and ages.

A complete collect has five parts: Invocation, Basis, Petition, Result desired, Mediation. The Invocation is some name of God by which we address Him. The Basis is some teaching of scripture or some truth which may be directly brought out from Scripture on which we have our prayer. It is usually introduced by relative pronouns such as "we" or "who."

The Petition is some certain thing we are asking for. There is usually just one request in each collect. The Result desired is the end we seek to obtain when God grants the petition. It is usually introduced by "that" or "in order that."

The MEDIATION is the phrase "through Jesus Christ, etc." In it we make the statement that we are praying with Christ, in His name and that all our blessings come through Him. It should be included in all our prayers.

Let us take an example of the parts of a collect using the one for the fifth Sunday after Trinity.

Invocation - O God

Basis - who has prepared for them that love Thee such good things  
as pass man's understanding;

Petition - Pour into our hearts such love for Thee,

Result - That we loving Thee above all things may obtain Thy  
promises which exceed all that we can desire.

Mediation - through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord.

1. What is the collect?
2. Why do we call such a prayer a collect?
3. Name the five parts of the collect.
4. Where do these collects come from?
5. How can we use these collects for ourselves?

## Chapter 9

### THE EPISTLE

After the collect which we saw in yesterday's lesson we come to the part of the service where the pastor reads the Epistle lesson for the day. The epistle is a letter. The first Scripture of the day is called the Epistle, because it is usually taken from the letters of the New Testament. The Epistle is the Word which the Holy Spirit speaks directly to the people through the apostle who has been His instrument in writing it. It tells the people the way they should live and how their faith should show itself. In the Epistle for Christmas, found in Titus 2:11-14, Paul tells us what the birth of Christ means to us, and describes the manner of life which should follow from our knowledge of this great fact.

Occasionally this lesson is taken from the Psalms or from one of the prophecies of the Old Testament. During the reading of the Scriptures it is customary for the congregation to stand. This is the proper way to show respect and reverence for the word of God.

You will find the Epistle lessons and Gospel lessons listed in your Hymnal, Page 479. Have you noticed them? If not, notice them now as you will find them immediately after the collects. The Epistle and Gospel lessons bring the answer to the prayer, the collect, which the congregation has just prayed.

These letters or Epistles of the New Testament were at first addressed to established Christian congregations and it was meant that they should be read in their public gathering to teach, comfort, and urge them to carry out their duties, warn them of dangers, and thereby help them to grow in their Christian faith. They point especially to Jesus and his saving work and especially His death and resurrection.

In the New Testament there are 21 letters or Epistles. Look them up and see who God the Holy Spirit, as author, used to write them.

1. What does the word Epistle mean?
2. Which books of the New Testament are epistles. List them.
3. Why does the congregation stand during the reading of the Epistle?
4. To what does the message of the Epistle lesson especially point?
5. What is the connection between the Epistle lesson and the sermon for the day?

## Chapter 10

### THE GOSPEL

We told you in the previous lesson that the Epistle is read first. Then comes the reading of the Gospel. The word "Gospel" comes from the Greek word meaning "good tidings" or "good news." This good news or good tidings tells us that Jesus Christ has come to earth, that He permitted the cruel world to take him and nail him to the cross, and so the sins of the world were nailed on that cross. Now He asks of us that we are baptized and believe on Him. God has marked off our debt as paid in full because Christ paid that debt. Isn't that good news? But we must remember it is our duty to pray that God will help us to remain His children. Paul tells us in Romans 10:13 "Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved."

Usually the sermon for the day is based on the Gospel as the pastor reads it. The Gospels are the most general source of all sermons. When the Gospel is read the congregation rises to hear it. That is but a small way in which we can honor God and show our respect for His word.

After the reading of this good news the pastor says "Here endeth the Gospel" and the congregation thanks and praises God for these "good tidings" of His grace by singing "God be praised for His glad tidings."

We call the first four books of the New Testament the Gospels. In them we find the account of Christ's birth. His life here on earth as the God-man, His suffering, death, resurrection, ascension and His promise of a Comforter in the Holy Spirit.

1. What does the word Gospel mean?
2. What are the "good tidings" which the Gospel brings us?
3. From what part of the New Testament is the Gospel lesson taken?
4. What is the connection between the Gospel lesson and the Sermon for the day?
5. How many books of the Bible are called the Gospels? List them.

## Chapter 11

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

We have heard the Gospel read and now we hear the pastor say "Let us together confess our holy Christian faith," and with the congregation, confesses their faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Ghost.... the three-in-one God. We use the Apostle's Creed which is the shortest and one of the oldest confessions of faith and belief that we have in the whole Christian church. It dates back to the earliest centuries of the Christian church. Isn't it a great thing that we Christians have such a confession almost 2000 years old that has remained unchanged in thought until this day? As we confess our faith we should not permit our minds and thoughts to stray. We are stating or telling what we believe. The word creed comes from the Latin "Credo" and means "I believe."

We use a creed because it is necessary according to the Bible publicly to state the fact that we accept the truth of God's Word. Matt. 10:32, Matt. 16:15-18; Rom. 10:9; John 1:49; Mark 9:24, show why we practice such confessions.

We might summarize our remarks concerning our confession of faith. It serves two purposes. First, it is a confession from the heart of the Christian to God. Second, it is a confession before men in which the Christian openly sets forth his belief in God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Ghost. There is meaning in every word and sentence, therefore, it is important that we think of the meaning when we are confessing our faith.

1. What is the confession of faith.
2. What is the purpose of the creed?
3. The following passages tell us why a creed is necessary.

Copy them.

Matt. 10:32

Rom. 10:9

John 1:49

Mark 9:24

## Chapter 12

### THE UNISON OR PASTORAL PRAYER

In this prayer the congregation, and the pastor, offer the fruit of our lips in thanksgiving and praying for the things we need. We call it the general prayer because in it we pray for all possible blessings to be heaped upon us, and not only on us, but also upon all sorts and conditions of men. It is an old prayer and was used in the same form as we have it today back as far as 1550. It is based on I Tim. 2:1-2, where Paul tells Timothy the "Supplications, Prayers, Intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men."

Turn to the prayers on pages 7-8. Read them over carefully and then let us suggest an outline of it so as to see all that is prayed for.

The address, to God, as our Father in Christ. A general thanksgiving for all blessings, a special thanksgiving for the gift of Christ and of the Word.

We ask that the Word may be fruitful in us.

We pray for the church, for its pastors and people. We pray for pure doctrine, that our faith may be strengthened and that our love may be increased.

Then comes a section where we pray for the state, for its rulers, legislators, and judges, for good government and social order.

Of importance in all prayers is a prayer for our enemies, that our enmity may pass away. We pray for those in affliction or trouble -- so that all may see God's goodness even in suffering. We pray for the forgiveness of all sins and for keeping us from all kinds of evil.

We pray for the things produced by nature, for all occupations that are proper, and for Christian education.

It concludes by praying for all these things through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1. Why do we call this the General Prayer?
2. This prayer is divided into five parts. Name the parts.
3. Where is the pastor when he prays this prayer?
4. Look up I Tim. 2:1-2 which is the basis for this prayer. For whom should prayers be made? Why?

## Chapter 13

### OFFERTORY

We will take a few minutes today and learn more about the place of an offertory in our service.

It is necessary that the offering form a part of the service because our faith must show itself in works. When we receive such a rich free gift from God it compels us to give Him what we can. Some will probably ask, "What can we give God?" Nothing we give can pay for our sins. But if we say to God "I need Thee Oh God, to save me, to help me through every minute of the day as long as I live. I haven't anything to pay back but all that I have is Thine, Oh Lord." God is pleased with such offerings. Some people look upon the offering as a way of prying a few coins away from unwilling givers. Isn't that a horribly mistaken idea? A true offering is given as an expression of thanks to God, as love to Him. We must remember that all we give, if given in the right spirit, is nothing compared with all that God has given us. What are our gifts in comparison with the forgiveness of sins, hope of eternal life, care and guidance every day, and the promise that our every need shall be taken care of. God has promised us that. Read Luke 11:5-13; Phil. 4:19. So let us all give freely, not as if forced to do so, and remembering that the Lord loves a cheerful giver.

The money which we give all goes to take care of the support of the church. Every congregation has certain expenses to meet. Then there are many poor people who need our help. God has told us in His word that we are to help those in need. Our church has a department of Home Missions to support. When we give to Home Missions we are helping to spread the Kingdom to parts of our country where people do not have any church to go to or are too poor to meet the cost of keeping up a church and pastor. Then we have Foreign Missions. Christ has commanded that His Gospel be brought to all the world. We have missionaries in China, Madagascar and South Africa spreading the "good news" to the heathen. We help that work by our offerings. We have the work of Christian Education that needs our support. Not all children have nice homes with loving fathers and mothers as we do. By our offerings we can help them to get the things they need. It is important, isn't it, that we give all we can to God and His Church?

1. Why is it necessary to include the offering in our worship service?
2. What great gift did God give to us? Why?
3. Make a list of expenses your congregation has.
4. What does the money that we give the church go to?  
What kinds of work does your church support in other places?
5. With the gifts we give should go a prayer. Write a good prayer to pray as you give your gifts.

## Chapter 14

### THE HYMN

We have already had one lesson about hymns, but such a great study cannot be taken up all in one lesson. So before we study the next lesson on the sermon, let us look further at the hymns. We always sing a hymn before the sermon, and one immediately following. The hymn before the sermon helps us to prepare our hearts for the preaching of the Word. It should be a hymn that expresses some of the thoughts in the sermon for the day. For example on Easter Sunday you will probably hear the wonderful story of Christ who rose from the grave, how the stone was rolled away, how He has won a victory over Satan and death. Now turn to Page 166 and read the hymn over. Do you see how the hymn and sermon run in the same line of thought. Or just to take another example of a good hymn to sing after the Easter story has been told turn to Page 165.

The majority of our hymns have come from Germany, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. There are about 100,000 German hymns. They have been written by pastors, princes, princesses, statesmen, doctors, lawyers, merchants, travelers, laborers and private persons.

Would you like to know what some of the greatest hymns in our Hymnal are? Below we shall list a few of them.

1. Holy, Holy - No. 1
2. Now Thank We All Our God - No. 72
3. Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty - No. 23
4. Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness - No. 334
5. From Heaven Above - No. 114
6. O God our Help in Ages Past - No. 63
7. O Sacred Head - No. 142
8. When Morning Gilds the Sky - No. 43
9. Fairest Lord Jesus - No. 182

Do you find some of these new to you? As you practice and learn them you will truly love them and the story they tell.

1. Why do we always sing a hymn before the sermon?
2. From what countries do the majority of our hymns come?
3. What are some great hymns? List all you know.

## Chapter 15

### THE SERMON

Perhaps you are wondering what we will talk about today. Many think the sermon is a time to sit back and think about the things that have happened the past week or what is going to happen this afternoon. The sermon is for all. It is the explanation of the Gospel word which has been read. It is now explained and applied to the needs of the Congregation. It is a message based on God's word. The pastor is to be the prophet, that is one who speaks for the Lord. It is not his place to deliver a message on politics, or the daily events that we read every day in the newspapers, or to entertain with anything humorous. He is to preach God's word. If some people criticize him for what he says they had better study the Word of God carefully first. The pastor is to bring the good news of salvation to all who hear, to warn those who live in sin, to encourage and strengthen those who are sorry for their wrong-doings, and to show the way to those who want to live close to God. Where this is done the sermon will change the lives of all people and they will go out and live better lives among their neighbors.

The sermon is the most important part of our Lutheran worship service. It is our duty and privilege to listen carefully to it and do as the minister tells us. There is no need to try to make excuses that we can't understand it for if we try we can take home with us at least one thought or idea that will make us better children of God.

1. What should a true sermon be on?
2. What should be our attitude during the sermon?
3. What are some things some people do that should not be done during the sermon?
4. What is the real purpose of the sermon?

## Chapter 16

### THE SACRAMENTS

In the Lutheran Church we have two sacraments. In the Catechism you learned or will learn that a sacrament is a sacred act of God in which by certain visible means, connected with His Word, He gives or pours out freely to us His invisible or unseen grace.

A. BAPTISM - This is one of the sacraments we recognize. You were all brought by your parents to the font as children to be baptized. It is God's will that all children be baptized as you will see if you turn to Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16; John 3: 5,6. The word "Baptize" means to apply water by washing, pouring, sprinkling, or immersing. We always have sponsors at the baptism of our children and it is their duty to prove that the child has been properly baptized, to assist in caring for his Christian training, and to pray for him. When you were baptized your sins were forgiven and you were made a Child of God. We say to Satan and his works and ways "I will not serve you for now I have promised to serve God and live as His child."

B. THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR - HOLY COMMUNION. - This is the most sacred act of all Christian worship. It is the privilege of every confirmed member of the church to go to communion. Christ himself gave us this part of our service on the night before he was crucified. Turn to your Bible and see the Scriptural basis for it. Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:21-25.

Since Christ has given us this sacrament should we go to communion often? We consider it something dear to us because we know that in the Lord's Supper we receive something we need. It is the way our Lord has chosen for giving a special blessing - the forgiveness of all our sins and gives us new strength to live good Christian lives.

Our prayer as we go to communion should be something like this: "Lord thou knowest that I am unworthy to be Thy guest. I come because Thou has invited me. I come because I need Thee. Take me as I am! Cleanse me! Strengthen me! Keep me forever thine! Amen.

1. How many sacraments are there?

2. Who gave them to us? Matt. 28; 18-20; Matt. 26:26-28

Read also: Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16; John 3:5-6;  
Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20;  
I Cor. 11:21-25

3. What benefit do Christians get from going to the Lord's Supper?

## Chapter 17

### OTHER CLOSING ACTS

#### A. The Lord's Prayer

In addition to the General prayer, we pray the Lord's Prayer. No act or service would be complete without it. Christ's direction to his disciples was "When ye pray, say, Our Father, etc." Luther says "It is a prayer of prayers, wherein our Lord has comprised all spiritual and bodily need." It includes more than we can think of or ask.

#### B. The Benediction

The congregation is to be dismissed now for another week. The congregation rises to receive the benediction. The benediction is the final blessing of the people. God has commanded this prayer to be used in dismissing His people from worship. It has always been regarded by the church as one of the most solemn and serious parts of the service. One ancient writer has said, "When the benediction is pronounced, you should bow both head and body; for the blessing which is given you is the dew and rain of heaven."

Let us look more fully at the meaning of this solemn blessing. The first verse - "The Lord bless thee and keep thee" offers God's blessing and watchful protection. The second verse - "The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee" tells us of the blessed favor and mercy of God. Our sins have invited displeasure and frowns of our heavenly Father, but through forgiveness in Christ Jesus communion is restored and God now smiles upon us. See Isaiah 59:2. The third verse - "The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace" tells us we can be sure of God's own love. This is an ancient form of speech for showing love or deep feeling as a father upon his children. Then follows the final Amen. When we say "Amen" we mean "So be it."

The congregation should remain quiet for a minute with heads bowed, or seated in pews, in silent prayer. A good prayer to breathe is one something like the following, "O God, I thank Thee for Thy word and Sacrament today. May I be strengthened by them in faith and all good works; through Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen."

1. Look up the Lord's Prayer as found in Luke 11:2-5 and copy.
2. Look up Numbers 6:22-26. Where have you heard these words before?
3. Look at the ending of one of the epistles and copy in your lesson one of the Benedictions that you find.
4. Where did you take it from?
5. Why should we be silent in prayer just before we leave the pew?

## Chapter 18

### REVIEW

In these lessons you have seen the Order of our Service. What its spirit shall be depends on those who use it. For those who want to live a good life in Christ it becomes a thing of life and beauty.

From your study now will you prepare answers to the following questions.

1. Would it make any difference if there were no churches in this community? List some reasons.
2. List some ways in which the church has helped you.
3. What is the purpose of worship?
4. What should be our attitude as we enter the house of God for worship?
5. What is the Kyrie?
6. What is the Gloria in Excelsis?
7. List a dozen of your favorite hymns.
8. What is the collect?
9. What is the Gospel? Epistle?
10. What is the creed?
11. Why should we bow or kneel in prayer when we enter and leave the church?
12. What are some reasons why we bring an offering each Sunday?
13. What is the sermon? What part of the service should it be?
14. Why do we baptize our children? What does the Bible tell us about Baptism?
15. What do we receive in the Lord's Supper? Where do we get the Lord's Supper?
16. Why is the Prayer after the sermon called the General Prayer?
17. List some of the things you prayed for in the General Prayer.
18. Where do we find the Lord's Prayer in the New Testament?
19. What is the Benediction?
20. List several ways we can worship God.
21. List several places where we can worship God.