

Bible Basics – Lesson 7

Divine Service

*Receiving God's
Precious Gifts!*

Worship or Divine Service

- 1. Worship** emphasizes *what we do toward God.*
- 2. Divine Service** emphasizes *what God does toward us.*

At Bethlehem we do both,
but which one is more important?

Worshiping in Spirit and in Truth

Why do YOU attend?

- As I need *food for my body*, so I know I need *God's Word for my soul*.
- I believe the entire Bible *is God's Word of Truth*.
- I believe that Jesus is *the only way to heaven*.
- I need God's blessings* of forgiveness, instruction, and encouragement.
- I want to respond* with my trust, praise, prayers, and money.
- I want *to hear and apply* God's Word to my daily Christian life.

Worshiping in Spirit and in Truth

Jesus said: “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth” (NIV John 4:24).

What does that mean?

Lenski wrote: “Omit the spirit, and though you have the truth, the worship becomes formalism, mere ritual observance. Omit the truth, and though the whole soul is thrown into the worship, it becomes an abomination. Thus ‘spirit and truth’ form a unit, two halves that belong together in every act of worship” (323).

The Church Year



The TIME OF CHRISTMAS:

1. Advent Blue *JESUS is coming!*
2. Christmas White *JESUS is born!*
3. Epiphany White/Green *JESUS is God!*

The TIME OF EASTER:

4. Lent Purple *JESUS died for our sins!*
5. Easter White *JESUS is risen!*

The TIME OF THE CHURCH:

6. Pentecost/Trinity Green *Through JESUS we live!*

7. At Bethlehem we follow the church year because:

- a. God has commanded it.
- b. It keeps us focused on Jesus.

A Brief History of the Liturgy (page 5)

Over the past 1700 years, most Christians have worshiped liturgically!

1. In Jesus' day – the Jews sacrificed at the temple and worshiped in Synagogues.
2. Following the Day of Pentecost, due to persecution, those who believed in Jesus worshiped secretly, in houses, using a very simple liturgy.
3. In the fourth century – Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be a legal religion and gave the Christians money to build large churches. As worship space expanded, so the liturgy expanded into a form very similar to what we still use today.

Broad Overview of Liturgical History

1. The Domestic Period, 30-313, was a time of simplicity, when most Christians worshiped in houses.
2. The Imperial Period, 313-600, was a time of richness, when Christians moved from worshiping in houses to larger church buildings.
3. The Medieval Period, 600-1500, was a time of disintegration, as the liturgy declined.
4. The Reformation Era, 1500-1650, was a time of restoration, as the liturgy was renewed.
5. The Age of Pietism and Rationalism, 1650-1850, was another time of disintegration.
6. The time of Lutherans in America, 1850-present, has been a return to the richness of the liturgy.

The Liturgy Has Both Ordinaries and Propers

1. “Those parts of the liturgy that do not change each week are called the **Ordinary** because they are ordinarily present each week in the Divine Service” (6). The Ordinaries bring **consistency** to the liturgy and include the: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Santus, and Agnus Dei.
2. “The second element of our worship consists of the changeable texts, known as the **Propers**” (6). The Propers follow the seasons of the church year, bring **variety** to the liturgy, and include the: Hymns, Prayers, Readings, and Sermon.

Divine Service Components Handout