

Lutheran Worship

Lutherans have always understood that our gathering together on Sunday morning is the most important thing we do during the week. Not only do we “*remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy*” with our coming together.... but we gather because **we trust in God’s promises to those who do!** Just what has God promised us?

- 1) Where two or three are gathered in His name, there He is also. [Matthew 18:20]
- 2) So we look at this time as **His** doing.... truly, a **Divine Service** for us! [Philippians 4:19]
- 3) When we invoke His name [like at our Baptism] He comes with the gifts of heaven. The invocation is not only calling on God’s name but also recalling our baptism. [Matthew 28]
- 4) As we confess our sins in faith... He gives us *forgiveness* in absolution.¹ [Luke 7:47-50]
- 5) As we affirm our faith by confessing in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we stand united as His body on earth. [Matthew 10:32]
- 6) As we listen to His Holy Word... He empowers our life of sanctification as fruit of our justification. [Colossians 3:16]
- 7) He invites us to come to Him in prayer... as we share the joy and concerns about our daily life. [1 Thessalonians 5:17]
- 8) We bring a gift of thanksgiving... returning to the Lord what is His... so that His kingdom might continue to come through us. [1 Peter 4:8-10]
- 9) He assures us of our *forgiveness* won on the cross and delivers it to us... we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb! [Matthew 26:26-29]
- 10) He brings us together by His Holy Meal... we all eat of the One bread and drink of the One cup... Christ is in us all! [1 Corinthians 10:17]
- 11) We depart with His promise to be with us always... enabling us to witness of His love to all people. [Matthew 28]

So we sing and praise and glorify God with a basic form that upholds Jesus before the eyes of His people and keeps us safely in His grace. The form has taken many shapes over the centuries and will continue to mature as it meets its general purpose. **The orientation is what is most important...** *we seek from God His grace and blessing day by day and year after year unto eternal life.* Then we are faithful in proclaiming the Lord’s death until He returns!

¹ The woman came with this conviction about Christ: that she should seek the forgiveness of sins from him. This is the highest way to worship Christ. Nothing greater could she ascribe to Christ. By seeking the forgiveness of sins from him, she truly acknowledged him as the Messiah. Now to think about Christ in this way, to worship and take hold of him in this way, is truly to believe. Ap IV:154