

Getting to Know Worship at Peace Lutheran Church

In 1517, Martin Luther, then a Catholic monk, began a debate about the practices within the Roman Catholic Church that would lead to the creation of a new Christian denominations known as Protestants. Today, Peace Lutheran Church, established in 1978, follows the theology and liturgy formulated by Martin Luther and known as Lutheranism.

Lutheran worship services follow a pattern that traces its roots back to the earliest years of Christianity as developed by Luther and other reformers. The liturgy (a word from Greek that means “work of the people”) is divided into four parts – the Gathering, the Word, the Meal, and the Sending – and includes spoken and sung elements.

Though our official hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, offers the fundamental framework for Sunday worship at Peace Lutheran Church, including songs and prayers, we also draw from the rich depths of Christian worship practices and frequently use content from other denominations.

Join Peace Lutheran Church for worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., both in-person and online. Our services normally last 60-75 minutes.

The Gathering

The Gathering is the threshold, preparing us for the word and meal that await us. It is a reminder that this gathering is unlike others we might attend during the week; now the Holy Spirit has gathered us as a community. It is a gathering not simply of friends, or a gathering of like-minded folks, or a civic gathering, but a gathering that welcomes all into its midst, expecting to meet Christ in each one who enters.

Prelude

The Prelude is a musical component of the worship service played as folks gather and prepare their hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome and Announcements

The presiding minister, or a leader from the congregation, warmly welcomes the assembly and highlights concerns and activities.

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands.

Confession and forgiveness are the first interaction between the presiding minister and the assembly and serves as a preparatory act of the community. Together we gather to confess our sins silently and hear the assurance of God’s grace—the forgiveness of our sins—from the presiding minister and resonate what we experience in Baptism.

During Confession and Forgiveness, and at other parts of the service, the assembly make the sign of the cross as a reminder that we are claimed by the cross.

Gathering Song

The assembly stands.

Following the Confession and Forgiveness, or the rite of Thanksgiving for Baptism, the first hymn of the service that calls us together as the Body of Christ and is an opportunity to praise and thank God.

Greeting

The assembly stands.

The Greeting, also known as the Apostolic Greeting, is announced by the presiding minister. The Greeting is a paraphrase of the Apostle Paul's salutation at the end of his second letter to the Corinthians.

Kyrie

The assembly stands.

The Kyrie, or Kyrie Eleison, translates from Greek as "Lord, have mercy," is a historic component of Christian worship and is sung by the assembly. The repetitive nature of the Kyrie lends itself to contemplation and meditation, allowing the assembly to enter into a state of prayerful reflection as we acknowledge our dependence on God's mercy. The seasons of Advent and Lent, only the Kyrie is used, and it is excluded during the Season after Pentecost.

Canticle of Praise

The assembly stands.

The Canticle of Praise can take at least two forms—"Glory to God" or "This is the Feast"—and is always sung in praise of Christ and to signify that we are a faith centered in Jesus. The lyrics are based on Luke 2.14 and Revelation 5, 15, and 19.

Prayer of the Day

The assembly stands.

The Prayer of the Day, or Collect, refers to the bringing together of the day's theme through prayer led by the presiding minister. The Collect concludes the Gathering portion of the day's worship.

The Word

Lutheranism has a long tradition of public reading of scripture, and we do this through scripture readings, prayer, hymns, and sermons. At the heart of this part of worship, is the proclaimed scriptures which is seen as an indispensable part of worship. The scripture used on a particular day is typically assigned by an approved three-year lectionary of readings that follow the pattern of the church year or liturgical calendar.

Kid's Moment

The assembly is seated.

At Peace Lutheran Church we begin the Word portion of worship with a brief kid's moment or children's message. It is an opportunity for children to come forward to hear a summary of the day's theme and a lesson from the day's texts.

First Lesson

The assembly is seated.

The First lesson typically comes from the First (Old) Testament.

Psalm

The assembly is seated.

The Psalm may be sung or spoken responsively between the cantor or lector and the assembly.

Second Lesson

The assembly is seated.

The Second Lesson typically comes from the Second (New) Testament epistles or letters.

Gospel Acclamation and Verse

The assembly stands.

The Gospel Acclamation is a short sung response that announces the proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel

The assembly stands.

The Holy Gospel is typically read by the presiding minister or day's preacher and, based on the liturgical year and cycle will include a reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.

Sermon

The assembly is seated.

The presiding minister gives a sermon based on the days reading with emphasis on the Holy Gospel.

Hymn of the Day

The assembly stands.

The Hymn of the Day is a hymn selected specifically to reflect the message of the sermon or the theme of the day.

Creed

The assembly stands.

The Creed, meaning "I believe" in Latin, is a confession of faith that summarizes the core theological beliefs of Christianity. The assembly recite either the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, or the Athanasian Creed, which Creed is recited is based on the liturgical season.

Intercession of the Church

The assembly stands.

The Intercession of the Church, or Prayers of Intercession, are corporate prayers that focus on the concerns of the church, the world, and the local community.

The Meal

The Meal is the sharing of the same Last Supper meal that Jesus shared with his disciples and friends before his crucifixion and resurrection. Lutherans believe that in the meal God feeds us mysteriously with the real presence of Jesus Christ in bread and wine. Peace Lutheran Church practices open communion meaning all who desire to come closer to Jesus Christ may receive the consecrated bread and wine.

Invitation to Offering

The assembly is seated.

The Invitation of Offering invites the assembly to make an offering to support those in need through the mission and ministry of the church.

Offering

The assembly is seated.

The Offering was originally a gift of bread and wine for use during Holy Communion, but has evolved into a monetary offering for the sake of need in the world.

Offertory

The assembly is seated.

The Offertory, or Music at the Offering, is an anthem usually sung by the choir, vocal solo, or an instrumental selection while the ushers pass the offering plates among the assembly.

Offering Prayer

The assembly stands.

The Offering Prayer dedicates our intended stewardship of all the gifts God gives to us that we may use them for God's purposes.

The Great Thanksgiving

The assembly stands.

The Great Thanksgiving begins with a dialogue between the presiding minister and the assembly that encourages our worship of God in Jesus Christ.

Preface

The assembly stands.

The Preface is a prayer that proclaims the praise of the assembly in words that conform to the season of the day of the church year.

The Words of Institution

The assembly stands.

The Words of Institution are those words Jesus used at the Last Supper, instituting the Eucharist. It is here that we believe the bread and wine mysteriously become the true body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

The assembly stands.

The Lord's Prayer is that prayer which scripture tells us Jesus taught his disciples. At various points of the year, Peace Lutheran Church may use different versions of the Lord's Prayer that are either contemporary or re-imagining of the original prayer Jesus taught.

Breaking of the Bread

The assembly stands.

The Breaking of the Bread, or fracture, is a central moment of the eucharistic celebration because the breaking of bread into many pieces symbolizes being broken and shared for the life of the world.

Peace

The assembly stands.

The Peace is where the assembly greet one another with words of peace reminding us of the first words the risen Christ spoke to his disciples. The Peace is a 'movable' element of the liturgy and can also rest at the conclusion of the Word.

Invitation to the Table

The assembly stands.

The presiding minister invites the assembly to the feast of God.

Lamb of God

The assembly stands.

The Lamb of God is another sung element of the liturgy and is also known as the Agnus Dei. The Lamb of God is a prayer addressed to Christ present in the eucharist as a sacrificial offering once for all.

Distribution of the Blessed Sacrament

The assembly is seated.

The assembly come forward to receive the consecrated bread and wine, the true body and blood of Jesus Christ. Peace Lutheran Church provides grape juice and gluten free bread for those who cannot partake in wine or bread. Those not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing.

Prayer after Communion

The assembly stands.

The Prayer after Communion is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the gift of Jesus Christ in the meal, and concludes the meal portion of the worship service.

The Sending

The Sending is the closing part of the worship service in which God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Song of Praise

The assembly stands.

The Song of Praise is a short hymn sung in praise and thanksgiving for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Blessing

The assembly stands.

The Blessing, or benediction meaning "good word," is a short invocation and blessing over the assembly given by the presiding minister.

Sending Hymn

The assembly stands.

The Sending Hymn challenges us to leave worship and take the love of Christ we have experienced in Word and Sacrament out into the world.

Dismissal

The assembly stands.

The Dismissal is our charge to respond to God's love in Jesus. Our true response to the liturgy, and our life as followers of Jesus Christ, begins when we leave the worship space to accomplish God's ministry and mission in our world.

Prelude

The Prelude is a final piece of instrumental music to end the worship experience.