

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

2. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The purpose is to present Jesus to us as we prepare to meet Him in the Lord's Supper.

Following the Hymn of Praise is the Salutation and Collect

The Salutation is a special greeting between the congregation and the pastor. It announces the Lord's coming to us in the readings that will follow.

The Collect 'collects' in a concise and beautiful manner the Gospel message for the day. Most of these prayers have been in use for 1500 years. The congregation responds with an "AMEN" a statement of agreement.

The Hearing of God's Word follows. Romans 10:17 reminds us "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of God"

We read an Old Testament Lesson, one from an apostolic letter, and one from a Gospel. We are reminded of Peter's words "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68

The Old Testament Lesson reminds us of God's work in time before our Lord Jesus Christ as well as some of the prophecies pointing to Him.

The Epistle Lesson gives us God's counsel on how to apply His Word.

The Gospel always contains the very words or deeds of our Lord Jesus. Thus we stand to hear this. This can be seen as the summit of the Service of the Word.

Each reading is followed by reminding us: "This is the Word of the Lord." And the congregation responds "Thanks be to God."