

Worship (CL4)

Worship and the Sacraments

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Worship (CM5)

Oct. 1 – Intro to Christian Worship

Oct. 8 – Biblical & Theological Understanding

Oct. 15 – ***Mid-Term Break***

Oct. 22 – Inviting God to Church

Oct. 29 – Worship Form & Community

Nov. 5 – Liturgy & Biblical Worship

Nov. 12 – Worship and the Sacraments

Nov. 19 – Conclusion; Final Exam

Worship and the Sacraments

- **Sacrament** – a Christian rite recognized as of particular importance and significance.
- There are various views on the existence and meaning of sacrament.
 - Sacraments are “*efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.*”

Catechism of the Catholic Church


- A sacrament is “*an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us, ordained by Christ himself, as a means whereby we receive the same, and a pledge to assure us thereof.*”

Anglican Book of Common Prayer

Worship and the Sacraments

- **The Westminster Confession of Faith** speaks of "the reading of the Scriptures" and "sound preaching" as being ordinary parts of Christian worship, along with "the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments."
- Nearly all Christians acknowledge there are sacraments instituted by Christ, and these are to have a place in the worship of God's people.
- But *how many* sacraments? How are they to be administered, and by whom? And to what extent are administration of the sacraments necessary for existence of a true church?
- Most Protestant churches have two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Roman Catholicism has seven: baptism and the Lord's Supper, plus penance, confirmation, marriage, holy orders and final unction.

Four Elements of a Sacrament

1. The sacraments are divine ordinances instituted and commanded by Christ himself.
 2. The sacraments are ordinances in which material elements are used as visible signs of God's blessing. (In baptism the sign is water. In the Lord's Supper two signs are used: bread, which signifies the broken body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and wine, which signifies his shed blood.)
 3. The sacraments are means of grace to the one who rightly partakes of them (but our faith in the saving work of Christ is the means of salvation).
 4. The sacraments are seals, certifications or confirmations to us of the grace they signify.
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The Sacrament of Baptism

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age"

Matthew 28:18-20

- Baptism is commanded as the process for entry into the Church, and for adults as an act of witness and affirmation of our faith. BUT baptism is not a requirement for salvation. (Romans 10:9)
- Baptism is our sign and seal of identification with Christ and a proof of our true security as God's people (Ephesians 4:30)
 - Immersion or sprinkling?

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- Whereas baptism is an initiatory sacrament, the Lord's Supper is a continuing sacrament meant to be observed again and again throughout the Christian life, so that it has past, present and future significance.
- At the heart of the Lord's Supper is our communion or fellowship with Christ, hence the term "communion service."
- Christ's Presence: *Memorial? Literal? Spiritually "Real?"*

