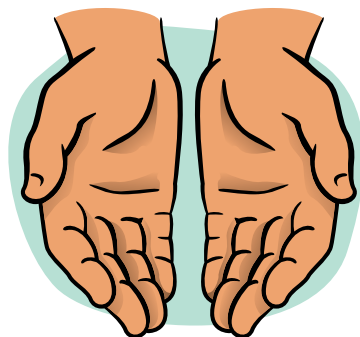


# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is a “Suffrage”?

A suffrage is a prayer for help. The word “suffrage” comes from the Latin word “suffragium” which means “support.”

In this type of prayer we ask our Lord to give us His support, assistance and protection. More importantly, we ask Him to keep us strong in the faith and to give faith to other people.

## Why is it good to use the Suffrages?

Look at the Suffrages in our hymnal (Responsive Prayer 1, pp. 282–84 in *Lutheran Service Book*). In the morning Suffrages, we ask God to take care of us. In the afternoon or evening suffrages we ask God to protect His Church and world. God commands us to pray in this way (see 1 Tim. 2:1–4). We hear from God’s Word that He desires for us to pray for all people. God wants all people to believe in Jesus. In the Suffrages, we pray that God would provide for such salvation. What a wonderful opportunity for us to speak to God on behalf of others!



### Parents:

Read through Responsive Prayer 1 with your children. Compare the language in these Suffrages to the language of the Divine Service. How are they similar? How are they different? Be sure to read and discuss 1 Tim. 2:1–4.

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What does the word “Amen” mean?

The word “amen” (pronounced AH-men) is Hebrew for **“certainly”** or **“truly.”** Martin Luther said that it really means:

**“Yes, yes, it shall be so.”** You probably

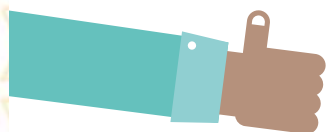
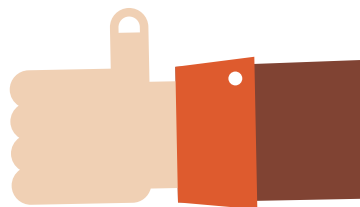
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word from

hearing it or seeing it used in prayer.

Maybe you use it in your prayers every morning when you wake up and every

night when you go to sleep.



## Why do we use it?

God commands for us to pray. When we use the word “amen” at the end of our prayers, we are letting God know that **we truly believe that He will hear and answer all of our prayers** just as He has promised! What a great way to end a prayer!



**Parents:** Point out that Jesus used the word “amen” a lot in Scripture when He said things like: “Truly, truly I say to you.” Encourage your children to listen for and say “amen” at appropriate points in the service. In what places besides prayer do we hear it amen?

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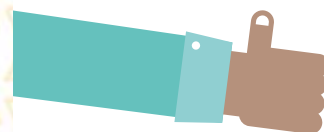
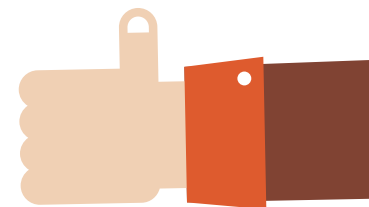
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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What does “worship” really mean?

Most people use the word “worship” to mean something we do to honor God. Because of this misunderstanding, many people believe that a church service is what we do for God. The word “worship” comes from the root words “worth” and “ship.” These two words describe God rather than the ones praising Him. These words describe a God who is *worthy* of being honored and adored because of His love for us. God gives us His love through His Word and Sacraments. Worship is not something we do, but rather something that God does for us!

## What makes the Divine Service so important?

The Divine Service is not about what we are doing for God, but who God is and what He does for us in the ways He has promised: His Word and Sacraments. That’s why Lutherans call it *Divine Service*. God is serving us! What a wonderful God we have!



**Parents:** The Divine Service is like listening to one long reading from the Bible. Everything in the Divine Service has been given to us through God’s Word. Explain this to your children, reminding them that it is God’s Word that delivers God’s salvation to us!

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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is a “canticle”?

The word “canticle” (pronounced KAN-ti-kle) comes from the Latin word “cantus,” which means “song.” A canticle is a song based on a text from Holy Scripture. What could be better than to sing praises to God with the words He gives us?



## What’s the difference between a canticle and a hymn?

Hymns and canticles both put God’s Word to music. You’ll know you are singing a hymn when all of the verses are sung to the same melody. You’ll know you are singing a canticle when the verses continue without repeating the melody. What glorious variety our Lord gives in the Divine Service!

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**Parents:** The best way to differentiate between canticles and hymns is to look and listen. Usually the “songs” in a hymnal are appropriately designated as a hymn or a canticle. Help your children to compare the differences. You can see and hear the differences. Point out the differences and discuss the words. Take a look at the texts in the Bible that have inspired the canticle or hymn.



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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is a “hymn”?

The word “hymn” comes from a Greek word which means “song of praise.” Webster’s Dictionary tells us that a hymn is “a song of praise especially in honor of God.” In the Church, we sing hymns because they are God’s Word put to music. What an awesome way to praise our Lord!



## Why do we sing hymns?

During the early years of the Christian Church, its music came from the Psalms. As new people came into the Church, they added new hymns. The Church’s hymns have stood the test of time, never failing God’s people as generations change. When we sing hymns, we are praising God with the words He has already put on our tongues! There is no better way to pray, praise, and give thanks to God than with the words He has given us.



**Parents:** In order to answer questions as to why we do what we do as Lutherans, including utilizing the hymnody, read the introduction on pages 6 and 7 in *Lutheran Worship*. Here you will find a brief summary of what Lutheran worship and hymnody are all about.



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## What is a “psalm”?

If you open a Bible to the middle, you might find the book of Psalms. The psalms are prayers and praises to God. During Old Testament times, the psalms were sung during worship in the temple. The book of Psalms was like the hymnal of the Old Testament.

## Why do we sing them in church on Sunday?

Many of the psalms were written to use in worship. Christians have been singing psalms to the Lord since the beginning. Colossians 3:16 instructs us to use psalms, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”



**Parents:** Before or after the service, show your child where to find the book of Psalms in the Bible. Remind them that these are prayers and praises to God that He gave to us. There’s no better way to worship than with the words He has given! Try using one in your devotions at home.

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## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

### What is the “Agnus Dei”?

The “Agnus Dei” (pronounced AHN-yus DAY-ee) has been sung by the Church for almost 1,200 years. “Agnus Dei” is Latin for “Lamb of God.” We usually sing these words in the Divine Service after the Words of Institution have been spoken by the pastor.



### Why do we use the Agnus Dei?

In John 1:29, John the Baptizer proclaims, through the power of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus is the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” He said this as Jesus was walking up to him. When we sing the Agnus Dei, like John the Baptizer, we are once again hearing, proclaiming and learning the great Gospel message which confesses that Christ is here with us in Holy Communion, giving us His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. What a great way to recognize the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament!

#### Parents:

After the Divine Service, read John 1:29–34 with your children. Compare John the Baptizer’s words to the Passover story in Ex. 12:1–11, 21–23. Be sure to discuss why John calls Jesus the “Lamb of God.” Jesus was the ultimate sacrificial Lamb of God by whose death we have been rescued from sin, death and the power of the devil.

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## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



### What is “making the sign of the cross”?

Making the sign of the cross means to draw an invisible cross on yourself at certain times during personal prayer, the Divine Service and other appropriate times during worship.

### How do I make the sign of the cross?

Hold your thumb and two fingers together. ① Touch your forehead, ② then your tummy, ③ your left shoulder, ④ then your right shoulder ⑤ and finally your chest. Try it a few times and you'll get it. Before long, it will be easy to do!

### Why is it a great thing to do?

Can you think of a time when your pastor first made the sign of the cross on you? At your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ! Making the sign of the cross is a great way to remember all that Jesus has done for you on the cross and given to you in and through Baptism!



**Parents:** Before or after the service, practice making the sign of the cross with your children. Remind them that we may make the sign of the cross at certain times during the service, for example, anytime you see a small red “cross” symbol, or pastor makes the sign of the cross on the congregation.

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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is “Matins”?

Today we receive our Lord’s gracious gifts through the Order of Matins. The word “Matins” comes from the Latin word “matutinus” which means “of the morning.” Matins is a service of prayer that is used by the Church **in the morning**.

## Why do we use the Order of Matins?

The Order of Matins has been used by Christians since almost the beginning of Christianity. At the beginning of the day, Christians prayed the Order of Matins because it started their day off right! You can use the Order of Matins too! When you wake up in the morning, grab your hymnal and try it. What better way than to begin each morning deep in God’s wonderful Word? If you’re not sure how to do it, then ask your pastor. He’d be glad to help you!



**Parents:** It can be quite easy for children to learn and enjoy the liturgy of the Church when a parent shows them how. Children rely upon routines in their lives, which are put in place by parents. Matins can become a part of the morning devotional routine at your house.



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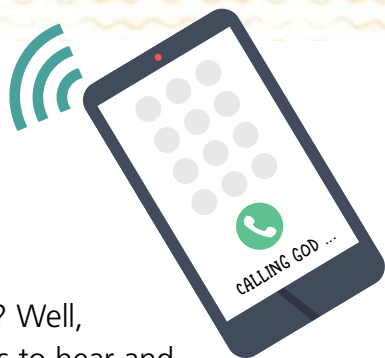
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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is “prayer”?

Have you ever wanted to talk to God? Well, guess what ... you can! God promises to hear and answer us when we pray. Because we want to concentrate on what we are praying and who we are praying to, we may close our eyes, fold our hands and bow our heads so that we are not distracted by the things around us. You don't have to do all that, though. You can pray anywhere and at anytime.

## What should we pray for?

We not only ask God for what we need, but we praise and thank Him for what He has already given us. If you want to, you can pray to God just to talk to him. We pray especially that God would keep us strong in our faith, and that He might bring others to faith too.

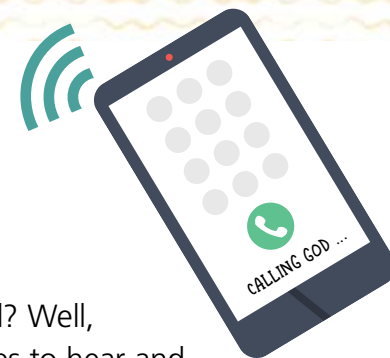
## Are there different types of prayer?

There are many different types of prayer. Much of our worship is prayers, including the Confession, the Agnus Dei, and the Post-Communion Canticle. You can find prayers for different times and needs on pages 305–18 in *Lutheran Service Book*.



**Parents:** Direct your child to the different prayers in our worship. (For example The Prayer of the Church) Turn to pages 327 in *Lutheran Service Book*. Read through Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers. Try using them at home with your children when they wake up in the morning and before they go to bed at night.

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## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

### What is the “Benediction”?

The Benediction (pronounced ben-eh-DIK-shun) is God’s blessing for the congregation given through the pastor at the very end of the service. There are several different benedictions that we use in the church. The Aaronic Benediction is the one that we use in the Divine Service. You can find this in Num. 6:24–26. We use the other benedictions in other services like Matins and Vespers. Can you find the benedictions for these services in your hymnal?



### Why is there a Benediction in the Divine Service?

The word “benediction” comes from the Latin word “bene” which means “well,” and “dicere” which means “speak.” When the pastor pronounces the Benediction, God is giving us His blessing, or speaking well to us. He sends us on our way with His blessing after we have received His wonderful gifts through the Word and Sacraments. God sure does a lot of giving to His people!



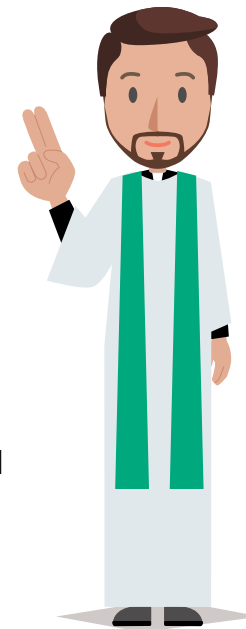
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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is the “Collect”?

The word “collect” (pronounced COLL-ect) comes from the Latin word “collectus” which means “gathered together.” A Collect is a prayer to God which **gathers together** the thoughts of the congregation into one prayer for the day.

## Why do we use a Collect in the Divine Service?

We use the Collect in the Divine Service because it focuses the congregation’s prayers and attention on the readings from God’s Word, which will be read shortly after the Collect. The Collect highlights the theme of the Sunday throughout the Church Year.



**Parents:** Before the Collect is prayed in the service, remind your children to pray in their minds along with the pastor. Encourage them to pay close attention to his words. Encourage them to listen for the theme in the collect and in the Gospel reading.

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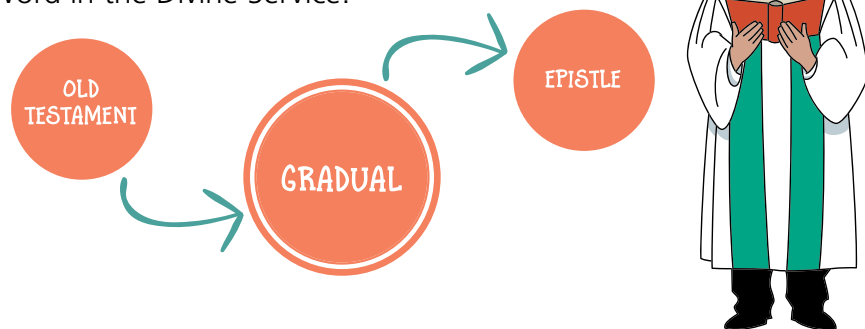
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## What is the “Gradual”?

The Gradual is the responsive reading that takes place between the Old Testament Reading and the Epistle Reading. The Gradual can be a Psalm or another portion of Scripture appropriate for the day.

## Why do we do this in the Divine Service?

The word “Gradual” comes from the Latin word “gradus” which means “step.” As you can probably guess from its name, the Gradual is a stepping stone from one reading to another. In other words, after we read from God’s Word in the Old Testament, we use God’s Word in the Gradual to step to God’s Word in the Epistle. Wow! There sure is a lot of God’s wonderful Word in the Divine Service!



### Parents:

Before or after the Divine Service, direct your children to the Gradual for the day. Remind them to concentrate on God’s Word throughout the Divine Service.

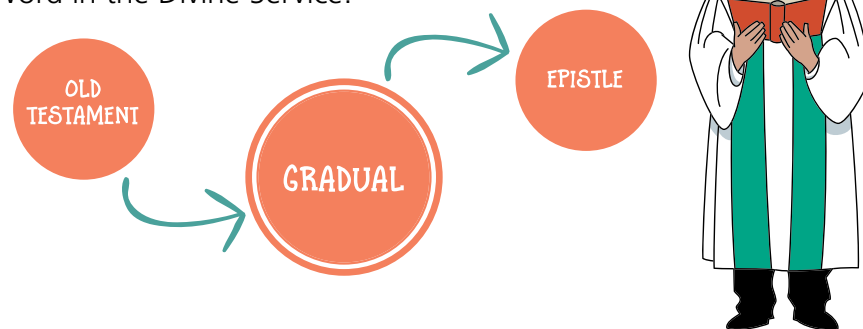
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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is the "Introit"?

The Introit (pronounced in-TRO-it) comes from the Latin word "introitus" which means "entrance." The Introit used to be sung as the Pastors came into the church and approached the altar.

## Why do we use the Introit in the Divine Service?

Usually, the Introit is a Psalm, or parts of Psalms, put together to help sketch a picture of the theme for the day. Sometimes the Introit can be portions of other books of the Bible. For an example of this, the Introit for "All Saints' Day" comes from a Psalm and the book of Revelation, but all of it comes from God's Word!



### Parents:

Before or after the Divine Service, look through the service for the Introit. Be sure to point out the one theme that ties all the parts of the service together: our Savior, Jesus Christ.

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is the "Introit"?

The Introit (pronounced in-TRO-it) comes from the Latin word "introitus" which means "entrance." The Introit used to be sung as the Pastors came into the church and approached the altar.

## Why do we use the Introit in the Divine Service?

Usually, the Introit is a Psalm, or parts of Psalms, put together to help sketch a picture of the theme for the day. Sometimes the Introit can be portions of other books of the Bible. For an example of this, the Introit for "All Saints' Day" comes from a Psalm and the book of Revelation, but all of it comes from God's Word!



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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is the “Offering”?

This is the time during the service when we offer gifts to God with the rest of the congregation. The Offering is concluded with the *Offertory*, which is the song that we sing while these gifts are being presented at the altar.



## Why do we give some of our money to the Church?

The money that we give goes to help support all the work of the church. If you think about it, all that we have is a gift from God. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts. As

Christians, we give to God in response to what He has given to us: life; food; family; and, most important, our Savior Jesus! We don't give because we have to, we give because, in faith, we want to!



**Parents:** Before the Divine Service, remind your children what giving to the Offering means. Help them to think of all the things that they have and how they are really gifts from God. Encourage them to set aside a certain amount of their own money each week to give.

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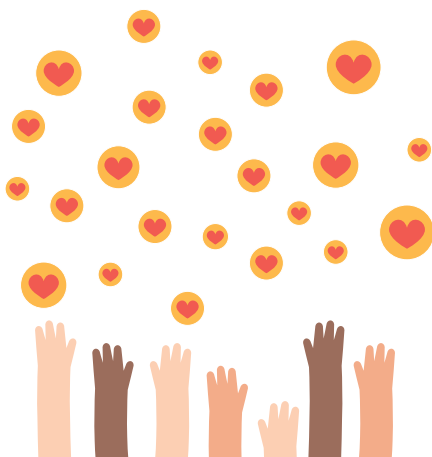
# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What is the “Offertory”?

The word “offertory” comes from the Latin word “offerre,” which means “to give, or to present.” The Offertory is sung by the congregation during the Divine Service as the gifts and offerings are presented to the Lord.

## Why do we use the Offertory?

Take a look at the words from the following Offertory: **“What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? ... I will take the cup of salvation and will call upon the name of the Lord.”** These words from Psalm 116 tell us that the greatest way to praise and thank God for all of His goodness is not the offerings and gifts that we give, but that in faith we continue to receive what He gives us in His Word and Sacraments. Receiving God’s gifts isn’t just a part of worshipping God, it is the greatest worship of God! Wow! What a wonderful and giving God we have!



**Parents:** Encourage your children to listen to the words of the Offertory as it is sung. Notice that such words are sung right before the Lord’s Supper is prepared and distributed. Here we are receiving the “cup of salvation” full of the Father’s grace through the precious blood of His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.



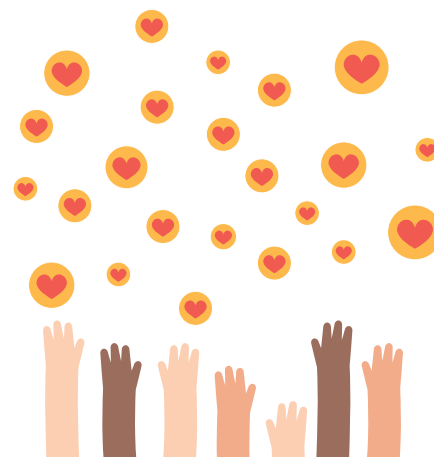
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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

**P:** LET US PRAY TO THE LORD



## What is the “Prayer of the Church”?

The Prayer of the Church, or the “general prayer” as it’s sometimes called, is the part in the service where the pastor leads us through a series of petitions, or prayers, with responses from the congregation. For example, after each petition the pastor may say: **“Let us pray to the Lord,”** and the congregation may respond with **“Lord, have mercy.”** See if you can find the Prayer of the Church in your hymnal. Try to find the other response that the pastor and congregation might say.

**R:** LORD, HAVE MERCY



## Why do we do this in the Divine Service?

Do you know anyone who needs praying for? Wouldn’t you like to have the rest of the congregation praying for that person too? During the Prayer of the Church, we pray for all of the people of our congregation, particularly those who are sick and shut-in. We also pray for our missionaries, for our government, for all believers and many others. No wonder it’s called the Prayer of the Church!



**Parents:** Before the Divine Service, remind your children to pay close attention to the words of the prayers. Encourage them to join in the responses with the rest of the congregation. Try using these responses in your prayers at home.

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is the “Sanctus”?

The Sanctus (pronounced sahnk-TOOS) is a hymn of praise sung during the order of Holy Communion. The word “sanctus” is the Latin word for “holy.” The Sanctus begins “Holy, holy, holy! Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.” We sing the same words sung by the angels in Isaiah 6, about the glory of our God who has come to be with us. Then we sing “Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.” These words from Psalm 118 were sung by the crowds when Christ rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

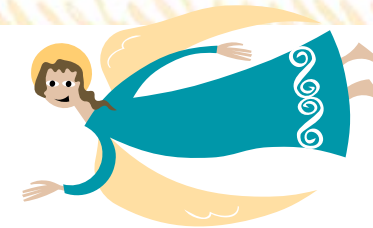
## Why do we sing the Sanctus?

The Sanctus proclaims that our Savior Jesus comes to be with us physically in His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. He is really and truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion! When we sing the Sanctus, the angels in heaven along with those who have died in the faith join us in a hymn of praise to God. Wow! That is amazing!



**Parents:** The Sanctus proclaims the presence of Christ in the Sacrament while praising God and confessing the unity of God’s Church in every time and place. Encourage your children to sing the Sanctus with the congregation. Remind them that Jesus is really here and that they are singing the Sanctus with people and spiritual beings they can’t even see!

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## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

### What's a "Kyrie"?

The Kyrie comes from the Greek words "kyrie eleison" (pronounced KEER-ee-ay eh-LAY-zon) which means **"Lord, have mercy."** You've probably noticed that we sing this after we have confessed our sins and received God's forgiveness. For example, look to see where the Kyrie is in the Divine Service.



### Why do we ask the Lord to have mercy on us after we have already confessed our sins and been forgiven?

When we sing the Kyrie, we are not making a confession of sins. Instead, we are crying for mercy so that our God would hear us and come to help us in all times of need. It is the first prayer that we pray together in the Divine Service as God's forgiven people!

#### Parents:

During worship, help your children to recognize the Kyrie and its place in our worship. You may want to practice saying "Kyrie Eleison" with them. After they have mastered the pronunciation, praise them for having learned a bit of the Greek language!

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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## Why is Confession so important to a Christian?

Confessing our sins is important!  
When we confess them, we see  
just how terribly sinful we are.

We also know that sin brings nothing but eternal death and separation from God. When we confess our sins, not only do we see that we are sinful, but we admit to God that we deserve death and separation from Him forever. We are free to admit all of this to Him because we know that Jesus has already died and paid for all of our sins.

## After we have confessed our sins, is there any hope?

After Confession comes Absolution, or, the forgiveness of sins! In Jesus we have the sure and true promise of forgiveness of sins. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Wow! Absolution is *absolutely* wonderful!



**Parents:** Before the service, read through the confession and explain the words that might be confusing. During the service, help direct your children to the Confession/Absolution as it happens. Remind them that when the Pastor is speaking, it is as if God himself is speaking these words of comfort to us.

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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Every Sunday morning, God's people gather together to receive the wonderful gifts of salvation. The gifts that our Lord has for us are delivered in different ways. One of these very important ways is the sermon.

## Why is the sermon so important?

Some people don't like the sermon. They think it is too long, or maybe it is too boring. Some people even try to think of other things while the pastor is preaching. When we are tempted to think this way, we must remember what the sermon is all about. In the sermon, **the wonderful Gospel message of Christ** and all that He has done for us on the cross is proclaimed. Through the sermon, the pastor brings this great message to people right where they are. Though we see and hear our pastor in the pulpit, The words of the Gospel are spoken to us and all people by Jesus, saving all from their sins. Wow! What a great way to actually hear the voice of our Savior!



**Parents:** Before church, remind your children that Jesus speaks to them directly during the sermon. Let them know that the message is not just for adults, but for Jesus' little lambs too! Encourage them to sit and listen to Jesus as he tells them the Good News. If they get lost in the sermon, comfort them by, after the service, explaining things that might have been confusing.

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## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



### What is the Invocation?

At the beginning of the Divine Service, you will hear Pastor say: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" as he makes the sign of the cross. This is the Invocation. The word "invocation" comes from a Latin word that means "to call upon."

### Why do we begin the Divine Service with the Invocation?

The Small Catechism says that the right way to use God's name is to "call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks." The Invocation and the sign of the cross begins the Divine Service by "calling upon" God who, through the power of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, called us to faith in Jesus. When we call, He comes to be with us, giving us His wonderful gifts of salvation!

### Can I call upon God in this way in my own daily devotions?

Of course! Speaking the Invocation and making the sign of the cross is a wonderful way to begin and end your daily devotions. Go ahead and try it!



**Parents:** During the service, help your children listen for times when the Pastor speaks the name of our Triune God. Practice speaking the Invocation and making the sign of the cross with your children during family devotions. Remind them that this reminds us of our Baptism.

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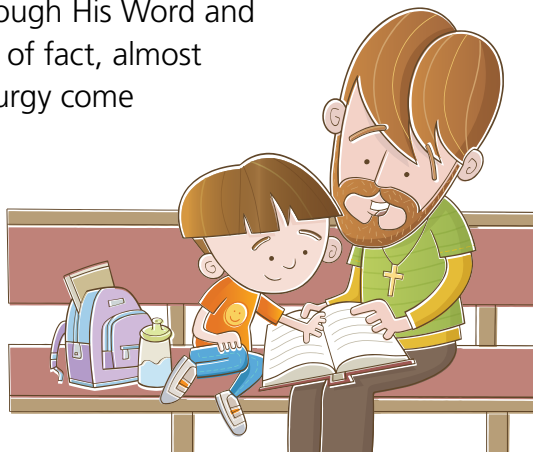
## What is the “liturgy”?

Maybe you have heard this word before. The word “liturgy” (pronounced LI-tur-jee) comes from the Greek word “leitourgia,” which means “public service” or “divine service.” The liturgy is God’s service to us through Word and Sacrament.

## Why do we use it?

Just as the word “liturgy” means “divine service,” God is the one serving us in our Lutheran worship. We are simply responding to Him with thanksgiving and praise. Isn’t it wonderful to be involved in worship that has God doing all of the work through His Word and Sacraments? As a matter of fact, almost all of the words in the liturgy come straight out of the Bible!

What a great way to worship on Sunday morning!



**Parents:** Before or after the Divine Service, direct your children to the various services in the hymnal. Encourage use of the liturgy with your family at home. Matins (*LSB*, 219) and Vespers (*LSB*, 229) make for great family devotions.

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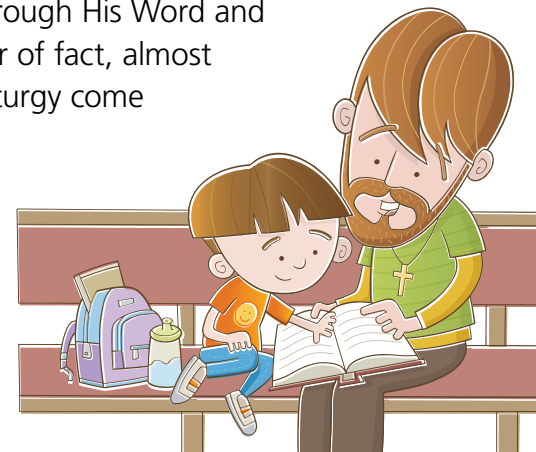
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# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is a “creed”?

The Explanation of the Small Catechism says a creed “is a statement of what we believe, teach and confess.” The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” Many organizations have and use creeds. The Church uses three creeds: the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. The creeds of the Church are different from all other creeds because they proclaim a living and wonderful faith that comes from God!

## Why do we speak the creed in the Divine Service?

What if I told you that when you speak the creed, you are telling the whole world what you believe? It’s true! When you speak the creed in the Divine Service you are responding in faith to what God has done for you through Jesus, and you are confessing the very Gospel message that saves all who believe. What a great thing to do every Sunday!

### Parents:

Before or after the Divine Service, show your children where they can find the creeds of the Church in the hymnal. Utilize these wonderful gifts from God in your family devotions at home. Speaking the Apostles’ Creed together in the morning is a great way to start the day.

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