

Building a Worship Service Summer 2008

Use colorful paper blocks with words added to build up levels each week. Words in parentheses are not always used every worship service.

Gathering

Words on blocks: SONGS, (CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS), (KYRIE), (SONG OF PRAISE), GREETING, PRAYER

Word

Words on blocks: READINGS, GOSPEL SONG, SERMON, SONG, (CREED), PRAYERS

Meal

Words on blocks: PEACE, OFFERING, SETTING THE TABLE, GREAT THANKSGIVING, HOLY HOLY HOLY, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER, COMMUNION, (SONGS), BLESSING, PRAYER

Sending

Words on blocks: BLESSING, SONG, DISMISSAL



Gathering

Words on blocks: SONGS, (CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS), (KYRIE), (SONG OF PRAISE), GREETING, PRAYER

Have you ever noticed that every Sunday a big bunch of people come here to this building? What are we all doing here? We have all gathered here to worship! Have you also noticed that we do things the same way every week? Starting this week – we are going to be using blocks like these to build our Lutheran Worship Service. There are 4 parts to the service and we're going to start at the beginning today – Gathering!

First we have songs (*place block*). The organist plays a song as we are getting settled in our seats to get us ready for worship. Then we often have a gathering song to help us get ready for worship. Then after the Pastor greets us, we stand and sing the entrance hymn as the cross is brought to the front of the church. Now, we are all together, in God's presence, ready for worship.

Sometimes we have Confession & Forgiveness (*place block*). Because we are all sinners, we join together in telling God that we are sorry that we sin. Then the Pastor tells us that God always forgives our sin and we can continue to worship with a new clean heart!

Then, sometimes, we sing another song called the Kyrie (*place block*). This is a song where we ask God for mercy or peace. A leader often sings and then we repeat or answer back in song. You can also speak the kyrie.

Then, sometimes, we sing another song called the Song of Praise (*place block*). This song tells God how happy we are that he sent Jesus to save us!

We're getting close to the end of the Gathering. Next is the greeting (*place block*). Instead of just saying Hello, or Good Morning, the Pastor greets us in the name our Lord Jesus Christ, so we remember that we are gathered here because of Jesus and God's love and the care of the Holy Spirit.

Finally we have a prayer (*place block*). The prayer of the day starts to let us know what the messages of the day will be about.

Now that we are gathered in – next week we will be ready for Word!

Let Us Pray,

Dear God, we are so happy to be gathered together here each Sunday in your name.
Amen

Word

Words on blocks: READINGS, PSALM, GOSPEL SONG, SERMON, SONG, (CREED), PRAYERS

I'm so excited that we are building a worship service. It's fun to learn more about what we do each Sunday! Last week we learned about Gathering – see our blocks. This week we are learning about Word. This is the part of worship where we hear God's word and we respond in song and prayer.

First we have the readings (*place block*). We get a feast of God's word to fill us and guide us! The lector (just a fancy name for reader) stands at the lectern (a fancy high table for holding the reading book) and reads the Bible lessons for the day. Sometimes we sing a Psalm (*place block*) in between the readings. These are the songs in the Bible – we put them to different types of music.

After the second reading we have the Gospel song (*place block*). We are so excited to be hearing about Jesus that we jump out of our seats and sing an Alleluia! Then the Pastor reads the Gospel – more of our feast of words!

Next comes the Sermon (*place block*). The Pastor tells us more about God's word. These words help us to USE God's words every day, as we go to school or to the park or at dinner with our families. The Pastor shows us that God's words do not live in the Bible – they live inside each one of us and we bring them to the world!

Then we get another song! (*Place block.*) Now we sing the Hymn of the Day. Instead of one person reading or talking about God's word – we all sing about God's word together – another yummy part of the feast of words!

Sometimes we use another kind of word – the Creed (*place block*). A creed reminds us of what we all believe as Christians – so we say the creed aloud, together to remind us that as the church we believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The last part of Word is Prayer (*place block*). The assisting minister prays for all of us, asking for God to look out for the whole church, the world, Advent Lutheran and Citrus Heights, the sick and those in need and we agree by saying "Hear our Prayer" or something like that.

All of these WORDS fill us up! As God's people we do not live by bread alone, but also need God's word to live!

Let Us Pray,

Dear God, How wonderful to learn more about our beautiful worship. Help us to feast on your word every Sunday by listening, reading, singing and praying.

Amen

Meal

Words on blocks: PEACE, OFFERING, SETTING THE TABLE, GREAT THANKSGIVING, HOLY HOLY HOLY, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER, COMMUNION, (SONGS), BLESSING, PRAYER

The next part of our worship service is the Meal. It has a bunch of blocks – so we better get busy building!

The first part of the meal is the peace (*place block*). This is when we greet our church family and let them know that we share the peace of Christ with them – that we are ready to share in the meal with an open heart.

Next is the offering (*place block*). The offering plates are passed around and we give of our abundance as a thanks to God. When the offering is brought forward, the communion assistants bring forward the bread and wine for the meal.

Then comes setting the table (*place block*). Just like you set the table at home when you are getting ready to share a meal, the pastors and their helpers get the altar – God's table – ready for Holy Communion – God's meal. Make sure you watch as they are doing this to see if you set your table at home the same way.

After the table is set is the Great Thanksgiving (*place block*). Just like you say grace before you eat at home, the Great Thanksgiving is grace before our church meal. The pastor usually sings this special grace, thanking God for creating our world and for giving us Jesus in the bread and wine.

Next is the Holy, Holy, Holy (*place block*). We join the angels in heaven in praising our wonderful God!

Then the Pastor says the Words of Institution (*place block*). These are the special words that take ordinary bread, wine and grape juice and make them become God's meal. It's a mystery how this happens, but a wonderful mystery to have Jesus join us, right here at Advent, in this Holy Meal!

Then we all pray the Lord's Prayer (*place block*) just a Jesus taught us to pray.

After we pray, we gather at the table for Communion (*place block*). We receive the gift of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, or a blessing, if we are not yet communing.

During communion, we usually sing songs (*place block*). We start with the Lamb of God, which tells about Jesus washing away our sins. Then we sing other songs that often are about communion.

After everyone has shared in the meal, the pastor gives us a blessing (*place block*). And then we have the final meal prayer (*place block*). These words thank God for his gifts to us and tell God that we are ready to be like Jesus out in the world.

What a wonderful meal we all share together in our worship! Next week we will finish building our worship service.

Let Us Pray,

Dear God, thank you so much for sending your son Jesus to be the Lamb of God and wash away our sins. We are so grateful for the gift of communion – your Holy Meal.

Amen

Sending

Words on blocks: BLESSING, DISMISSAL, SONG

Wow our worship service sure has grown. It's been fun learning more about what we do each Sunday! We've learned about Gathering, Word and Meal – see our blocks. This week we will finish our building by learning about Sending. This is the part of worship where we get ready to take God's message out into the world.

First we have the blessing (*place block*). The Pastor gives us a blessing – it might sound like this "Almighty God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever." While the pastor says this she (or he) makes the sign of the cross over the whole congregation! This reminds us of our baptism. We can even take this cross home and make it every morning when we get up and every night when we go to bed – God's blessing is with us all the time – not just at church!

Next we have the last song (*place block*). Sometimes during this song we sing about going out into the world with God's message, or that God is with us even when we are not at church.

Finally we have the dismissal (*place block*). This is where we are sent out to our daily lives – but we are sent to be people of God – not people of people. The dismissal usually goes like this: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." It doesn't say go out and love money or go out and be a bully. We are to spend our lives serving the Lord! And then we say "Thanks be to God!" What more can we say? God has given us the Word of Life and fed us with God's Holy Meal. Now all that is left is to go and celebrate – to be our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in the world.

To help you remember our worship service, I have a card with a picture of our "building." You can take it home! I also put one in each of the pews, so that you can follow along each week as we worship together

Let Us Pray,

Lord, we are so grateful that every week, we get worship with our church family in such a beautiful way. Help us to remember that we are sent to be your people. Help us bring your beautiful worship out into our daily lives. Amen

