

The Divine Service

November 22: Faith as Worship

A Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

"In short, the worship of the New Testament is spiritual. It is the righteousness of faith in the heart and the fruit of faith." – *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession*

What is going on in your heart and mind on Sunday morning?

Divine Service Terminology, Part 1

Alb:

Altar:

Canticle:

Chancel:

Collect:

Doxology:

Hallelujah:

Hosanna:

Lectern:

Lectionary:

Litany:

Introit:

Ordinary:

Paraments:

Propers:

Pulpit:

Rubrics:

Sanctuary:

Stole:

Vestments:

What is the goal of the worship instruments we choose to use?

Why do Christians often clash over relevance vs. reverence?

Is "We've always done it this way" our goal?

Why are the trendy non-denominational churches popular?

Why do sing hymns rather than contemporary songs?

Is everything we sing written by Lutherans?

Confessional Integrity: Does the text confess the Word of God accurately, clearly teaching God's Word with the Gospel predominating?

Scriptural and Lectionary Alignment: Does the hymn faithfully echo or proclaim the Holy Scriptures appointed for the day or season?

Trinitarian and Christocentric Focus: Is there zero ambiguity about who the "God" of the hymn is, and does it clearly proclaim Jesus Christ crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification?

Sacramental Proclamation: Does the hymn connect God's active grace and forgiveness to the means of grace rather than just speaking in vague or generic spiritual terms?

Substance and Seriousness: Is the poetry substantive, mature, and fit for the divine service of the Church rather than sounding like shallow popular ditties or secular tunes?

"Set a fire down in my soul. That I can't contain, I can't control. I want more of You, God. I want more of You, God." - Will Reagan

"You Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son. Yet you with boundless love sought to rescue everyone. You laid aside your glory, were born of Virgin's womb. Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb. Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve. You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe." – Stephen Starke

November 29: What is the Liturgy?