

KNOW YOUR FAITH – IV

Liturgy continued

Silence (Optional) Following the sermon some Lutheran churches have a few moments of silence for the congregation to reflect upon the content. Due to time issues, many do not.

Hymn of the Day Before the LBW (Green Book) the Hymn of the Day took place before the sermon. Since the LBW (1978) it has been recommended that the HD follow the sermon and/or silence to summarize the content of the sermon whether the sermon is topical or based on the Sunday's lessons.

The Creed How do we summarize our faith? *Credo* in Latin means "I believe." The creeds not only summarize our faith but tie us in with the early church. The first creed was composed by a committee (Some beautiful poetry) at the Council of Nicaea in 325 and is called the Nicene Creed. The argument continued for another 126 years as to *who was/is Jesus Christ?* True man or true God?

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451 another creed was written called the Athanasian Creed (Found in the LBW). During the following centuries a sound bite developed that we know as the Apostles Creed used at baptisms and Sundays in Ordinary Time.

These three creeds are seen as foundational to our faith.

There are some protestant denominations that don't believe in creeds, but that becomes another matter. (PS: The word catholic (Small c) means universal. With a capital C it means the Roman Catholic Church).

Prayer of the Church It is now time to include those who are not with us, those who are in special need and other concerns before we participate in the Eucharist. The sick, the saints, the whole people of God are lifted up before the gathered community. People are invited to say the names of those who are on their hearts and minds.

Intermission The congregation now prepares for the second half of the church service; The Meal, the Eucharist, Holy Communion, The Lord's Table are all different names for it. Some churches do announcements during this time. The table is prepared. The Offering is gathered (In the early church it was the prepared food, clothes and money for the poor, etc.) and the bread and wine are brought forward.