

KNOW YOUR FAITH V
Liturgy/Intermission Continued

The Exchange of Peace: Jesus said that before you bring your gifts to the altar, one should first make peace with one's brother (and sister). A Lutheran pastor added, "First within the family and then among the family of God." The Pax, the Peace, was reclaimed for the liturgy during the liturgical changes in the 1960's. There were various forms over the centuries. In some Christian sects women were one side of the center aisle and men on the other. A Pax board was passed around that everyone kissed. When the "peace" was re-introduced in the 60's some tried kissing, but it became best to shake hands. Many churches where people know each other hugs and brief pleasantries are exchanged. One germ phobic pastor just had his parishioner touch fists or bump elbows. For Lutherans (The Frozen Chosen) this practice of "peace exchange" took some time to get used to. This practice may encourage families to work on issues of forgiveness before receiving the Eucharist. (Spiritual issues surface: What about long standing grudges, resentments and old wounds?)

The Offering: Money is minted self. Money for the most part replaces food, clothes, and in some ways service. We give back to God via community a portion of what God has first given us. When people assert that they did everything on their own they are short-sighted. All of life is a gift. Again, since the 1960's the bread and the wine/grape juice are also brought forward at this time to be shared. Very early in the 1st Century Church full meals were shared (Agape Meal, Love Meal, rich and poor ate together) but in time the symbols of the meal came into use..the Host and after the Reformation the Cup. Some churches have a credence table near the altar/table where communion ware is kept and moved to the altar/table for the Eucharist. Following reception, communion ware is returned to the credence table and the altar/table is clear except for the Altar Book and stand. Candles should be free standing and lit when celebrating the meal.

Offertory Prayer: A brief prayer that acknowledges the gifts of bread and wine and other gifts that have been offered for the benefit of the community.