

KNOW YOUR FAITH – VI

by Don Marxhausen

Liturgy Continued

Pieces of the middle of the service:

Voluntary: Music played while the gifts (See previous week) are gathered, frequently this is where the choir sings its anthem in more modern worship.

Offertory: We stand and sing an offertory song as the gifts are brought forward and placed on the altar/table. There is some debate about whether the monetary Gifts should be place on the table or off to the side. With gifts for the community in front of everyone it is time to begin the second half of the worship service.

Preface Dialogue: Interchange between Presiding Pastor and the congregation. The pastor uses hand gestures with the words to help recreate the holy drama. In some churches, the congregation also responds with gestures.

Proper Preface: Words spoken associated with the liturgical season leading up to the setting aside the bread and wine (grape juice).

Sanctus: “Holy, Holy, Holy.” High reverence leads us into a holy moment.

The Verba: Words of Institution. For some denominations, this is the high point of both the liturgy and the service. The pastor/priest has been called to do this for the community. Lutherans do not believe in “reserve communion,” but believe the words need to be spoken each time the Eucharist is served, even when in homes, hospitals, jails, etc.

The Fraction: When a large Host or large pieces of bread are used, this is the time the bread is broken to serve the community.

The Agnus Dei: During the Fraction the “Lamb of God” is sung. The Presiding Pastor as a symbol of Christ communes himself first and then offers the elements to those who are helping out in the distribution. (Every church seems to do this process a bit differently.)

Communion Hymn: Music sung or performed during the distribution which occurs in a variety of ways.