

**KNOW YOUR FAITH – I**  
**The Liturgy**  
by Pastor Don Marxhausen

Historical Christian religion over time has developed not only a way of worship over two thousand years, but also a rather large vocabulary. Worshipping the One God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit or Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, can in the words of the great early 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Carl Barth be summed up in “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the bible tells me so.” But the faith is also a many faceted diamond rich in experience and understanding. “Know Your Faith” will offer each week some of those facets.

**Worship:** Humankind’s response to the Eternal. From an old English word meaning “to give worth to.” We give worth to God from whom all blessings flow.

**Liturgy:** *Work of the people.* Worship is not a passive state like watching television. It is work: singing, praying, surrendering, thinking, and for some dancing, standing, swaying, kneeling, etc. In an ideal situation we leave our egos at the door and come together to work at worshipping the One True God.

**Liturgical Churches:** Various forms of the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and Lutheran Churches are generally known as “liturgical churches” with a basic order of worship that goes back to around the fifth century and tells the story of salvation in the form of worship. At the time of the Reformation, Luther was a monk and therefore kept most of the Roman Mass while the protestant movement that came out of Switzerland was led by John Calvin who was a lawyer and not attached to the ancient form of worship. Much of contemporary or megachurch worship comes from the latter tradition.

**Pericope:** Literally means “cut out.” These are the scripture readings each Sunday that are cut out of the bible to help us learn the life of Jesus and what Jesus taught. There is generally a First Testament lesson that reflects the gospel, a Psalm (First Testament hymn) and Epistle (Second Lesson) a reading from one of the four Gospels.