

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 8, 2010

Worship 9:30

MEDIEVAL CHURCH WORSHIP

(600-1085)

The medieval period of history witnessed a shift in the meaning of worship. The Early Church gathered for a worship experience that was focused on building the followers of Jesus into community. In worship the people considered the teachings of Jesus as they related to the present and future Reign of God, while also celebrating the fellowship and new life that Christ made possible. The worship of the early church seemed to actualize and anticipate the Kingdom of God as proclaimed by Jesus. Gradually and throughout the medieval period, Christian worship added more ceremony, as it began to add the trappings of the Roman Court. Clergy dressed in elaborate vestments; processions with candles, incense, and chanting became the norm to begin the gathering for worship. Worship became a "mystery" in which God was made present, as was Jesus in the bread and wine. There was an increased emphasis on the actions of the worship leaders and the mystery behind their actions. Consequently, an ever-widening gap developed between the clergy and the laity.

In the Early church of the 3rd and 4th centuries, a debate surfaced over "when" the elements of Holy Communion (bread and wine) became the body and blood of Christ. The Medieval Church changed the question, spending centuries arguing over "how" the elements were changed. A resolution would not be accepted until the 13th century when at the Lateran Council (1215 C.E.) the church officially adopted the doctrine of Transubstantiation. These debates and others like them were related to the church's emphasis on the mysterious nature of the actions of worship.

The role of music in the Medieval Church became another element of worship that served to separate church members into professional and lay camps. Music became more complicated, requiring professional training. Soon churches had professional choirs. Eventually, some churches forbid lay singing all together. Adding to the mysterious feel of the worship service and the necessity of having a professional choir, was the insistence that the official language of the church be Latin, no matter the native tongue of the lay members.

Thus worship in Medieval Church was increasingly focused on ritual and mystery which contributed to a separation of the clergy and the laity. Today's worship service is designed to give a flavor of early medieval worship.

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

Deacon's Litany for the Faithful, with a reading of the List of Names

*Kiss of Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

One: And also with you.

Offertory

Collection of Alms

*People's Offertory

#785

We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

*Presentation of Elements

*Preparation of the Element

*Hymn *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

#345

*Sursum Corda (Hippolytus ?-236)

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is meet and right to do so.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving for Redemption

* Words of Institution

*Declaration

*Prayer of Remembrance and Intercession for the Living and the Dead

*Invoking the Holy Spirit *"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"*

#281

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*Fraction (Breaking of the Bread)

*Sanctus (Holy God—words and tune from E&R #522)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy Glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Holy Communion

(In our service today the elements will be distributed to the people in their pews. Please eat the bread as you receive it. Drink the cup as you receive it. Sit in prayerful reflection on your efforts to live a Christ-like life. In the time of the Early Church, the people would have come forward to receive the elements of communion.)

*Psalm 34:1-4

page #644

*Post-communion Thanksgiving

*Deacons' Litany and Collection of Bread for the Sick and Absent

*Dismissal

*Postlude