

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 15, 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 medieval worship.

Resources [The Church of Our Fathers](#), Roland Bainton
 [History of Christian Worship](#), Richard Spielmann
 [Worship Old and New](#), Robert Webber
 [A Brief History of Christian Worship](#), James White

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Greeting, Announcements, and Introduction

Organ Prelude and Chancel Processional

*Choral Call to Worship *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

#304
Verses 1 & 2

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Lections (Law, Prophets, Epistles, Acts, and Letters from Bishops)

A Reading from Isaiah 5:1-7

*Psalms sung by cantor between the Lections

A Reading from Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Page 672

*Hymn *"O God, My God"*

#515

*A Reading from the Holy Gospels — St. Luke 12:49-56

*Alleluia

#765

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Sermon or Sermons

Deacons Litany for Catechumens and Penitents (Children's Message)

(Prayer requests and guest forms will be collected by ushers at the side aisles.)

Dismissal of All but the Faithful

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

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

"O God the Father, origin of divinity, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in whom is calmness, peace, and concord; do thou make up the dissensions which divide us from each other, and bring us back into a unity of love, which may bear some likeness to thy divine nature. And as thou art above

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Intercession

“O God that art the only hope of the world,
The only refuge for unhappy men,
Abiding in the faithfulness of heaven,
Give me strong succour in this testing place.
O King, protect thy man from utter ruin
Lest the weak faith surrender to the tyrant,
Facing innumerable blows alone.
Remember I am dust, and wind, and shadow,
And life as fleeting as the flower of grass.

But may the eternal mercy which hath shone from time of old
Rescue thy servants from the jaws of the lion.
Thou who didst come from on high in the cloak of flesh,
Strike down the dragon with that two-edged sword,
Whereby our mortal flesh can war with the winds
And beat down strongholds, with our Captain God.”

Bede, 675-735

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.

*Hymn of Dismissal

"When Peace, Like a River"

#438

*Dismissal and Blessing

*Chancel Recession and Postlude