

CROSS

The Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus



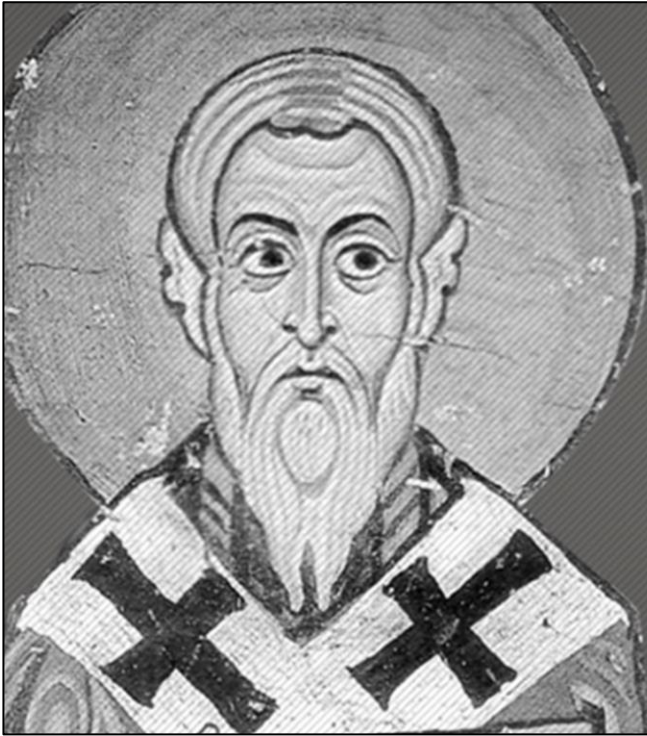
PRAYER

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for Wednesday in Holy Week



Input commentary and additional resources here.

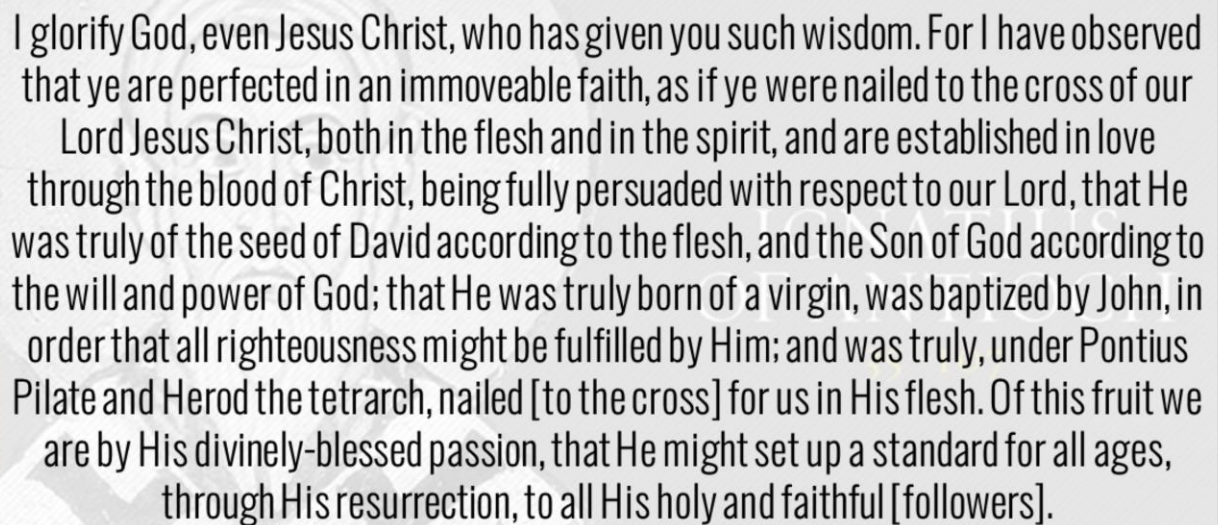


IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

35–107

Ignatius of Antioch

- Disciple of St. John the Apostle and friend of St. Polycarp
- Bishop of Antioch, where followers of Jesus were first called Christians
- Tradition says that he was one of the children Jesus took in His arms and blessed.
- Martyred in Rome by being thrown to the lions



I glorify God, even Jesus Christ, who has given you such wisdom. For I have observed that ye are perfected in an immoveable faith, as if ye were nailed to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, both in the flesh and in the spirit, and are established in love through the blood of Christ, being fully persuaded with respect to our Lord, that He was truly of the seed of David according to the flesh, and the Son of God according to the will and power of God; that He was truly born of a virgin, was baptized by John, in order that all righteousness might be fulfilled by Him; and was truly, under Pontius Pilate and Herod the tetrarch, nailed [to the cross] for us in His flesh. Of this fruit we are by His divinely-blessed passion, that He might set up a standard for all ages, through His resurrection, to all His holy and faithful [followers].

From the Epistle to the Smyrnaeans.

Session 2: Bible

Birth | Matthew 1:18–25 (p. 959)

Crucifixion | Mark 15:1–47 (p. 1013–1014)

Resurrection | Mark 16:1–8 (p. 1014–1015)

Foolishness | 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 (p. 1131–1132)



Session 2: Catechism

Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms

p. 41, 215–219

Didache

p. 23–26



Session 2: Hymnal

Sanctus | LSB 161

Agnus Dei | LSB 163



THE APOSTLES' CREED

Second Article



And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

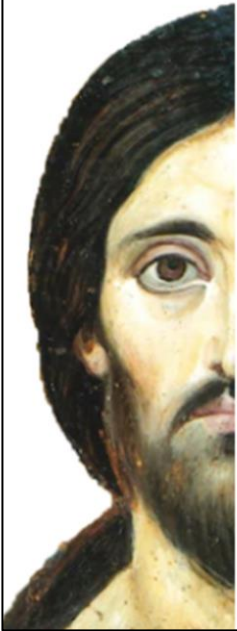


What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.





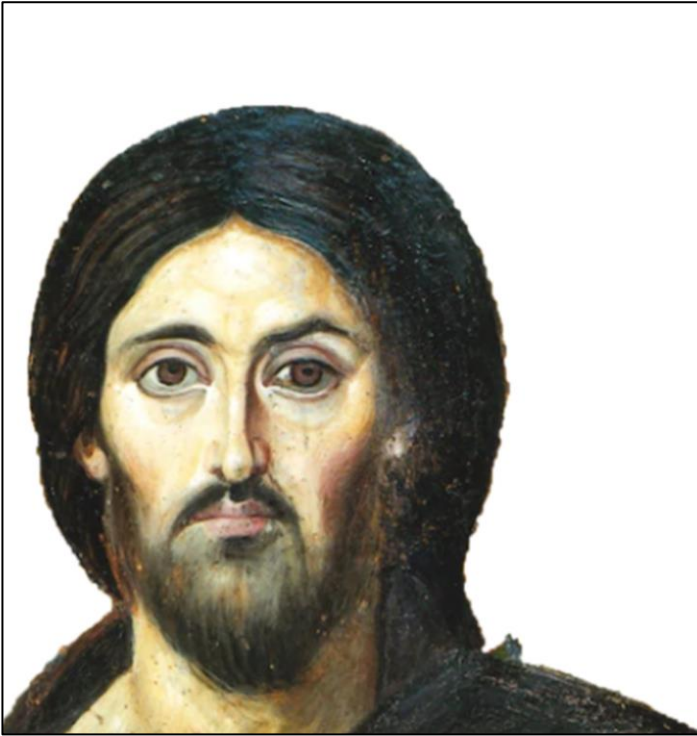
the person of Christ: true God

1. Person of Christ
 - a. True God
 - i. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, eternally begotten of the Father
 - ii. Jesus is fully divine by virtue of His conception by the power of the Holy Spirit



the person of Christ: true Man

1. Person of Christ
 - a. True God
 - i. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, eternally begotten of the Father
 - ii. Jesus is fully divine by virtue of His conception by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - b. True Man
 - i. Jesus takes up humanity into the divinity at His conception
 - ii. Derives His humanity from the Virgin Mary
 - iii. He is in all respects a human being



the person of Christ: my Lord

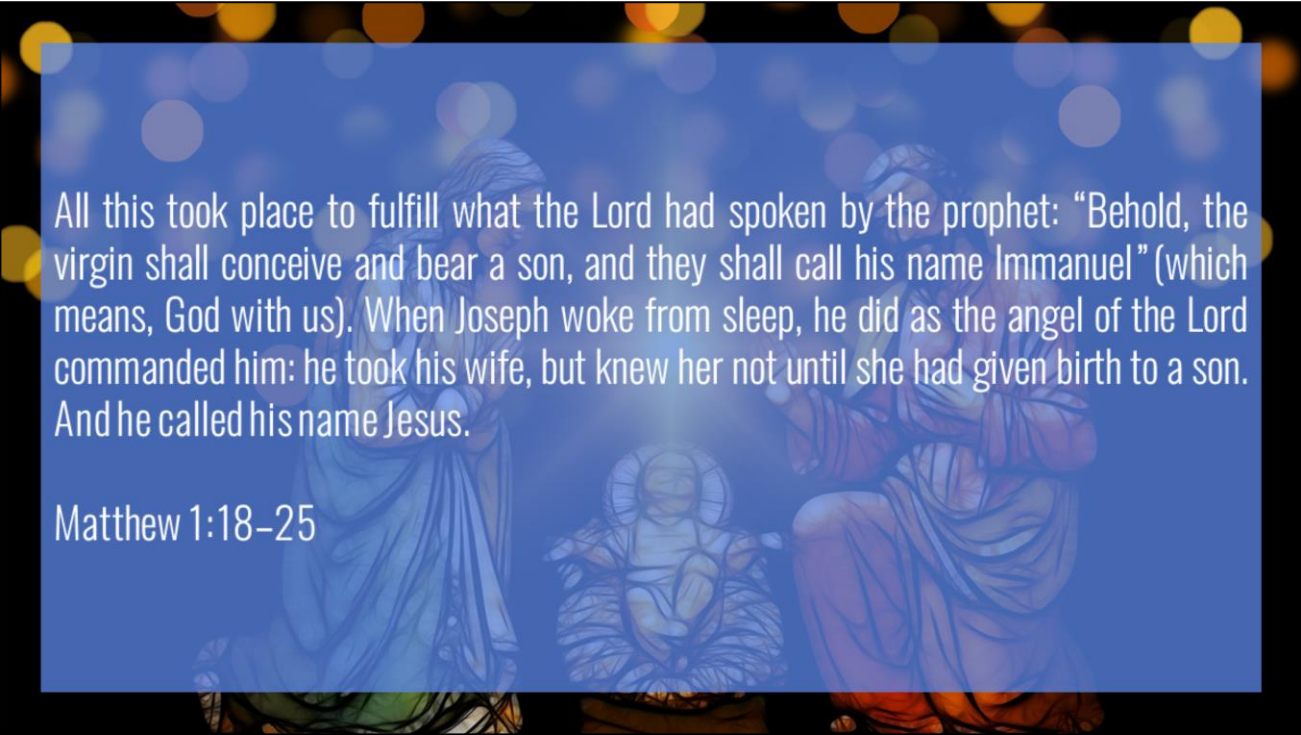
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 - ii. Derives His humanity from the Virgin Mary
 - iii. He is in all respects a human being
 - c. My Lord
 - i. Jesus is Lord of all creation by virtue of His divine sonship
 - ii. But He has become *my* Lord by virtue of His resurrection from the dead and His call to faith



- 2. Work of Christ
 - a. Incarnation - Jesus is like me in all respects, but without sin

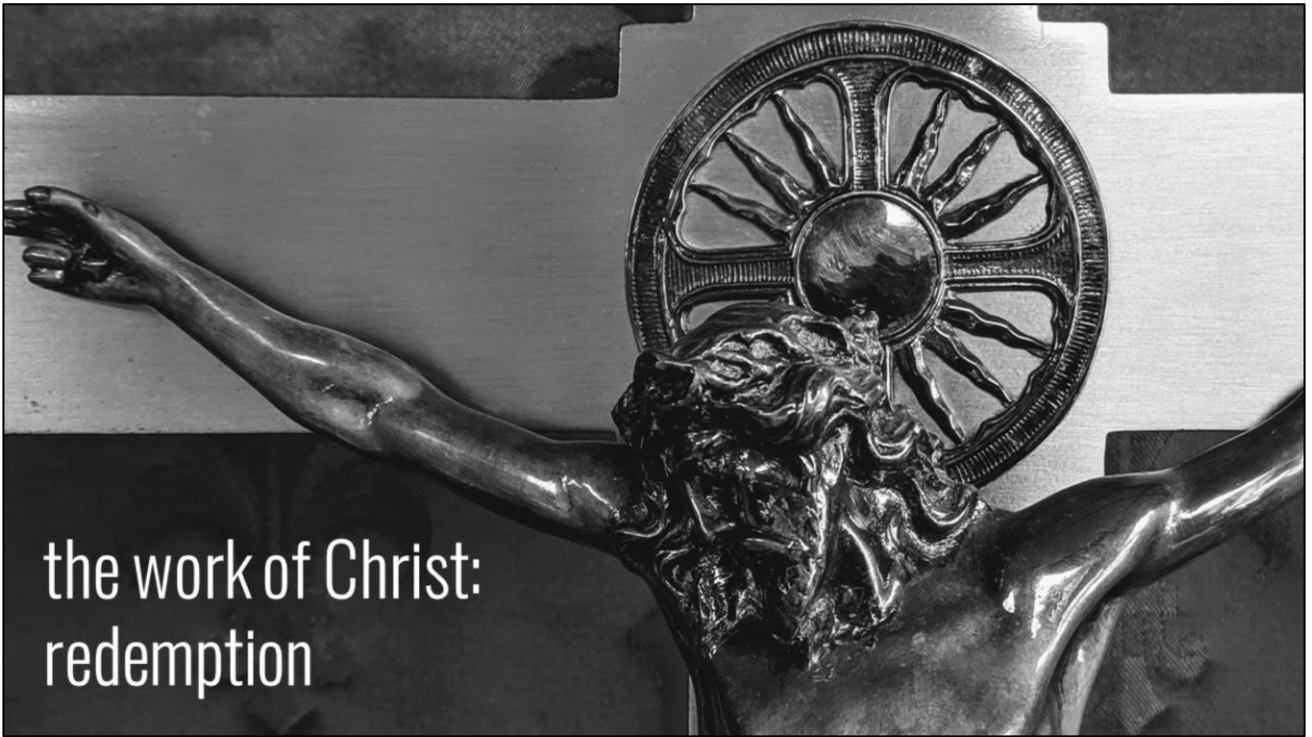
Biblical Narrative: The Birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. Mary is kneeling on the left, holding the infant Jesus. Joseph is kneeling on the right, holding a bundle. The baby Jesus lies in a manger in the center. The background is dark with yellow bokeh lights. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the scene, containing text.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18–25



2. Work of Christ
 - a. Incarnation - Jesus is like me in all respects, but without sin
 - b. Redemption - Jesus has taken my sin and its punishment and curse upon himself



Biblical Narrative: The Death of Jesus

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Mark 15:33-34

the work of Christ: reign



2. Work of Christ
 - a. Incarnation - Jesus is like me in all respects, but without sin
 - b. Redemption - Jesus has taken my sin and its punishment and curse upon himself
 - c. Reign - Jesus' sacrifice is vindicated in His resurrection; His ascension is for Him to fill all things

Biblical Narrative: The Resurrection of Jesus

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

Mark 16:5-7

the work of Christ: judgment



2. Work of Christ

- a. Incarnation - Jesus is like me in all respects, but without sin
- b. Redemption - Jesus has taken my sin and its punishment and curse upon himself
- c. Reign - Jesus' sacrifice is vindicated in His resurrection; His ascension is for Him to fill all things
- d. Judgment - He will come to announce the judgment, which is prefigured in His absolution

the mind of Christ

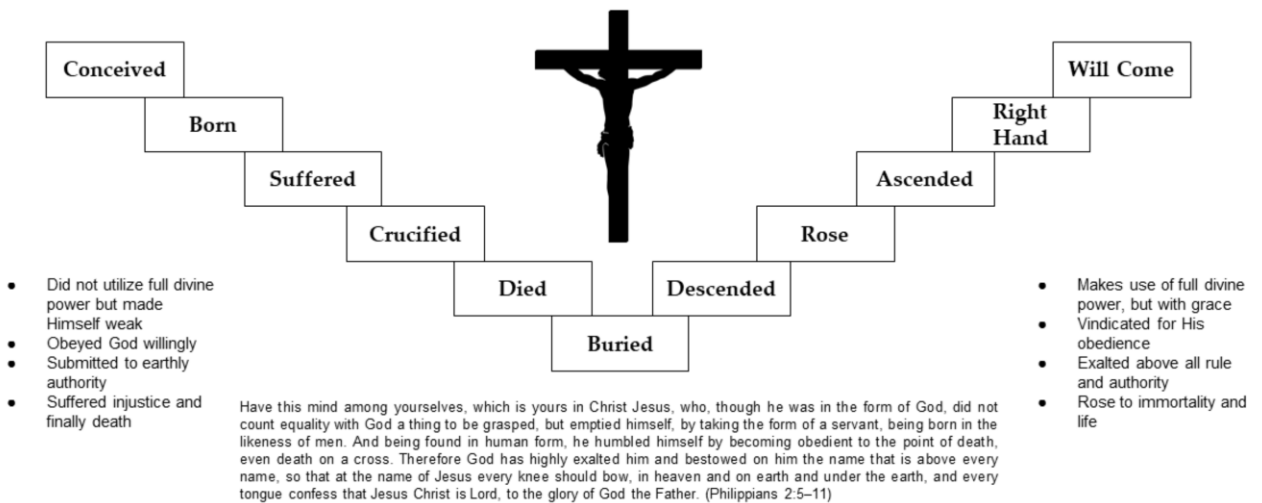


3. The Mind of Christ

- a. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5–11

State of Humiliation

State of Exaltation



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- Jesus' state of humiliation is the period from His conception until His burial when He did not make full use of His divine power
- Jesus' state of exaltation begins with His descent into hell, when He uses His full divine power and exalts human nature to the right hand of God.

theology of the cross



4. Theology of the cross

- a. A definition of sin: calling evil good and good evil
- b. Theology of the cross: God brings evil out of good
- c. Faith is learning to call good what God calls good

He deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross.

A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is.

He is not righteous who does much, but he who, without work, believes much in Christ. The law says, do this, and it is never done. Grace says, believe in this, and everything is already done.

The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it. The love of man comes into being through that which is pleasing to it.

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Martin Luther, The Heidelberg Disputation, Theses 20–21, 25–26, 28

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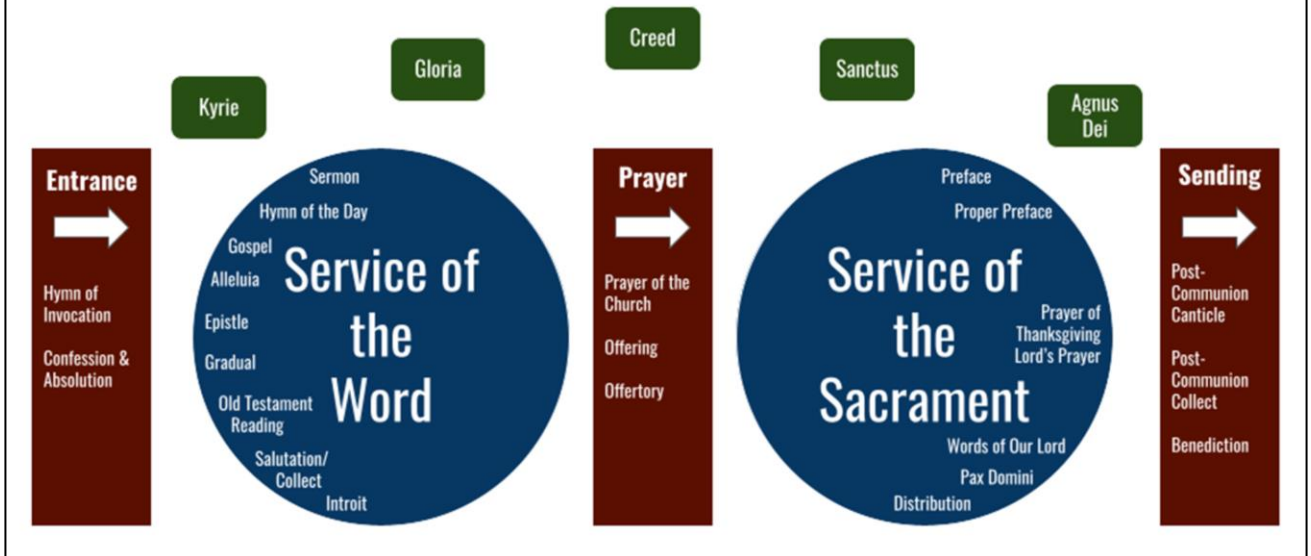
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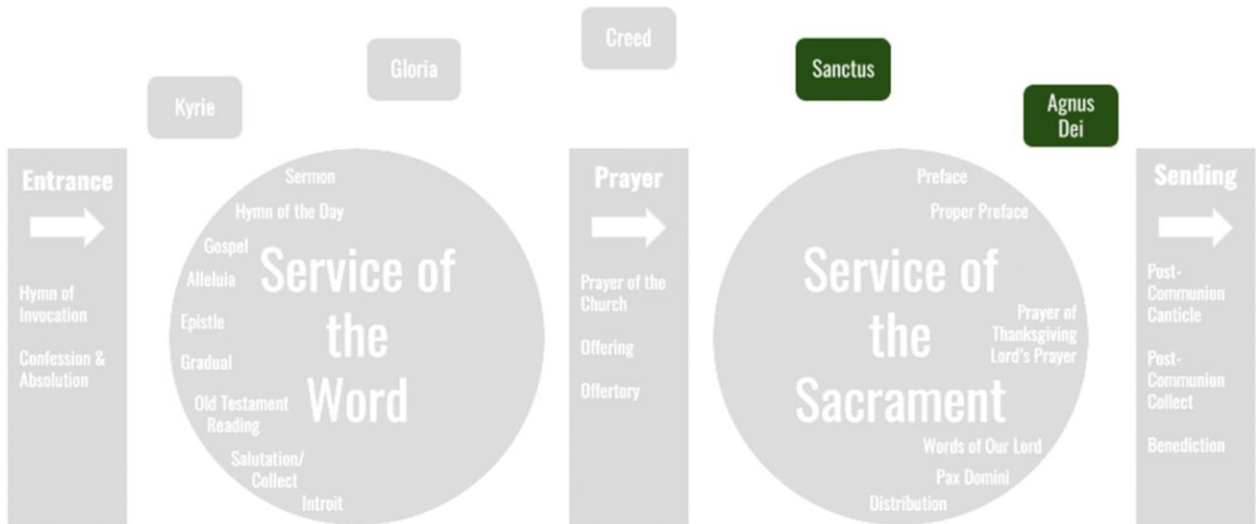
THE DIVINE SERVICE



5. Worship

- a. Sanctus - "Holy, holy, holy" (LSB 161)
 - i. First part is a hymn of the angels from Isaiah's vision of God's throne room (see Isaiah 6:3)
 1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might (Sabaoth), heaven and earth are full of your glory
 2. It indicates the union of heaven and earth in the sacrament; we join together with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven
 3. Just as Isaiah was cleansed by the coal touching his lips, we are cleansed by the body and blood of Christ touching our lips
 - ii. Second part is the hymn of the crowds on Palm Sunday (see Matthew 21:9)
 1. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
 2. It indicates that Christ enters bodily into our midst
 3. Just as Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, He rides bread and wine into the church
 - iii. The Sanctus is the fourth of the five pillars of the Divine Service
- b. Agnus Dei - "Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world" (LSB 163)
 - i. The Agnus Dei adopts the words of John the Baptist (see John 1:29)
 1. Lamb of God indicates sacrificial meal
 2. A meal that takes away sin
 - ii. Threefold refrain: have mercy on us; have mercy on us; grant us peace
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