
Lord's Day Services

FORM I

Before the service begins, the people solemnly enter as a prelude is played. Afterward, announcements and notices may be given by the minister or another appointed person. If a choir is available, an introit may then be sung.

The minister solemnly calls the people to worship using the following or another text of Scripture.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth!

Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The minister leads the people in an invocation. The people then join in the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.

An opening psalm or hymn is sung.

The minister instructs the people to pause in silence, confessing their personal sins. Afterward, he leads the people in a corporate confession of sin, either spoken by the minister or said in unison.

V Almighty and most merciful Father,
 R We have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.

A psalm or hymn of confession may be sung. Alternatively, a psalm or hymn of assurance may be sung after the assurance of pardon.

The minister pronounces a biblical assurance of pardon.

The minister reads a selection from the Testament not being preached.¹

In places where a special message for children is desired, they may be invited forward at this point. Ordinarily, the children's message is a brief application of the Scripture reading.

¹Ordinarily, a full chapter is read by the minister; however, if the selection is appropriate, such as in the case of certain psalms, it may be read responsively.

A psalm or hymn may be sung.

The minister reads his sermon text and preaches.

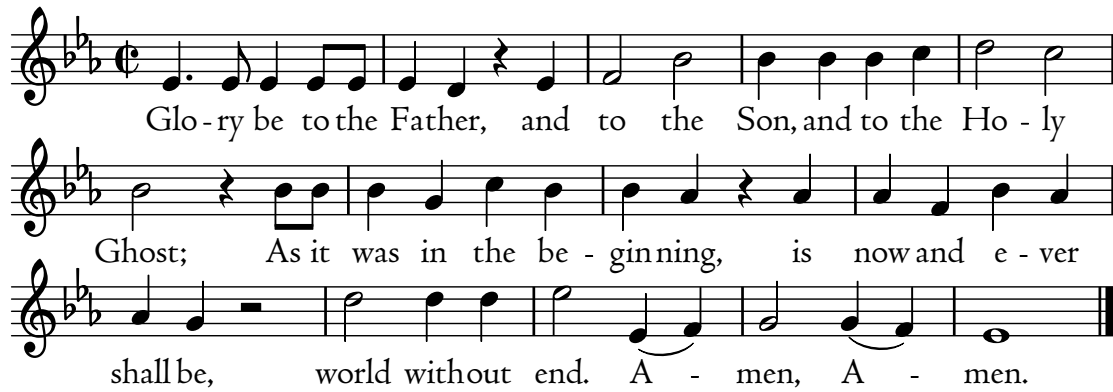
The minister leads the people in a prayer of intercession for the civil magistrate, the Church, her ministers, and all people. He may conclude with the prayer of St. John Chrysostom.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

The people stand and join in the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

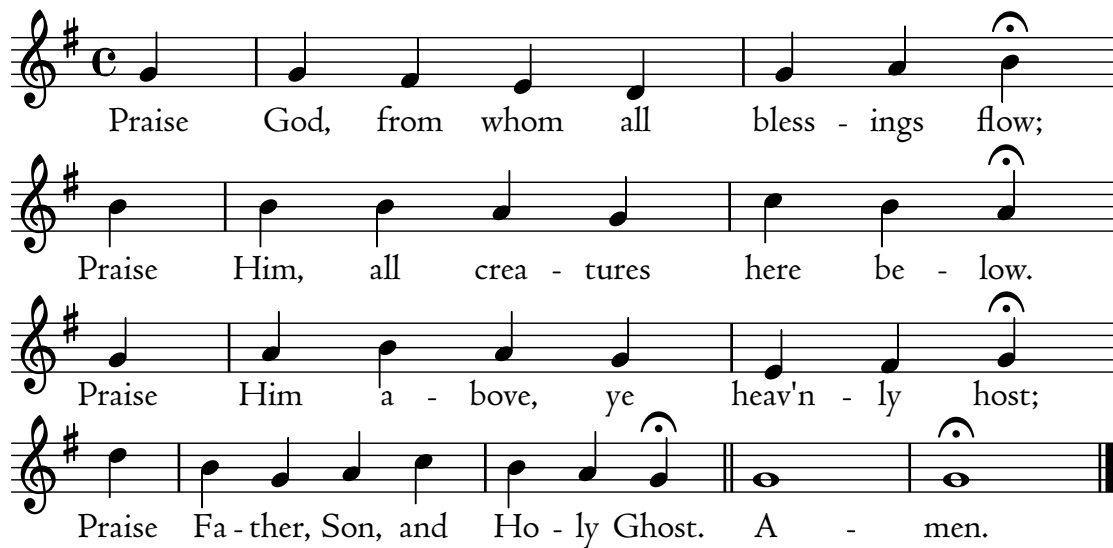
¶ Christian, in life and in death, in whom do you believe?
℞ I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The people sing the Gloria Patri.



Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly
Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning, is now and e-ver
shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men.

A collection is received. Afterward, the people join in the Doxology, and the minister leads the people in a prayer of dedication.



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low.
Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host;
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

If the Lord's Supper is not to be served, the service continues at the closing psalm or hymn.

The minister offers a brief exhortation, warning the unfaithful to refrain from the Table and encouraging the faithful to partake. Afterward, he repeats the words of institution.

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and

when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

The minister offers a prayer of thanksgiving and consecration, setting apart the elements of bread and wine for use in the Supper.

The minister breaks the bread, saying:

Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

The elders distribute the bread to the people. After each communicant has been served, the people eat, following the minister.

The minister lifts the cup, saying:

This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins: drink of it, all of you.

The elders distribute the wine to the people. After each communicant has been served, the people drink, following the minister.

As the elements are distributed, it is appropriate that a fitting psalm or hymn be sung.

The minister leads the people in a prayer of dedication.



A closing psalm or hymn is sung.

The minister pronounces the benediction using the following or other appropriate words of Scripture.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face to shine upon and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

The people may respond with a brief song of praise.