

# What is Worship?



*Session 2: Common Roots and  
the Reformation*

# Agenda



House churches in New Testament times



The Protestant Reformation



Liturgical worship in early churches



Liturgical renewal



Changes in the church



What's next

# House churches

- Acts 2:42-47 tells us about worship in the context of an ἀγάπη (agapē) meal
- **Worship included:**
  - Apostolic teaching
  - Fellowship
  - Breaking bread
  - Prayer
  - Awesome experiences
  - Wonders and miraculous signs
  - Community
  - Caring for one another
  - Eating together
  - Gladness
  - Generosity
  - Growth

# Liturgical worship in early churches

- "liturgical" ← λειτουργία (the work of the people)
- Liturgy today means set order that includes prayers, clothing, and spaces
- Revelation 4-5 describe ornate worship spaces

# Changes in the church

- **Persecution & growth**
  - Major persecutions in early-3<sup>rd</sup>, mid-3<sup>rd</sup>, and early-4<sup>th</sup> century
  - Constantine's impact
  - Impact of growth on catechumenate
- **Changing theology**
  - Original sin (Augustine)
  - Advent of confirmation
  - Terror of communion

# The Reformation

- Major reaction against problems of medieval times
  - Sermon regained importance
  - Worship in the vernacular
  - Frequent communion in both forms
  - Confession became communal
- Congregational participation became essential
- Sunday services continued as a re-enactment of the sacrifice on the cross, not a celebration of the resurrection

# Liturgical renewal

- The Rite of Hippolytus
- The Didache
- Vatican II reforms
- BCP 1928 -> 1979
- Rite I & Rite II
- **Worship needs to be adapted to fit the culture, but Bible remains foundational**

# What does this mean for us today?



**Our understanding of worship continues to change**

Can you think of examples of change during your time at the church?



# What's up next?

We'll walk through a worship service and talk through choices in the BCP.

Discuss homework

## Homework

Ponder these questions for discussion next week.

- ☆ What are some of the reasons you attend church services?
- ☆ Is your attendance at church optional?
- ☆ Is your attendance a matter of individual choice?
- ☆ Is your attendance a religious or social obligation?