

**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 35, Part 4, "Proper Liturgy"**

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-7

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	To understand the definition of liturgy and how our church's liturgy is biblical and God honoring.
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	Read the <a href="#">Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 35</a> and <a href="#">Isaiah 6:1-7</a> . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>How do we define liturgy?</b> Liturgy comes from the Greek word, which means "to minister or to serve." This Greek word is used in the context of duty and responsibility. In the Lord's Day (Sunday) worship, the people serve God through their confessions of sin and faith, singing, praying and giving. Also, God serves his people in the service through the absolution of sin, preaching and the Sacraments. The fact that God serves his people and the people serve God is called the "dialogical principle." We are in dialogue with God each Lord's Day. The basis of the service is justification. That is, we meet with God to serve him and he serves us, because we've been justified through faith in Christ and rely on Christ's merits to approach God in the first place.</p> <p><b>What are the five major sections of our morning service?</b> 1) God calls His people out of the world and into His presence. 2) God's people confess their sin and God pardons their sin. 3) God's people prepare to hear the Word of God. 4) God speaks, calling His people to faith. 5) God blesses His people and calls them back out into the world.</p> <p><b>What does proper liturgy accomplish?</b> There are three things. First, since Christ and his work are featured in the service, those non-Christians who attend get to hear about their sin and their need for Christ. They will hear about Christ and, when the Holy Spirit works, they will come to faith in Christ. We could say that the worship service is the time in which evangelism occurs. Second, when the church rightly carries out worship, Christians are conformed to the image of Christ, which is to say, they are sanctified or made more like Christ in their character. In particular, the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments are means of grace through which Christians grow in their faith. In addition, Christians are comforted and assured of their salvation through hearing the Gospel. Third, in proper liturgy, God is glorified. God is glorified as people recognize his goodness in the creation, but he is especially glorified when he is worshipped through faith in Christ.</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<a href="#">Luke 6-12</a> (Reading through the Gospels)