

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

This morning we continue on the subject of worship started last week, as we begin to look at aspects of our public worship services.

1. God calls to worship ...

Look at our "liturgy" (order of service in the bulletin).

"Call to Worship" = **God calling** us to worship (His Word).

Pattern set in the Old Testament: Psalms 47:1,2; 66:1-4; 86:8-10; 95:1-7; 96:all; 97:12; 98:all; 99:1-5; 100:all; 105:1-7; 106:1; 107:1-3,8,21f,31f; 112:1; 113:1-4; 117:all; 118:all; 134:all; 135:1; 136:1ff; 146:1; 147:1,12; 148:all; 149 & 150: all

God calls us **to Himself** –

Not *just* to a service (liturgy) – a *mere* ceremony,

But to *Himself* - "come before Him" Ps.100:2; "come before His presence" 95:2; "see the Lord ... seek His face", 105:4

2. ... to a meeting of God with His people

Therefore, the church's meeting for public worship is not only a gathering of people together,

BUT a meeting of God with those people.

We "enter His gates" and come into His presence -

true in the OT era when God was present in His temple,

true even more so, as we are given access to His presence in heaven – **Hebrews 12:22-24**

The "temple" *now* is the church on earth, indwelt by God's Spirit & united to His court in heaven by the same Holy Spirit.

This is the reason for the structure of our services -

a kind of **dialogue** between our God and us, initiated by Him:

- He speaks (Blessing & Call, from His Word).

- We respond with song and prayer & offerings.

- He speaks (reading of Scripture, sermon).

- We respond in the way we listen and in prayer and song.

- He speaks (Benediction-blessing); we say "Amen"

3. Whom does God call?

a. **All peoples and nations** - Pss.100:1, 47:1f, 66:1-4, 86:8, etc.

All people are God's creatures, made by Him for His glory, made in His image for fellowship with Him & worship.

Worship is in our nature!

All creation & providence calls us to worship.

But since Adam's rebellion & fall, we by nature do not want to worship God. We worship man-made substitutes.

Who comes? Who comes to worship in Spirit & in truth?

b. Sinners He is saving

Those who receive His call *in their hearts* by the work of His Spirit.

Christ our Priest, by His sacrifice, opened the way to God's presence – **Hebrews 10:19-19-24, Ephesians 2:18.**