

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

WE PRAY IN WORSHIP

Most simply defined, prayer is *talking to God*. Maybe it is obvious that in our worship as a church we should pray, but let's spend some time this morning looking at why and how.

1. Prayer is essential to public & private worship.

"Call on the Lord" (Psalm 105:1 etc.)

The Lord's Prayer – "*Our Father ...*"

The pattern of the church's life in Acts

The command of 2 Timothy 2:1,2,8

2. Our prayers in public worship

Who does the praying? 2 Tim. 2:8

Leaders AND the *whole* congregation (all of you)

Remember: Worship is the *work* of God's people for God.

The Levites may have pronounced (or sung) the calls to worship we read in the Psalms, but they were calling God's *people* to "call on the Lord"

Kinds of prayers in our worship services

Opening prayers (sometimes called "Invocation")

Responses to God's Law – confession & prayer for forgiveness

Thanksgiving, as when we bring our offerings

Intercession – praying for one another, the Church & the world

Many of our hymns

Before & after the Word

Formal vs formalism - Psalm 145:18 (John 4:23,24)

3. But ... How can we sinners pray & be received by God?

Whose prayers will God not receive?

Proverbs 28:9, 15:8, Psalm 66:18, Luke 18:9-14

Do you want God to reject your prayers? Then

But even if we confess our sins & repent, how can we be accepted?

Through Jesus -

"Ask in My Name" – John 15:16, 16:23,24

Our great High Priest ...

- offered Himself for our sins

- intercedes for us now at His Father's right hand

so we can draw near to the throne of grace with confidence!

Westminster Shorter Catechism – Question 98: *What is prayer?*

Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.