



## Liturgy Explained

Curious about what we do during Sunday morning worship and why? We've unpacked the meaning and value of each piece of the service for you.

### Song of Gathering

This first song of the service is meant to prepare our minds and hearts for worship. Feel free to sing along or simply meditate as we begin our time worshiping God.

### Song of Praise

We enter into God's presence praising him for who he is, and delighting in his desire to be in relationship with us.

### Prayer of Adoration

Praying is essential to worship. As we pray, we begin by adoring God for who he is and what he has done through his son, Jesus. We conclude this prayer by reciting together the Lord's Prayer.

### Call to Confession

As we praise God, and through the Spirit showing us, we become aware of our own imperfections in light of our perfect God. In love, God calls us to freely and openly confess our sins before him.

### Confession of Sin

Sin is not only something that we've done wrong. Rather, it's a state of being that we're born into, and that we need saving from. It is impossible to conquer sin on our own, or make amends for it by our own actions. Our only hope is to turn to Christ, asking that he forgive and conquer sin for us, and - by grace alone and through faith alone - save us.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

As we confess our sin, God offers us the assurance that, in Jesus, we are forgiven and loved regardless of what we've done in the past. Because of Jesus, we are no longer condemned by our sin, but are brought into new life by the Spirit.

### Song of Thanks

Knowing that we are forgiven, and knowing that Jesus has reconciled us with God the Father, we sing with thankful hearts.

### Sermon

Though spoken by a person, we are to hear the sermon as God speaking to us. A sermon is a study in God's Word, the announcement of the good news in Christ, and an invitation to apply the truth of God's Word to our daily lives. At Gracehill, our sermons are not general based on themes; rather, we study through individual books of the Bible.

## Song of Response

We sing in response to the hearing of God's faithfulness and love for his people, as revealed in his son, Jesus.

## Benediction

As we conclude the service, the benediction is a blessing by God, as found in Scripture, for us individually and as a united church. We take this blessing with us as we - carrying the light of the gospel - go out into a dark world, that others may see the Light.

## Apostle's Creed

While we acknowledge that there are different views on how this phrase is to be interpreted, the session of Gracehill agrees that it should not be understood to mean that Jesus literally descended into the place of torment called hell. We believe that this conclusion is supported by Scripture; including, but not limited to, his statement to the thief on the cross in Luke 23 that, "today you will be with me in paradise." What we do maintain, and therefore why we support the use of the phrase in the Creed, is that the central doctrinal truth articulated in this phrase is that in his life and in his death on the cross Jesus experienced all things necessary for our salvation. And that through his unique experience of death on the cross he had to undergo, as Calvin writes, "the severity of God's vengeance, to appease his wrath and satisfy his just judgment. For this reason, he [also had to] grapple hand to hand with the armies of hell and the dread of everlasting death." And so, we affirm the use of the phrase, "he descended into hell," in the Apostles' Creed. Additionally, please see Westminster Larger Catechism Q50, and the Heidelberg Catechism Q44 for further explanation.

"Catholic Church" That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

## Doxology

In the Greek - doxologia, a word (logos) of glory (doxa). The doxology is an ancient hymn of praise, and has been part of the worship service in many churches for centuries. It is sung in response to the Lord's abundant grace for us and his church.

## Announcements

In response to the Good News we have received, we are sent out to love and serve our neighbors and our church. These opportunities are a few of the ways we can continue our worship throughout the week.



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CHURCH