AN ALTERNATE ORDER OF WORSHIP

The congregation being assembled, the minister shall solemnly call the people to worship, saying:

Let us worship God.

Hymn

This opening hymn may be sung as a processional, the people rising and joining in the singing as the choir enters the church. The people will remain standing during the Votum, Sentences, and Salutation.

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Or,

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sentences

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Or,

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all peoples!

Salutation

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or,

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your
hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*Here the minister may lead the people in a prayer of adoration or of supplication for grace to worship aright. He may choose one from those provided in the Liturgy or use one suitably expressed in his own words, or he may proceed directly to the reading of the Law and/or Summary.*

**Law and/or Summary**

*The Law and/or Summary may be read here or before the Prayer of Confession.*

God spoke all these words, saying, I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor’s.

Summary

Hear also what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Kyrie Eleison

The following or other suitable response may be said or sung.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

The minister may introduce the prayer by saying:

Dearly beloved, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us pray:

Or,

Let us confess our sins to almighty God:

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we
acknowledge our transgressions; and our sin is ever before us. Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation; and uphold us with thy free spirit. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The minister may say the following words of assurance or suitable Scriptural sentences. Suggested passages are Isaiah 43:25; 54:8; 42:22; Matthew 11:28; John 3:16.

Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; remitting all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter and Gloria Patri

Reading of the Holy Scriptures

There will ordinarily be two lessons, the first from the Old Testament, or from a portion of the New Testament other than the Gospels. The second lesson may most fittingly be read from one of the Gospels.

Confession of Faith

The Confession of Faith may be made here or after the Prayer for Blessing on the Word. The minister may introduce the Confession of Faith by saying:

Let us make confession of our Christian faith, in the words of the Nicene (or Apostles’) Creed.

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, begotten of his father before all worlds; God of God; light of light; very God of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost; the Lord and giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy Catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead; and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Or,

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

General Prayers

The minister shall then lead the congregation in prayers of thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession; or these prayers may be offered after the sermon. In either case, the prayers should be concluded with the Lord’s Prayer, the people uniting with the minister.

Offering

The offering may be presented here or at the close of the sermon. A brief prayer of dedication may be offered when the gifts are brought to the table.

Hymn

Sermon
Prayer for Blessing on the Word

The prayer following the sermon may well voice thanksgiving for all the means of grace, especially for the blessings of Word and Sacrament and fellowship with Christ in the communion of saints.

Hymn

Benediction

The Benediction is part of the ministry of the Word and should be said from the chancel or pulpit. It should be chosen from Apostolic or other Scriptural blessings.

An anthem or other suitable music may be sung after the Psalter and Gloria, before the sermon, or during the offering.