

History of LITURGY

First 3 centuries : Home Liturgy

Liturgy of the Word

- Jewish-Christians were excluded from the synagogues, but they continued to develop a form of worship modeled on the Jewish service: a reading from Scripture with interpretation, preaching, prayer and praise.
- Assembly was presided over by an apostle, a prophet or a member specially gifted by the Holy Spirit.
- Prayers were completely free

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Jewish-Christians continued to meet for the breaking of the bread at the Lord's supper.
- Private homes became inadequate, so sectional meals were tried, which leads to the danger of disunity.
- Adoption of the ceremonial eucharistic meal instead of the community supper.

Jutsin Martyr (~150 AD)

- all who are in the towns and in the country gather together for a communal celebration
- memoirs of the Apostles or the writings of the Prophets are read
- presider gives an address, urging hearers to practice these teachings
- all stand up together and recite prayers, written by prominent leaders
- bread and wine mixed with water offered with prayers and thanksgivings
- people chime in with 'Amen'
- distribution of them, and the deacons bring a portion to the absent
- those who are well-to-do give whatever they will. What is gathered is deposited with the one presiding, who therewith helps orphans and widows

4th Century : House to Basilica

Constantine

- Christian population rose to a vast majority all over the Western world
- Abandoned house liturgies for worship in larger public buildings
- The emperor and his family erected great buildings for worship after the fashion of imperial buildings, palaces and halls.

Material creation

- To offset Gnosticism (all material things and creations are evil, including the human nature of Christ), the material element of the sacrifice, the gifts of bread and wine, was now stressed, thus developing the Offertory of the Mass.
- The altar became the center of attention, instead of the bishop himself

7th Century : Common liturgy

- A definite framework used by all developed through tradition
- Liturgical texts and regulations were gradually prescribed
- The Roman liturgy eventually became the liturgy of the whole Western Church in preference to those from Alexandria, Antioch, Byzantium.

Liturgical Reforms

Community vs Personal Devotion

- Non-Roman, non Latin-speaking people evangelized
- Celts developed penance prayers to keep themselves occupied; Gauls created prayers of affection to pass the time at Eucharist
- Worshipers lost a sense of community at Mass
- Protestants introduced vernacular liturgies and hymns that everyone could sing

Council of Trent (1563)

- In reaction to the Protestant movement, the Council reformed the liturgy by precisely outlining the rubrics, texts and behavior to be expected
- A commission composed a missal that standardized the prayers and rituals of the Mass
- Insisted on good preaching at Mass and urged people to receive communion on Sundays
- Saint Pius V established the Congregation of Rites, a clerical commission to watch over liturgical behavior in the Church
- Froze the form of worship that had tradition going for it, but left no room for the pulse of the people

Pius X (1903-14)

- encouraged the use of Gregorian chant and called for writing of new Church music in the spirit of the liturgy
- asked all Catholics to go to Communion frequently, thus drawing their attention to a sacrament as a major source of spiritual growth
- lowered the First Communion age from 12 or 13 to 7 or 8

Vatican Council II (1962-65)

- Local language is used (vs all Latin)
- Prayers and rituals are simplified to get back to their original intent
- Priest communicates directly with the congregation (vs facing the tabernacle)
- Scriptural readings are given great importance
- Congregation participates through spoken responses and song (vs minimal singing)
- Communion is often received in the forms of bread and wine (vs bread only)
- Introduced lay readers and lay ministers of Communion
- Designed to celebrate Jesus present among the community of believers