

Bible Study
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Monongahela, Pa
THE HOLY EUCHARIST
Session 4

I. THE DIVINE LITURGY – SACRAMENT OF THE KINGDOM

- A. When you get on a plane/train/bus, what does the pilot/conductor/driver announce at the beginning?
- B. What announcement/blessing begins the Divine Liturgy?

This is the **key** to understanding the entire purpose and meaning of the Divine Liturgy.

- C. How did Jesus begin His ministry in a similar way? see Mark 1:14-15 (p. 1331)

- D. What is heaven like? Jesus gives descriptions of the Kingdom:

- 1. Matthew 8:11 (p. 1281)

- 2. Luke 22:28-30 (p. 1409)

- E. What is meant by “*the Kingdom of God*”?

- F. What do we mean “*The Divine Liturgy is the sacrament of the Kingdom*”?

How do whales and dolphins breathe underwater?

How is this similar to what takes place in the Divine Liturgy.

- G. In 988 AD Prince Vladimir of the ancient principality of Kievan Rus wanted a religion to unite his people. He sent emissaries throughout the region to study various faiths. One group attended the Divine Liturgy in the Church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. They reported back to Vladimir:

“We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. For on earth there is no such splendor or such beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it. We only know that God dwells there among men.”

- H. Russian writer Dostoevsky: *“A believer goes to church in order to touch other worlds.”*

- I. How do the words of the Cherubic Hymn explain that the Liturgy is the *“sacrament of the Kingdom”*?

II. SACRAMENT OF ASSEMBLY

- A. Matthew 18:20 (p. 1304) According to these words of our Lord, what is the first action of the Divine Liturgy...when does the Liturgy actually begin?

1. What “gets in the way” or hinders this aspect of the sacrament?

- B. *“I’m going to church.....I’m going to be the church.”* What’s the difference?

1 Corinthians 11:18 (p. 1563)

John 11:49-52 (p. 1448)

What did the high priest predict that the Messiah would accomplish?

- C. Church - *“ekklesia”* a gathering; an assembly

- D. What ritual actions / words in the Liturgy help to highlight this reality?

E. What actions / attitudes / church architecture-design inhibit this reality?

III. THE DIVINE LITURGY

A. Name the 4 Divine Liturgies currently used in the Orthodox Church

B. Name the three parts of the Divine Liturgy

C. Identify the types of prayer (examples) used in the Divine Liturgy:

1. Petition/asking

2. Instructions/directions to the people

3. Praise/thanksgiving

4. Remembrance

5. Exchange of blessings

D. In the Old Testament (Exodus, Leviticus), God gave specific detailed instructions on how He wanted His people to worship. Why did He give such detail?

Hebrews 9:1-8 (p. 1663)

Hebrews 9:23

E. What is heaven like? Read these passages and write down some key features of the worship that takes place in heaven:

Isaiah 6:1-8 (p. 1063)

Revelation 4 (p. 1719)

F. So....why do we worship the way we do?