

# GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Luke 11:28



# Contents

Message	We should yearn to listen to God's word.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ What occurs during a Divine service.</li><li>■ We should apply God's word from each divine service to our lives.</li><li>■ How listening to and doing God's word is a prerequisite to having eternal life with Him.</li></ul>
Bible Text	Luke 11:28

## God's Word is Proclaimed in the Divine Service



A divine service is the activity of God upon human beings. At the same time, it is a work of human beings for God. In the divine service, people come together to worship God, praise Him, and thank Him. We also gather in order to hear the word of God and to receive the sacraments. Therefore, divine service is an encounter between us and God. In the divine service, the congregation perceives the presence of the triune God and experiences God serving us in love.

Before the sermon, we should pray that the Lord may grant us strength and peace in His word. We are to accept the word in faith and put it into practice in daily life in thought, word, and deed. We are thus called upon to lead a life of following Christ.

At the beginning of the divine service, an appeal to God is made with the words, "In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit". This is called the "Trinitarian opening formula" and it becomes clear that God is present, just as the Son of God promised (cf. Matthew 18: 20).

Concerning the early Christians in Jerusalem, we can read, "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2: 42). From this, the basic elements of the divine service derive.

These elements are: The Apostles' doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

God's word is proclaimed in the divine services. Ministers express thoughts inspired within them by the Holy Spirit. This is called the "sermon". In New Apostolic divine services, the sermon is not read from a previously prepared text. It is based on a passage from the Bible, on which the officiating minister elaborates in free discourse without notes.

The Apostles and the ministers commissioned by them are called to proclaim the word of God in the divine service. The Holy Spirit speaks through the ministers. It is in this manner that faith is inspired and reinforced. The proclamation of the word always has the objective of preparing the congregation for the return of Jesus Christ (CNAC QA: 626).

Since the sermon is inspired by God, we experience that the spoken word is "alive", and therefore that questions of life and faith are answered, faith is strengthened, comfort is given, confidence is imparted, admonitions and help in decision-making are provided.

The word from the altar provides orientation in order to live in accordance with the will of God. The sermon is "food for the soul". This follows Jesus' teaching where He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4: 4).

# God's Word is Proclaimed in the Divine Service

## Suggestions for the Teacher

### Lead-In

Let one of the children play a short sermon of a Thanksgiving service. Instruct them before.

Alternative: Provide white shirt, black tie.

Let a boy bind a tie incorrectly. Let a girl hold up a mirror so that he can see this and correct it.

### Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What is a mirror used for? (To see ourselves. To correct us. - Gods advise is like this.)
- Describe in your own words what takes place during a Divine service.
- How do you prepare yourself for the Divine service? (Pray for peace and strength to apply.)
- How do you know that God is present in each Divine service?  
(It starts: "In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit")
- What does it mean: the sermon is "food for our soul"? (God's word is proclaimed.)
- What is the objective of the sermon? (To prepare us for Jesus' return)

Have the children repeat...

- We apply God's word from each divine service to our lives.
- This is a prerequisite to have eternal life with Him.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Why do we listen to God's word? (We want to hear His word to apply it to our lives.)
- When do we live our lives according to God's will? (If our actions reflect what we hear)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Repeat the Message</b> We should yearn to listen to God's word.</p>
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