

Downtown 8:00 AM Worship Protocol

Family/Semi-Traditional

General:

- Traditionally this is the family service. We will look for ways to enhance that character while preserving the church's tradition.
- The guiding principle of all our worship is that it is the people's work and therefore should involve the **active participation** of the congregation as much as possible.
- Acolytes, assisting ministers, and pastors will wear vestments. We will move toward the use of albs for all of them. Communion servers will wear crosses and come forward after the Lord's Prayer.
- The organ will be the primary musical instrument, but piano and other instruments may be used instead or in addition to the organ.
- There will be a choir to lead the singing most Sundays.
- Musical settings of the liturgy will change not more than twice a year.
- There will be acolytes at each service
- The acolytes will receive the offering plates from the ushers, replenish the bread and wine supplies during Communion, and hold the presider's book as needed.
- There will be no processions during Advent and Lent and the "ordinary" Sundays (when the liturgical color is green). We will need only one acolyte
- Sunday School classes will be asked to take turns leading the opening dialog

Service:

- A confession of sins will begin the service when there is no baptism scheduled, and whenever the liturgical color is green, but not any time the liturgical color is red or white (festival Sundays).
- An opening dialog (taken from the psalm for the day) will be used in place of the apostolic greeting.
- The Kyrie will be omitted for the "ordinary" Sundays. When used a cantor will be lead it.
- A hymn of praise will be sung every Sunday except those during Advent and Lent.
- We will use the ELW cycle of Prayers of the Day, revising them when the language is theologically objectionable.
- We will use the ELW three-year lectionary.
- A verse or appropriate music will separate the reading of the second lesson and Gospel.
- The gospel acclamations will be sung before and after the reading.
- The hymn of the day is chosen to go with the lessons. It may or may not be familiar – this is the best place in the service to introduce new hymns.
- Baptisms will take place following the hymn of the day. The Apostles Creed and Prayers will be part of the baptism liturgy.
- The Nicene Creed will be used for the festival portion of the church year and the Apostles' Creed for "ordinary" Sundays and when there are baptisms. The Athanasian Creed may be used on Trinity Sunday.
- The Prayers will be newly composed for each Sunday.
- The peace will be shared by the congregation after it is announced by the presider.
- During the offering there may be either silence (appropriate for Lent) or special music.
- The Offertory will be sung by the congregation, but may occasionally be a setting sung by a choir.
- The altar will be set for Communion during the offering and completed after the gifts are brought forward.
- The Offertory prayer will be led by the Assisting Minister.
- The Great Thanksgiving will include a Eucharistic prayer that praises the Father for Israel, for the Son and through the Holy Spirit. For festive seasons and Sundays it will be more extensive and include more congregational responses than for ordinary Sundays.

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- Communion will be offered at stations. We will attempt to keep consecrated and unconsecrated elements separate and try to avoid large amounts of “leftovers”.
- The service will conclude quickly after Communion. During the festival seasons there can be a post-communion blessing, the singing of “Lord, now you let” (in the Epiphany season) or “Thank the Lord,” then the post-communion prayer and benediction. In non-festival seasons the post-communion blessing and song (Thank the Lord or Lord, now...) will be omitted.
- There will be a final hymn and then the dismissal from the rear of the church by the Assisting Minister.