

Holy Worship: From Adam & Eve till the Present Day

Introduction to Holy Worship – Part 1

- What is Worship?
- Purpose of Worship
 - Original Purpose of Man / 3 Vocations
- How are We to Worship?
- Covenantal context for Worship

Introduction to Holy Worship – Part 2

- Elements of Worship / Prayer
 - Praise
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication
 - Incense
 - Sacrifice

Worship in the Old Testament Era

- Adam thru 12 Sons of Jacob/Israel
- Moses, the Tabernacle, Sacrifices & Levitical Regulations
- The Temple and Early Synagogue thru Zechariah

Worship in the New Testament and Early Church Eras

- Apostolic Origins – Apostles' teaching, *koinonia*, Eucharist & prayers (Acts 2:42)
- Influences of both Temple and Synagogue worship on Apostolic worship
- Pascha as the New Passover; Pascha as the Ground of Baptism
- Lent as Catechumenate Preparation for Baptism/Pascha

The Church Year and Sacred Space

- The Church Year
 - Theology of Time; heavenly worship; eternity
 - Sanctification of time / the Church Year; Beginning and Ending Feasts
 - The concept of “Today” in the prayers
- Sacred Space
 - Narthex / Nave / Altar and their symbolism
 - Items in each of the 3 areas: doors, icons, candles, iconostasis, throne
 - 3 items in altar (Gospel book, reserved Communion, Cross) and their correspondence to the OT Temple (tables of the Law, Manna, Aaron's rod that budded)
 - Correspondence of various areas of sacred space and their relation to repentance/holiness and as an image of approaching the Heavenly Throne

Survey of Types of Orthodox Worship Services

- Divine Liturgy – the Eucharist, the pinnacle of Holy Worship
- Mysteries – Baptism, Confession, etc
- Various Cycles of Orthodox Prayer
 - 11 Gospel Readings / Eothinon
 - Octoechos / Eight Tones
 - Menaion / Daily commemorations / Synaxarion
 - Triodion / Great Lent
- Eight Tone Structure of Church Singing

Proper Preparation for and Response to Worship

- Preparation
 - Initiated into Covenant (Baptism/Chrismation)
 - Repentance / Confession / Cleansing
 - Correct (Orthodox) Faith / Creed
 - Prayer
 - Via the Mercy of God
- Response
 - Gratitude / thanksgiving
 - Holiness
 - Missions / evangelism