

Spiritual Formation in Worship, Part 4:
***Lutheran Treasure for an Emerging Generation —
Leader's Guide***

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From the Missional Bible Studies series of the Center for U.S. Missions

This Leader's Addendum complements and clarifies the Participant's Guide – use both in leading the study. Below is a Review of previous studies. Following are portions of study passages (NIV trans.) with added emphases.

Review

In Bible study #1, we explored practicing the Presence of Christ throughout worship, setting our hearts and minds on Christ. In study #2, we studied practicing the Presence by *breathing with* the words of Scripture. In study #3 we practiced the spiritual discipline of listening for God's answers to our prayers – how God shapes and forms us through prayer. We draw on these disciplines--setting our minds on Christ; breathing with Scripture; listening for God's voice--in studying our peculiarly (as in "set apart," not as in "odd") Lutheran understanding of how and where we most deeply encounter God in worship.

Introduction – 5 minutes

I. Dying with Christ (buried/raised or drowning/new life with Christ also fits) – 25 minutes

- Rom. 6:1-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
- Col. 2:11-12 . . . by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.
- Eph. 2:4-6 . . . made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. . . . And God raised us up with Christ. . .
- Isa. 43:1b-2a Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you

II. Food for the Journey – 15 minutes

Read the following two scripture passages and Luther quote.

- 1 Kings 19:7-8 The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights...
- Psa`lm 34:8 ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

2. [...space each Sunday in time and in focus...]

4. Guide for Accompanying Picture – 5 minutes

The scene depicted is based on Luke 24:13-35 (the Emmaus story), especially verses 30-32:

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

The painter tried to capture the instant as the disciples' eyes were opened just before Christ disappeared.

Note: Discussion question #4 is intended to solicit reflection on experiencing Christ more fully in the Eucharist. The point is not that we should all have intense emotional experiences each and every time we approach the altar rail at communion. But communion *is* multi-sensory – tangibly experiencing Christ and engaging heart, mind, and will (as opposed to the Rational Age danger of experiencing Christ in communion only on an intellectual level). Experiencing Christ's real presence in the sacraments *may* include "hearts that are burning."

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Accompanying Participant's Guide is also available from the Center for U.S. Missions.