



Sending

Fact Sheet 5, The Elements of Worship Series



COMMISSION
ON WORSHIP
Lutheran Church of Australia

The final part of the worship service is the Sending, in which the people of God are blessed and prepared to go out into the world again. It is a short but important part of the service.

- After Holy Communion, the congregation utters the Prayer of Thanksgiving, and then moves into the Sending by **Blessing (Praising) the Lord**. (“Let us bless the Lord/God for evermore be praised”)
- We then receive **the Blessing of the Lord or Benediction**, in which he gives us his presence, his favour and his peace to go with us on our way. The Aaronic Blessing is often used here.
- A **final hymn or song** is sung, either just before the blessing or immediately afterwards. The tone is usually triumphant, joyful or full of thanksgiving and praise.
- A **doxology**, a final short song of praise to God may be sung after the blessing. Often a hymn or song is used in the place of the doxology.
- On special occasions, a **Recessional hymn** may be added to close the service. As the congregation sings, the crucifer collects the cross from the altar area, and carries it down the aisle and outside the church, followed by the pastor and any attendants. Once the pastor has left the building, the congregation files out.

Not every service is a Holy Communion service. If the Meal is not a part of the service, use one of the service orders without communion. The Word is the climax of these services, and the congregation transitions from receiving the Word followed by:

- the **Offering** including an **Offertory or Offering Prayer**
- the **Prayer of the Church**
- Usually, in a service of the Word, **The Lord’s Prayer** will be said after the Prayer of the Church.
- Then the service concludes with the **Sending** elements.
- **The Dismissal** (found in the propers on the Liturgy and Prayers section of the Worship Planning Page) may be used as a Closing Sentence prior to the benediction.

Announcements etc should be left until after the blessing or final song, as they are not a part of the divine service.

That brings us to the end of the worship service. Within this basic structure of Gathering, the Word, Communion and Sending, there are many variations and opportunities for congregations to choose what best suits their context. The next video explores the role of Music in Worship.

The Lord's Prayer

- Usually in a service without communion, following the Prayer of the Church.

Blessing (Praising) the Lord

- Often

The Blessing of the Lord (or Benediction)

- Always.

Final hymn or song

- Usually.

The Doxology

- Sometimes.

Recessional hymn

- Sometimes used.