

# The Lamb's High Feast

## Lesson 4

Review of Lesson 1: Worship on Earth is patterned after the Worship of Heaven

Review of Lesson 2: God Communicates with Mankind through Sacraments

Review of Lesson 3: The Liturgy opens with prayers and actions as appropriate before a holy, holy, holy LORD.

## Hear What Our Lord Saith The Liturgy of the Word

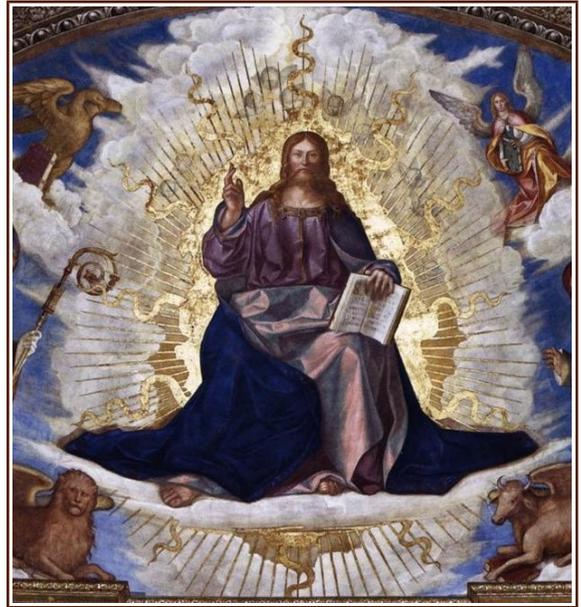
While we are still on our knees before the holy LORD, having just prayed the Collect for Purity, we now enter a lengthy section of the worship which is sometimes called The Liturgy of the Word. This part of our worship begins with one of two sentences:

God spake these words and said: *BCP p.86*

or, more commonly,

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith. *BCP p. 87*

The majestic and holy God whose presence we have entered now condescends to speak.



Christ in Majesty by Boccaccio Boccaccio, 1502

Christ enthroned in heaven, with the Scriptures resting on his knee, opened for all to see, the four Gospels surround him (Angel, Ox, Lion and Eagle) his right hand raised to bless

## Who Will Go For Us? Isaiah becomes the messenger of God

*Isaiah 6:6*

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” 9 And he said, “Go, and say to this people...

*continuing in chapter 7*

3 **And the LORD said to Isaiah,** “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. 4 And say to him, ‘Be

careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.

5 Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, 6 “Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,” 7 **thus says the Lord GOD:**

.....  
8:1 Then the LORD said to me... 5 The LORD spoke to me again ...For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me... 9:8 The Lord has sent a word... 10:24 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts... 28:16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD

After chapter 28, almost every chapter contains the words “Thus says the Lord” or its equivalent.

## What We Learn from Isaiah

1. The Holy God condescends to speak to His people
2. He speaks through his chosen prophets, who both proclaim and write His word.
3. The revealed word is written down and kept for two reasons: so that God's word may be accessible by all and so that the Prophet is accountable for what he says in God's name. (see Deut. 18:22 “ when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.” And also 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 “Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.”)
4. The word of the holy God is powerful. Isaiah 55:10-11 states, “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

## The Written Word in Worship

*St. Luke 4:16*

And [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the  
captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

20 And [Jesus] rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth.

## What We Learn From St Luke

1. Christ himself established the practice of reading the Old Testament in Christian Worship
2. The minister has the responsibility of interpreting the Scriptures.
3. The proper institution for reading, interpreting, teaching, preaching, and declaring Scripture fulfilled is “in the congregation”. (It is not a private matter.)

**NEXT WEEK:** we will continue this discussion with a closer look at the Book of Common Prayer pages 86-89, 2 Timothy 3:10-16, and 2 Peter 1:19-21