A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of white lines and circles on a purple background, resembling a circuit board or a stylized tree structure.

# WORSHIP

*WHY, HOW & WHAT  
AND QUESTIONS TO PONDER*

# WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

- "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." 1 Chronicles 16:29
- "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 95:6
- "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:2

# WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

- *Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20*
- *“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” Hebrews 10:24-25a*
- *Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28*

# LITURGY - THE CUSTOMARY PUBLIC RITUAL OF WORSHIP PERFORMED BY A RELIGIOUS GROUP.

- Our basic form of worship can be traced back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.
- Justin Martyr – a philosopher and layperson gives us the earliest surviving worship “form” or outline of worship, very similar to our “traditional” worship outline today.
- Ritual – the way larger groups gather and enact that which they think is important. Rituals can be religious or secular. Ritual is repetitive, enabling people to connect.

# HOW DO WE WORSHIP?

## OUR LITURGY CONTAINS 4 PARTS

- 1) Gathering

- 3) Meal

- 2) Word

- 4) Sending

# GATHERING

Confession

Hymn

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise

Prayer of the Day



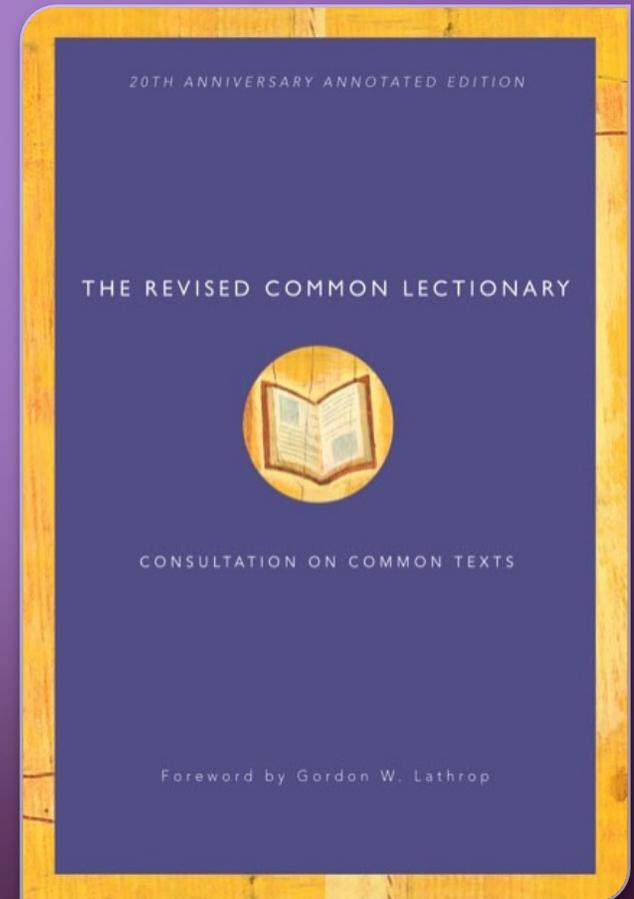
# WORD

- First Reading
- Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel
- Hymn
- Sermon
- Creed
- Prayer of the Church



# HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO READ?

- The Revised Common Lectionary (or RCL) gives us a 3 year cycle of readings for worship.
- Readings usually have some theme that ties them together
- Find the schedule of readings at:  
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>



# MEAL

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving/Words of  
Institution

Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer



# SENDING

Benediction/Blessing

Sending Hymn

Dismissal



# DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP STYLES

- Part of the beauty of Lutheranism is that we are encouraged to worship in ways that are “organic” to our setting. Not all Lutheran congregations will worship in the exact same way.
- What is the “flow” of worship in your congregations?



# *WHAT ARE THE MAIN THINGS WE DO WHEN WE WORSHIP?*

- Even with our diversity, there are some things that are consistent – within Lutheranism and even across denominational lines.

# SING/PRAISE/ LAMENT

Hymns

Kyrie – “back and forth”

Prayers – Kyrie/Lamb of  
God

Anthems/Songs

Instrumentals



# PRAY

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

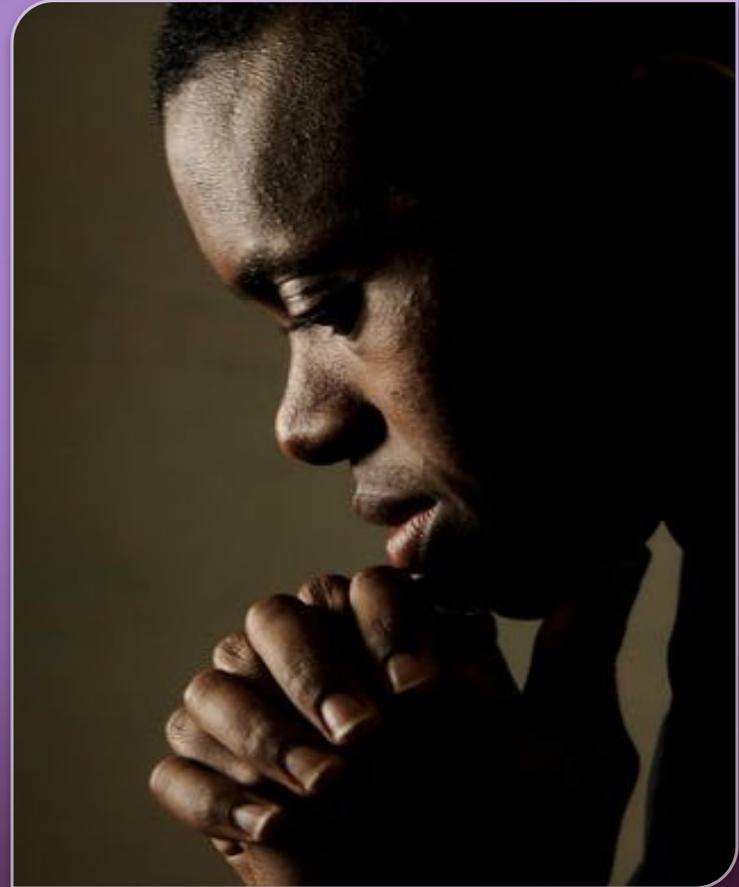
Prayer of the Church

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God

Post-Communion Prayer



# LISTEN/RECEIVE

First Reading

Second Reading

Psalm

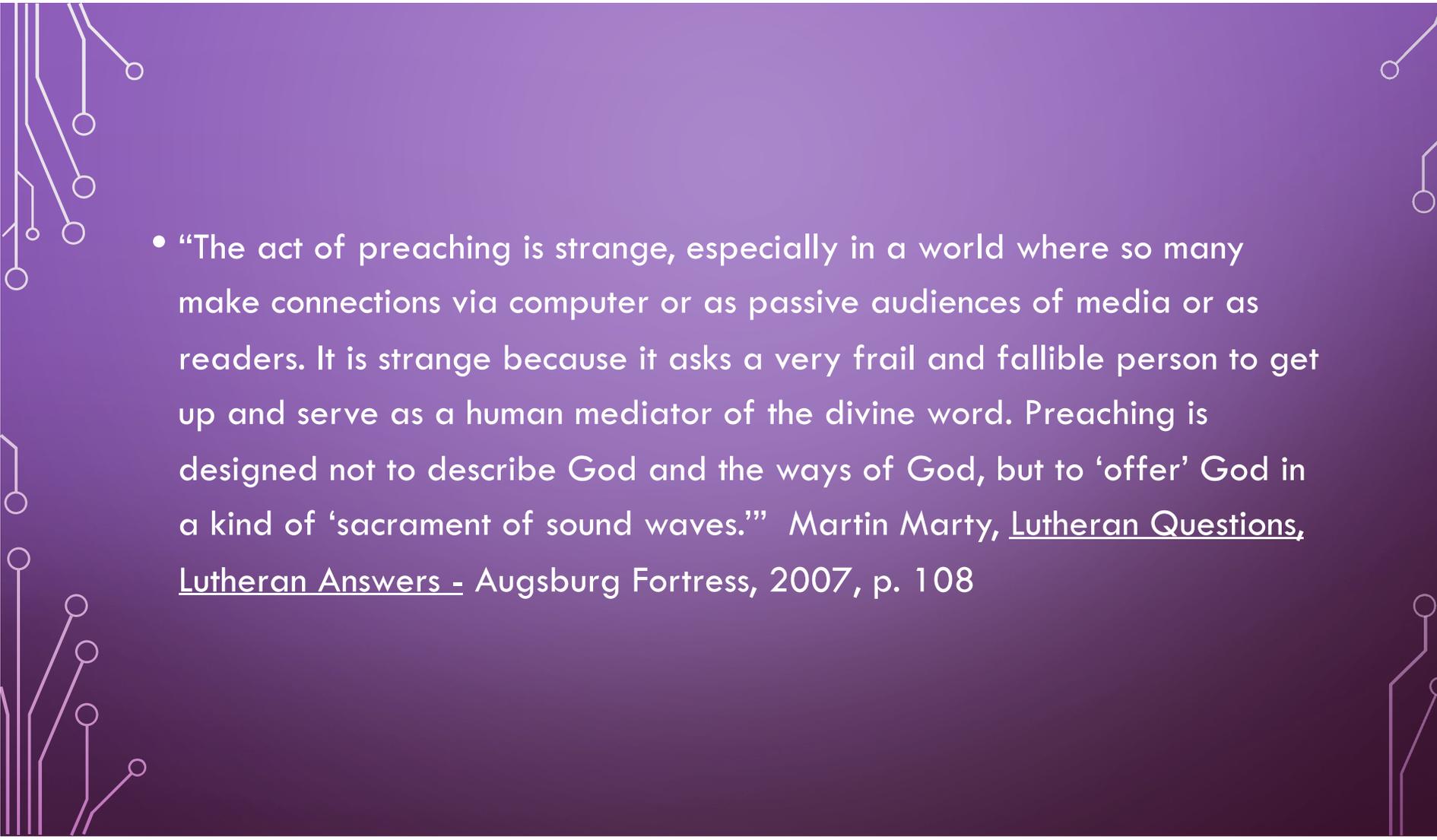
Gospel Reading

Sermon

Silence

Communion



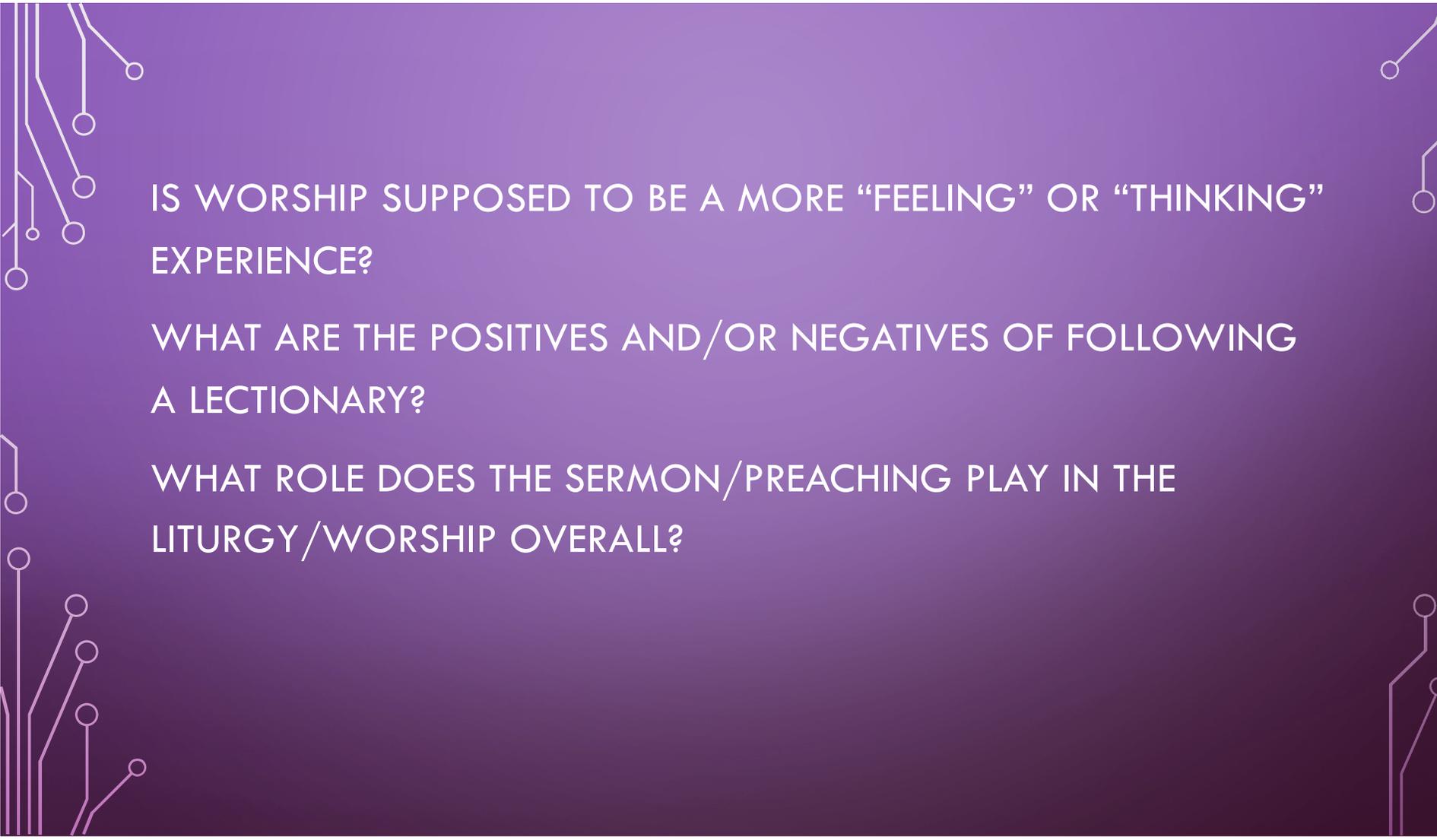
- 
- “The act of preaching is strange, especially in a world where so many make connections via computer or as passive audiences of media or as readers. It is strange because it asks a very frail and fallible person to get up and serve as a human mediator of the divine word. Preaching is designed not to describe God and the ways of God, but to ‘offer’ God in a kind of ‘sacrament of sound waves.’” Martin Marty, Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers - Augsburg Fortress, 2007, p. 108

# QUESTIONS

ARE WE MEANT TO “GET” ANYTHING, OR IS WORSHIP SOMETHING WE “GIVE?”

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORSHIP AND PERFORMANCE (IF THERE IS ONE)?

IS WORSHIP SUPPOSED TO BE ENTERTAINING, SOMETHING TO BE ABSORBED, OR SOMETHING FROM WHICH WE LEARN AND GROW AS DISCIPLES?



IS WORSHIP SUPPOSED TO BE A MORE “FEELING” OR “THINKING” EXPERIENCE?

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES AND/OR NEGATIVES OF FOLLOWING A LECTIONARY?

WHAT ROLE DOES THE SERMON/PREACHING PLAY IN THE LITURGY/WORSHIP OVERALL?