

HSC SOR Study Day Saturday / Sunday Worship

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Christ has died!
Christ is Risen!
Christ will come again!



Syllabus 40-41

Christianity:

The focus of this study is the contribution of significant people, ideas, practices and ethical teachings to an understanding of Christianity as a living religious tradition. The study of Christianity is to be of the WHOLE tradition where applicable.

Outcomes

- **H1** explains aspects of religion and belief systems
- **H2** describes and analyses the influence of religion and belief systems on individuals and society
- **H4** describes and analyses how aspects of religious traditions are expressed by their adherents
- **H5** evaluates the influence of religious traditions in the life of adherents
- **H6** organises, analyses and synthesises relevant information about religion from a variety of sources, considering usefulness, validity and bias
- **H7** conducts effective research about religion and evaluates the findings from the research
- **H8** applies appropriate terminology and concepts related to religion and belief systems

Significant practices in the life of adherents

- **Students learn about:**
- ONE significant practice within Christianity drawn from:
 - Baptism
 - Marriage ceremony
 - **Saturday/Sunday worship**

- **Students learn to:**
- *describe* ONE significant practice within Christianity drawn from:
 - Baptism
 - Marriage ceremony
 - **Saturday/Sunday worship**

- *demonstrate* how the chosen practice expresses the **beliefs** of Christianity
- *analyse* the significance of this practice for both the **individual** and the Christian **community**

Origins of the Christian Sabbath

Hebrew Bible reference example:

Exodus 23.12

For six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and Your home-born slave and the resident alien may be refreshed.

The followers of Jesus followed the traditional Sabbath observance but quickly transferred it from the seventh day (God resting from the work of creation) to first day of the week – Christ rising from the dead.

Mark 16.2: Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

Acts 20.7: On the *first day of the week*, when we met to *break bread*, Paul was holding a *discussion* with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight.

From earliest times Sunday was the Christian holy day – to remember the Resurrection and “break bread”.



Do this in memory of me.

Christian Sabbatarianism

A small number of Christians maintain Saturday or Sabbath worship. Most of these denominations grew out of the Protestant Reformation.

The most famous group are the Seventh Day Adventists.

Sunday Worship

Avoid generalisations.

E.g. All Christians celebrate Eucharist on Sunday.

- a) Many Protestant denominations do not celebrate weekly Eucharist.
(Uniting Church, Presbyterian Church)
- b) Salvationists are non-sacramental Christians
- c) Adventists celebrate Eucharist on Saturday.

Eucharist

- From the Greek εὐχαριστία meaning “thanksgiving”.
- Alternate names: Mass, Divine Liturgy; Divine Service; Holy Communion ...
- Use “service” unless you use the correct term for the appropriate denomination.
- E.g. Mass – Catholic; Divine Liturgy – Orthodox.

The “theme”

- Every Eucharist celebrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – and NOTHING else.
- “When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus, until you come in glory”.
- It is the single greatest act of Christian worship for Catholics, Orthodox and most Anglicans.

Eucharist

- Language may vary but the structure is the same.
- Introductory rites
- Two “hinges”
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Closing rites

Introductory Rites

- Opens worship.
- Usually consists of acts of penance / reconciliation and praise / call to worship / invocation (depends on denomination)
- “Lord Have Mercy”; Gloria – tend to be common elements
- Opening Prayer – a focus of prayer – Sunday is always resurrection!

Liturgy of the Word

- Always biblical readings
- Usual pattern but may vary:
- Hebrew Bible;
- Psalm
- New Testament other than the Gospel;
- Gospel – always!
- Preaching
- Prayers of the People



Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation and Preparation of Gifts
- Gifts ...
- Significance of the Collection
- Great Thanksgiving
- Preface – seasonal, specific etc ...
- Eucharistic Prayer – variations ...

Eucharistic Prayer

- In most denominations there is a set pattern.
- Anamnesis - remembrance
- Epiclesis – work of the Holy Spirit
- Institution Narrative – doing as Jesus commanded
- Doxology – The Words of Glory

Communion rite

- Usually, but with some variation ...
- The Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace – location varies
- Fraction – “breaking of the bread”
- Reception of the Sacrament – mode varies





Post-communion

- Final prayer
- Blessing



Ministers

- Ordained ministers for Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and most Protestant denominations
- Some Protestant denominations allow “lay presiders”
- Catholic, Orthodox and traditional Anglicans only permit and recognise male ministers
- Most Anglican provinces and many Protestant denominations ordain women.



Individual / Community

- Eucharist is an act of PUBLIC worship
- No such thing as a “private” Mass
- Catholics and Orthodox believe it is the whole Church – visible and invisible worshipping together.
- Christians worship together – it is one of the marks of the Tradition – “where ever two or three are gathered in my name ...” (Matthew 18.20)

- Christ is present among his people in:
 - a) The Word proclaimed
 - b) The Sacrament broken and shared
 - c) The Assembly of the Baptised
 - d) His Spirit that lives through the believer



- Eucharist is the ritual expression of all Christian belief.
- Creeds – One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic
- Augustine: The church believes as she does.
- "What the soul is to a person's body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church. The Holy Spirit does in the whole Church what the soul does in all members of one body ... a Christian is Catholic while they live in the body ..." Sermons, 267, 4, 391-430 CE.

Become what you eat ...

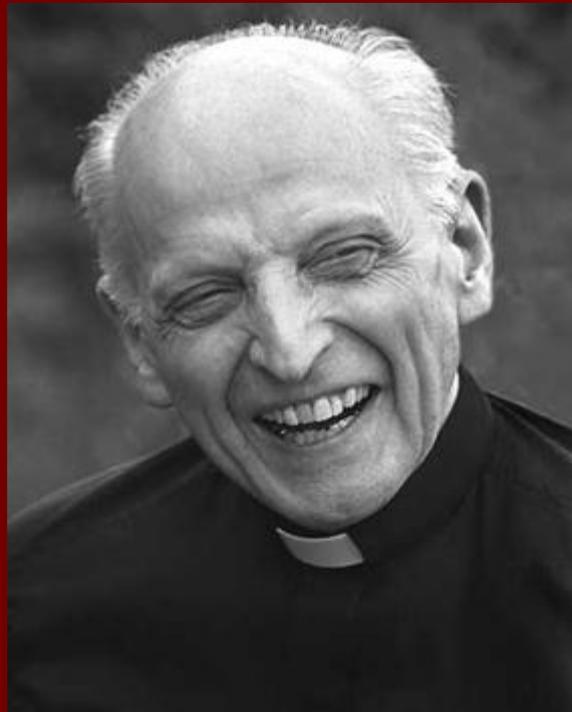
- Augustine again: "You will not change me into yourself as you would food of your flesh; but you will be changed into me."
- Christians believe sharing in the Eucharist transforms us into the body of Christ.
- Eucharist is the food for the journey ...
- The foretaste of the Lord's Table in the Kingdom of God ...

Become other Christ's ...

- Christians believe they are empowered by the Eucharist to be other Christ's for the world.
- The Blessing and Sending Forth command Christians to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord".
- Sunday Worship + Social Justice = Christianity in action.

Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ 1907-1991

“When people are hungry anywhere in the world, our Eucharist is incomplete”



Bishop Helda Camara 1909-1999

“When I give the poor bread, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no bread, they call me a communist.”



Best revision?

- Go and participate!
- Visit another Christian denomination – preferably one that is very different to your own.
- Read the Liturgical Texts – Roman Missal, A Prayer Book for Australia, Uniting in Worship.