

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES FOR EARLY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

The general elements of Christian worship are identified in the New Testament through scripture passages describing the gatherings of Christians after the Pentecost. Here is a list of these general elements and scriptural references:

1. **Preaching** (Mat 28:20; Act 20:7; 1Co 14:19,29-36).
2. **Reading of Scripture** (Jam 1:22; Col 4:16; 1Th 5:27; Act 13:15).
3. **Prayer** (1Co 14:14; 16).
4. **Singing** (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Eph 5:14; 1Ti 3:16).
5. **Administering the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper** (Mat 28:19; Act 2:41; 1Co 11:18-34).
6. **Almsgiving** (1Co 16:1-2).

(www.albatrus.org/english/church-order/worship/worship_services_early_church.htm)

Primarily based on the flow and content of synagogue worship, the early services were rather informal in nature. The order of worship depended on the leadership of that particular day. Baptisms were performed during worship as converts were added to the membership. Whenever Christians met on The Lord's Day, a full meal was shared that included an early form of the Eucharistic liturgy (1Corinthians 11:23-26). Any leftovers from the meal and additional offerings were taken to members of the community who were unable to be at the gathering, to widows and to the poor (see Acts 6:1-6).



St. Stephen, Deacon, Caring for the Widows