Worship & Liturgy Origins Quiz

15 questions. Choose the best answer for each question. The answer key is on the last pages.

Name _____ Date _____ Score / 15

1. What was the significance of the 'agape feast' in early Christianity?

Ⓐ A time for individual prayer and fasting
Ⓑ A festival celebrating the harvest
Ⓒ A communal meal symbolizing fellowship and love
Ⓓ A ritual of penance and confession

2. Which part of the basilica was designated for the altar and clergy in early Christian churches?

Ⓐ Atrium
Ⓑ Apse
Ⓒ Narthex
Ⓓ Nave

3. What did early Christians believe baptism symbolized?

Ⓐ Anointing for service
Ⓑ Entrance into adulthood
Ⓒ Receiving a new name
Ⓓ Dying and rising with Christ

4. Which day of the week did early Christians traditionally gather for communal worship?

Ⓐ Saturday
Ⓑ Friday
Ⓒ Sunday
Ⓓ Monday

5. What element was NOT traditionally part of the early Christian Eucharist celebration?

Ⓐ Wine
Ⓑ Prayers
Ⓒ Bread
Ⓓ Meat

6. Which early church document provided guidelines for church leadership and community conduct?

Ⓐ The Nicene Creed
Ⓑ The Didache
Ⓒ The Vulgate
Ⓓ The Talmud

7. What was the purpose of the early Christian practice of fasting before receiving the Eucharist?

Ⓐ Spiritual preparation
Ⓑ To honor the Sabbath
Ⓒ To demonstrate penance
Ⓓ To follow Roman law

8. What is the significance of the 'narthex' in early church architecture?

Ⓐ It was a gathering space for catechumens
Ⓑ It was reserved for clergy meetings
Ⓒ It housed the altar
Ⓓ It was the location for baptisms

9. What is the significance of the 'Sanctus' in early Christian liturgy?

Ⓐ It is a blessing of the bread and wine
Ⓑ It is a reading from the Old Testament
Ⓒ It is a hymn of praise during the Eucharistic prayer
Ⓓ It is a prayer of confession

10. Who was typically responsible for administering baptism in the early church?

Ⓐ Any baptized Christian
Ⓑ Emperor
Ⓒ Deacon
Ⓓ Bishop or presbyter

11. Which prayer was used as a central part of the early Christian liturgy?

Ⓐ Magnificat
Ⓑ Apostles' Creed
Ⓒ The Lord's Prayer
Ⓓ Hail Mary

12. Which early Christian writer described the Eucharist as 'the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ'?

Ⓐ Ignatius of Antioch
Ⓑ Clement of Alexandria
Ⓒ Tertullian
Ⓓ Origen

13. In the early church, which of the following was a common practice associated with baptism?

Ⓐ Catechesis
Ⓑ Immediate ordination
Ⓒ A pilgrimage to Jerusalem
Ⓓ Direct entrance into monastic life

14. What was the primary location for Christian worship gatherings before the construction of dedicated church buildings?

Ⓐ Synagogues
Ⓑ Private homes
Ⓒ Public temples
Ⓓ Open fields

15. Which of the following is a prayer attributed to the early Christian martyr Polycarp?

Ⓐ Trisagion Hymn
Ⓑ Prayer at Martyrdom
Ⓒ Hymn of the Cherubim
Ⓓ Eucharistic Doxology

Answer key: Worship & Liturgy Origins Quiz

Each answer has a short explanation and the Bible passage to read.

1. **C. A communal meal symbolizing fellowship and love**

The 'agape feast' was a communal meal that fostered fellowship and unity among early Christians, often including the Eucharist.

2. **B. Apse**

The apse, typically located at the eastern end of the basilica, housed the altar and clergy during services.

3. **D. Dying and rising with Christ**

Baptism symbolized dying and rising with Christ, marking the believer's entry into the Christian life.

4. **C. Sunday**

Early Christians chose Sunday for worship to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus, which occurred on the first day of the week.

5. **D. Meat**

The Eucharist traditionally included bread and wine, not meat, which was not used in this sacrament.

6. **B. The Didache**

The Didache offers insights into the structure and conduct of early Christian communities.

7. **A. Spiritual preparation**

Fasting before receiving the Eucharist was a practice to prepare oneself spiritually.

8. **A. It was a gathering space for catechumens**

The narthex served as a gathering space for catechumens and penitents who were not yet permitted to enter the main worship area.

9. **C. It is a hymn of praise during the Eucharistic prayer**

The 'Sanctus' is a hymn of praise that forms part of the Eucharistic prayer.

10. **D. Bishop or presbyter**

In the early church, the bishop or a designated presbyter typically administered baptism.

11. **C. The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer was central to early Christian worship.

12. **A. Ignatius of Antioch**
Ignatius of Antioch emphasized the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

13. **A. Catechesis**
In the early church, baptism was often accompanied by catechesis, a period of instruction in the Christian faith.

14. **B. Private homes**
Before the legalization of Christianity, early Christians primarily gathered in private homes, known as house churches.

15. **B. Prayer at Martyrdom**
The prayer of Polycarp at his martyrdom is a significant example of early Christian piety and liturgical expression.

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