

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#23. What is the reason our worship service is called a 'liturgy'?

The term has its roots in the Greek word 'leitourgia'. 'Liturgy' means 'work of the people'. The most important idea for us about liturgy is that there is a back and forth, interactive pattern of behavior between the leaders and the people. The idea of worship as liturgy is different than other sorts of public gatherings, especially gatherings which feature performers and a more passive audience. Our congregation is not an audience; we are all active participants in the liturgy.