

Getting Started

Describe the church you grew up in. What about it produced a sense of holiness for you? If your home church didn't produce that sense for you, describe a different church that you've experience that did.

Do you think people generally have a sense that they are entering holy space when they come into a church? What behavior informs your answer?

Why is (or isn't) it important to have a sense of holiness in church?

Into the Bible

Read Exodus 3:1-6. Why do you suppose Moses was supposed to take off his sandals?

What kind of modern practices might indicate that we believe we are on holy ground when we come into church?

According to Matthew 4:23-24, what does the presence of God look like?

When Jesus is present in Word and Sacrament, do you have the same sense that He has come 'with healing in His wings'? Why or why not?

Why do so many people refuse to accept the Lord's word for it that He is really present in the Divine Service? What makes 'feeling God's presence' somewhere other than church so appealing?

Consider Jesus' words in John 14:16-18. Where does the Holy Spirit live?

What, if anything, do you think about the Holy Spirit dwelling in you?

What difference might it make to you that the Holy Spirit is with you all the time? What difference might it make to think that everything you do is done in the presence of the holy because the Spirit is with you?

Digging Deeper

Having thought about the presence of God in the Divine Service, what one thing might you do differently next time you come to church?

In view of the Holy Spirit's presence in you, how might you think differently about the ordinary tasks of your life—mowing the lawn, vacuuming the carpet, going to work?