

Liturgical Patterns in Scripture

Genesis 1&2

- Call to Worship – (Gen. 1:28; 2:16-17)
- Response – Adam & Eve living in perfect obedience
- Communion – Tree of Life; God walking in the midst of the garden

Genesis 3

- Satan calls to the woman (Gen. 3:1)
- Response (Gen. 3:2 and onward)
- Communion broken and exile (3:23)

Genesis 11

- Call of man – (Gen. 11:3-4)
- The Lord responds in Judgment (11:5-8)
- Communion between man broken (11:9)

Exodus 19–24

- Gathering (at Mount Sinai) (19:1–3a)
- Calling (by God's Word) (19:3b–9)
- Cleansing (through sacrifice) (19:10–15)
- Mediated access (through an appointed prophet-priest) (19:16–25)
- Divine communication (Ten Commandments and Book of Covenant) (20:1–24:2)
- Consecration (promise of obedience) (24:3) Sacrifice (burnt and peace offerings) (24:4–5)
- Divine communication (Book of Covenant) (24:7)
- Cleansing (blood of burnt offerings and peace offerings sprinkled) (24:6, 8)
- Mediated access to God's presence (24:9–10)
- Fellowship meal (with God) (24:11)

2 Chronicles 5-8

- Gathering (at Mount Zion) (5:2-3)
- Cleansing (through sacrifice) (5:4–6)
- Mediated access (through priests) (5:7-10) Praise (with singing and music) (5:11–13)
- Glory of God fills the temple (5:14)
- Divine communication (Word of God through Solomon) (6:1–11)
- Prayer of intercession (by Solomon) (6:12–42)
- Fire and glory (from heaven) (7:1–2)
- Praise (bowing and thanking) (7:3)
- Cleansing/consecration (through sacrifice) (7:4–7)
- Meal (feast) (7:8–10)
- Blessing and dismissal (7:9–10)

Revelation

- Gathering around Christ (the church on earth) (Rev. 1-3)
- Call to worship (on earth and in heaven) (2–4)
- Confession/Repentance (sin in Christ's churches exposed) (2–3; 5:3–4)
- Cleansing (the Lamb who was slain) (5:5-7)
- Mediated access (the Lamb opens the scroll before God) (5:8)
- Praise (by angels and the whole creation) (5:9-14)
- Divine communication (God's Word opened and proclaimed in all the earth) (6:1–19:5)
- Response:
 - prayer (by the saints) (7:9-8:4; 11:15–18)
 - fire/glory (fills the temple) (8:5; 11:19; 15:58; 16:17–18)
 - praise (by the saints) (7:9-8:4; 19:1–5)
- Meal (19:6–10)
- Benediction (21–22)

The pattern in each of these can be simplified

- Call to Worship (through God's Word)
- Response (by faith and obedience, love and devotion) – song, prayer, Scripture, sermon
- Fellowship meal (union and communion with God)¹

¹ These patterns are taken or adapted from “Chapter 1: Worship on Earth as it is in Heaven” by Jonathan Gibson, from *Reformation Worship* by Jonathan Gibson and Mark Earngey.