



Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship

By Brett Scott Provance

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Today there is a rising tide of interest in worship and a renewed study of the church's heritage of liturgy. But as students quickly learn, there are numerous terms, texts and traditions for which regular dictionaries and even theological dictionaries are no help. The *Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship* is a quick-reference guide for students engaged in readings and lectures as well as for leaders of worship and liturgy who want to renew, check or expand their knowledge. The range of topics includes

- practices, such as altar call and benediction
- rites, such as baptism and Eucharist
- symbols, such as incense and dove
- texts, such as *Apostolic Constitutions* and Book of Common Prayer
- gestures, such as kneeling and sign of the cross
- vestments, such as alb and robe
- musical terms, such as *a cappella* and *Agnus Dei*
- observances, such as All Saints' Day and Easter
- architectural features, such as apse and sacristy

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Review

"Provance has done us all a favor by listing more than six hundred of the more commonly used terms associated with liturgy and worship, including many that are infrequently used. A four-page bibliography tops it off, enough to get you started into a more serious study. Best of all, this book really does fit in your pocket, right next to your cell phone and change!" (Larry Sibley, *Reformed Worship*, Issue 96, 2010)

"Anyone beginning to explore liturgy and worship will find this resource a helpful complement to deeper research." (Jamie Arpin-Ricci, *Christian Week*, March 2010)

"One barrier to deeper understanding of historic worship practices is the complex terminology that these practices generated. This volume is a convenient place to begin the search for not only definitions, but also for empathetic and discerning understanding." (Rev. Dr. John D. Witvliet, director, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary)

About the Author

Brett S. Provance (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University) is a writer and Associate Professor of Humanities at California Baptist University.

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