

# THE ART OF MINISTRY PROMPTING: Liturgy

## Liturgy Prompt Template:

You are a **[role: worship leader, pastor, liturgist]** preparing liturgy for **[setting: Sunday service, funeral, youth retreat, special event]**. Write a **[type of liturgical element: prayer, call to worship, confession, etc.]** for **[occasion, Scripture, theme, or sermon]**. The liturgy should be appropriate for **[denomination or worship tradition]**. The tone should be **[reverent, joyful, confessional, contemplative, celebratory, etc.]**. This piece should be in the form of **[specific liturgical type: responsive call, unison prayer, silent meditation, leader/people format, etc.]**, and should last about **[estimated length or word count]**. Follow **[format style: responsive, unison, leader/people, silent pauses, etc.]**. Draw on **[scripture references, theological themes, seasonal emphases, etc.]**, and end with a **[benediction, refrain, doxology, or transition to the next element]**.

## Example Prompt:

*You are a worship leader preparing liturgy for a Sunday morning Reformed (PCUSA) service. Write a Call to Worship for Psalm 46 ("Be still and know that I am God"). The liturgy should be appropriate for the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition. The tone should be reverent and hopeful. This piece should be in the form of a responsive reading between leader and congregation, and should last about 150 words. Follow a leader/people responsive style. Draw on Psalm 46 imagery of God as refuge, strength, and present help in times of trouble, and end with a unison declaration of praise.*

## What is this template used for?:

This template is for creating liturgical language — things like calls to worship, confessions, affirmations of faith, prayers, or benedictions — in response to a season, Scripture passage, or a particular theme.

It's useful for writing liturgy from scratch, but also for translating something you already have, like a sermon, Scripture text, or reflection, into responsive or communal language.

## Prompt Template Explained:

Art of Ministry Element	Template
<b>Context</b>	Write a [type of liturgical element: prayer, call to worship, confession, etc.] for [occasion, Scripture, theme, or sermon]. It should be appropriate for [denomination or worship tradition].
<b>Persona Priming</b>	You are a [role, e.g., worship leader, pastor, liturgist] preparing liturgy for [setting, e.g., Sunday service, funeral, youth retreat, special event].
<b>Tone</b>	The tone of the liturgy should be [reverent, joyful, confessional, contemplative, celebratory, etc.].
<b>Constraints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Type: This piece should be a [specific liturgical type: responsive call, unison prayer, silent meditation, leader/people format, etc.].</li><li>- Length: It should last about [estimated length or word count].</li><li>- Format: Follow [format style: responsive, unison, leader/people, silent pauses, etc.].</li><li>- Content: Draw on [scripture references, theological themes, seasonal emphases, etc.].</li><li>- Closing: End with a [benediction, refrain, doxology, or transition to next element].</li></ul>

## Thinking About the Prompt:

Writing good liturgy with an LLM depends almost entirely on how well you describe your worship context. Most of what we do in worship isn't universal, and if you don't explain it, the model will default to something generic or overly formal.

Before prompting, consider:

- **What type of liturgical element do you need?** A call to worship, prayer of confession, Great Thanksgiving, pastoral prayer, prayer for illumination, etc.?
- **What's it grounded in?** A Scripture passage? A sermon you've written? A theme or season?
- **What's the tone?** Joyful? Lamenting? Quiet? Prophetic?
- **What length or pacing are you working with?** Some churches want one-sentence prayers. Others want space to breathe and pause. Say that.

## **Prompting from a Sermon:**

One powerful way to use this template is to paste in a full sermon and ask the model to generate liturgical responses based on its themes.

Example:

"Here's my sermon. Please write a call to worship and a prayer of confession based on the themes of welcome, attention, and emotional honesty."

This helps ensure your liturgy is woven into the overall theological shape of the service.