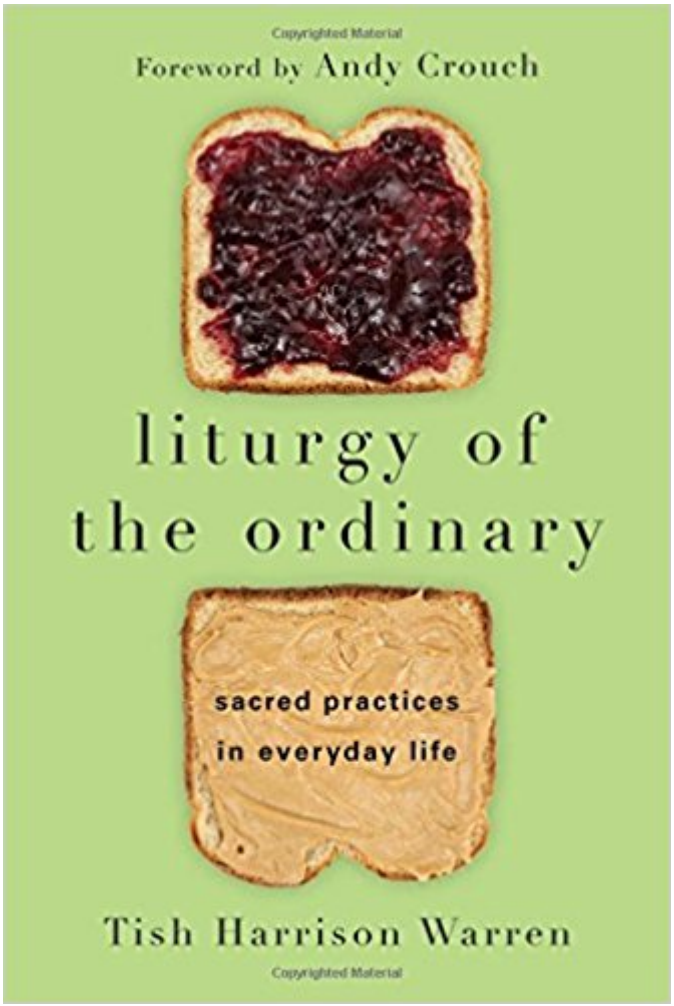
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Liturgy Of The Ordinary: Sacred Practices In Everyday Life



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Synopsis

In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God’s presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us. Each chapter looks at somethingÃ¢â ¬â ¢making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keysÃ¢â ¬â ¢that the author does every day. Drawing from the diversity of her life as a campus minister, Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, Tish Harrison Warren opens up a practical theology of the everyday. Each activity is related to a spiritual practice as well as an aspect of our Sunday worship. Come and discover the holiness of your every day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"To live in the vision that Warren is offeringÃ¢â ¬â ¢to find sacredness in the everyday practices of lifeÃ¢â ¬â ¢will require that we engage with these and other institutional realities in our midst. The small stuff, the daily habitsÃ¢â ¬â ¢yes. And we must allow these small, daily habits to help us reimagine some of the big stuffÃ¢â ¬â ¢otherwise it will just be small enclaves of quotidian mysterylovers within the larger structures that inhibit us from receiving the gift of the ordinary from God’s hand and being shaped to seek the good of others in this world." (Kristen Deede Johnson, Comment Magazine, December 1, 2016)"Warren’s message flies in the face of our culture’s love of distraction and pursuit of extreme sensation. We would do well to slow down for a bit and hear her out. . . . Liturgy of the Ordinary isn’t the first book written in praise of prosaic moments, and Warren’s

isn’t the first voice to counsel slowing down. But Warren admirably explores these themes from both a theological and practical perspective. Her words can help us grasp what my grandfather learned through a lifetime of commonsense faithÃ¢â ¬â ¢and a lot of sweeping: The ’new life into which we’re being baptized is lived out in days, hours, and minutes. God is forming us into a new people. And the place of that formation is in the small moments of today.’" (Jamie A. Hughes, Christianity Today, December 2016)"Sunday liturgy shapes our faith through its mix of prayers, songs, Scriptures, and sermons. We hear from and are shaped by God through these practices. Under Tish Harrison Warren’s insightful gaze, our seemingly ’boring’ daily routines become a liturgy of their ownÃ¢â ¬â ¢calling us to confession and community, Scripture and Sabbath, baptism and embodiment. Some spiritual directors listen for God’s invitations in our prayers. Tish discerns God’s invitations in our everyday life. She reminds us that God intends to speak, to invite, and to transform us in every situation we find ourselves in. Tish confronts us with the reality that God will not be confined to 1.5 hours on a Sunday. She is the prophet and pastor that our churches desperately need. At least this harried working dad needs her voice. I am approaching the daily routines of housework and homemaking with my wife and kids with newfound expectation and hope." (Gregory Jao, vice president & director of campus engagement, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship)"Sometimes the difference between drudgery and epiphany is just seeing things from the right angle, a frame that reframes everything, even the mundane. This marvelous little book is that certain slant of light that illuminates the everyday as an arena of sanctification, where the Spirit makes us holy in ways we might miss. You don’t need more to do in a day, Warren shows. Instead, reframe the everyday as an extension of worship, and folding the laundry, washing dishes, and even commuting become habitations of the Spirit." (James K. A. Smith, author of Desiring the Kingdom and You Are What You Love)"This beautiful book will brush the dust from your dingy days and reveal the extraordinary that is to be found in the ordinary. No mundane daily task will be the same once these pages open your eyes to how the work of your hands reflects the ways of the Creator and the rhythms of eternity." (Karen Swallow Prior, author of Booked and Fierce Convictions)"In this moment in culture, when much feels complicated and shallow, Tish Harrison Warren offers a beautiful and life-giving narrative: a way toward the ordinary sacred. This book is gentle in its simplicity and rich in wisdom. I wish I had read it a decade ago." (Micha Boyett, author of Found)"If Christianity is to retain its witness in our frenetic and fragmented age, it must take root not only in the thoughts and emotions but also in the daily lives and even bodies of those who call Christ Lord. Tish Harrison Warren has beautifully ’enfleshed’ the concepts and doctrines of our faith into quotidian moments, showing how every hour of each day can become an occasion of grace and renewal. If you want to know how

faith matters amid messy kitchens, unfinished manuscripts, marital spats, and unmade beds, Liturgy of the Ordinary will train your eyes to see holy beauty all around." (Katelyn Beaty, print managing editor, Christianity Today)"Tish Harrison Warren is both a priest and a mother who changes poopy diapers. She embodies the high calling of the church and the high calling of the home and in those dual vocations has written a book of tremendous importance. Tish writes with candor, insight, and intelligence about the sacredness of quotidian living. The highest compliment I can offer is that her book inspired me to go back to my dirty sink and my screaming kids with a renewed sense of purpose." (Andrea Palpant Dilley, contributing editor, Christianity Today)"Tish Harrison Warren shows us what it looks like to be shaped and formed, in a book as down-to-earth and inviting as it is wise. I don’t know of any book that’s more winsome in commending a life lived in sync with the church calendar." (Wesley Hill, assistant professor of biblical studies, Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania)"Big gifts often come in small packagesÃ¢â ¬â ¢sometimes even a plain cardboard box. Tish Harrison Warren has a talent for unpacking these gifts that God has placed all around us." (Michael Horton, professor of theology, Westminster Seminary California, author of Ordinary)"With the writer’s (and indeed the poet’s) gift of slowing down and paying the best kind of attention, Tish Harrison Warren connects the moments of an ordinary day with the extraordinary pattern of classical Christian worship. . . . With its laugh-out-loud moments and moving descriptions of a life lived imperfectly but well, this is a great gift of a bookÃ¢â ¬â ¢an ordinary book, in one way, but also not ordinary at all." (Andy Crouch, from the foreword)"God’s life and kingdom surround us on every side. But how do we find this reality and derive our life from God’sÃ¢â ¬â ¢like a branch does from the vine? In Liturgy of the Ordinary, Tish Harrison Warren reveals simple, grounded, and beautifully repetitive practices in the small things of our workaday lives and the rhythms of liturgy. Tish gets it. If you let her be your guide, you too will get it: a life in God in your everyday life." (Todd Hunter, bishop, Anglican Church in North America, author of Giving Church Another Chance)"Liturgy of the Ordinary is a baptism of vision. Tish Harrison Warren warmly and wisely helps us find God in the strangest of places: standing at the sink, sitting in traffic, stooping to make a bed. As it turns out, our everyday habits are imbued with the holy possibility of becoming new people in Christ." (Jen Pollock Michel, author of Teach Us to Want)

Tish Harrison Warren writes regularly for The Well, and her writing has also been featured in Her.meneutics, Churchleaders.com, Anglicanpastor.com, Christ and Pop Culture, Art House America, Mere Orthodoxy, Christianity Today, and the White Horse Inn. After seven years in campus ministry with InterVarsity Graduate and Faculty Ministries at Vanderbilt and UT-Austin, she

now works with InterVarsity Women in the Academy and Professions. Warren has a masters in theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is a priest in the Anglican Church in North America, serving at Resurrection South Austin. She and her husband live in Austin and have two young daughters.Andy Crouch (MDiv, Boston University School of Theology) is executive editor of Christianity Today and the author of books such as Culture Making and Playing God. Andy serves on the governing boards of Fuller Theological Seminary and Equitas Group, a philanthropic organization focused on ending child exploitation in Haiti and Southeast Asia. He is also a senior fellow of International Justice Mission’s Institute for Biblical Justice. His writing has appeared in Time, the Wall Street Journal and several editions of Best Christian Writing and Best Spiritual Writing. Crouch served as executive producer for the documentary films Where Faith and Culture Meet and Round Trip, as well as the multi-year project This Is Our City, which featured documentary video, reporting and essays about Christians seeking the flourishing of their cities. He also sits on the editorial board for Books & Culture and was editor-in-chief of re:generation quarterly. He also spent ten years as a campus minister with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Harvard University. A classically trained musician who draws on pop, folk, rock, jazz and gospel, Crouch has led musical worship for congregations of five to twenty thousand. He lives with his family in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

As a stay-at-home-mom I have struggled so much with the idea that my life should be more radical as a Christian or that I would feel more satisfied if I were out doing something for Jesus rather than folding my 12th load of laundry this week. Something about the way this author talks about a day in her own, ordinary life caught my attention and caused me to think in a new way about how the mundane becomes important with God. This book challenges the idea that following Christ must only be bold and dramatic and has reminded me that God breathes life into my ordinary. I find myself thinking about it as I wash dishes or look for lost shoes, wondering how God might be present and at work even now.Warren’s writing is accessible for anyone and is certainly not written just for moms - it just happened to hit me in this season. Funny at just the right moments, Liturgy of the Ordinary provides plenty of food-for-thought even for the experienced theologian. (In fact, the foreword is written by Andy Crouch which tells you this book isn’t fluff!) My copy is underlined and highlighted to return to again and again. I’ll be buying copies for friends this Christmas.

It’s a problem for so many of us, Christian and otherwise: Everywhere we look, it seems everyone is looking for that one mountaintop experience from which we will never come down. We seek identity

in what we imagine will be "cool," visible, prestigious, glamorous, or large-scale, world-changing work. But true holiness, the realest things of life, happen in everyday moments. In her wonderful, funny, vulnerable, honest, and imminently approachable book, Tish Harrison Warren reminds us to look directly in front of us for the things that matter, to seek holiness and connection in the everyday, in the routine, in the things that happen to us every day. The structure is brilliant: Each chapter intersects a moment in a completely ordinary day, whether it’s making the bed, sitting in traffic, checking email, calling a friend, or drinking tea, and the author brings us into the presence of God as He intersects with everyday life in each of these moments.This has been a big year, and in a world that has felt so overwhelmingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •and that has presented us with questions and challenges that seem even bigger than thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •it’s so refreshing to find a picture of Christian faith that resides not on the mountaintop but in routine simplicity and a focus on watching, paying attention, and listening closely for the voice of God. This is a wonderful book.

In Liturgy of the Ordinary, Tish Harrison Warren weaves together unexceptional moments from a normal day with elements from the liturgical life of the Church. In doing so, she both shows the spiritual significance of our daily lives and provides a winsome apologia for the liturgy without ever making an argument. Whether being marked in baptism, formed in our daily rituals, caring for and worshiping God in our bodies, confessing our sins, recognizing the interconnections of humanity in the preparation of our food, taking a Sabbath rest, or observing the liturgical year’s feasts and fasts, we learn that our inner life is not separate from our corporate life and the Church’s wisdom speaks to who we are in our "real life."What Warren has written here is in the tradition of Brother Lawrence’s practicing the presence of God, St. Ignatius’ finding God in all things, and St. ThÃƒÂ©rÃƒÂ¨se of Lisieux’ "Little Way." Just as St. Benedict sought to require of his monks "nothing harsh or burdensome," Warren’s book takes for granted that most of us are not spiritual giants; we are simply ordinary Christians who are working out our lives in the grace of God.Gracefully written and accessible to a wide readership, it is an excellent introduction to the sort of spiritual life that is aware that nothing in our lives is without spiritual significance and there is nothing we engage in that God is not interested in using for our transformation.

Every couples months a new Christian book will rise up and sweep through Evangelical circles. It usually calls for an incredibly spiritual life that makes us feel terrible about what we are and makes us wish we could be better. My main problem with these books is that they often are unhelpful and lead us to believe that we have to be hyper spiritual. We are told to seek after these

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“mountain topÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• experiences where God powerfully moves in our lives. This is a good desire and we should be thankful for these moments when they come. If we are honest, we will admit that these types of amazing experiences do not happen often.Liturgy of the Ordinary: is not that kind of book. This is one of my favorite books that I have read this year. The main thing that I loved about this book is how Tish revealed the beauty and importance of ordinary moments. Most of our days will be spent on ordinary, and often times boring, tasks. Instead of seeing these tasks as hinderances to our walk with Christ, Tish argues that these daily habits fuel and transform our spiritual lives. She blows up the idea that there is any division between that which is sacred and secular in our lives. Instead she presents a vision where every thing that we do each day can help make us more like Christ.The book starts at the beginning of her day and takes us through several things that we do each day, brushing your teeth, drinking tea, fighting with your spouse. She then shows that each of these daily experiences are the foundations of us living out our faith. I found myself profoundly impacted and challenged by this simple idea. It made me consider the things that I do every day and what the condition of my heart is as I engage them. No longer is my day filled with annoyances I must endure in order to get to the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“real stuff.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Instead IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m beginning to see every moment of the day as opportunities to either glorify God or something else.

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