

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Athens in the sixth century B.C.E., theater-going was a far cry from what it is today. Everybody went. Imagine something that topped the ratings of Oprah, the Superbowl, and American Idol combined.

Drama was so important that free play tickets were a social safety net entitlement for the poor – a stunning affirmation that man does not live by bread alone.

The main course in this sumptuous repast was tragedy. A few comedies were thrown in to relieve the intensity. Audiences left the performances exhausted from emoting, but uplifted by what they had experienced.

Tragedies are still performed today, of course, including Greek ones. But not very many writers write them any more, and not very many people go to see them any more. What made Athenian tragedy so compelling to ancient audiences? What has been lost by the dearth of tragedy in our own time? What caused this decline? And, what does all this have to do with religion?

Come, let us live in the questions again today. Come, let us worship together.