Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction: The Four Beasts of Revelation and the Gospels	xvii

Part One

The Four Beasts: The Gospels and Early Christian Worship

1. Beginnings: Assemblies, "Gospel," Gospels	3
Mutual Coherence, Not Panliturgism	4
What Is the Gospel?	11
Cultural Context for "the Gospel"	16
The Death of Paul and the Origin of a First Gospel	21
And Then, the Four	29
Second-Century Reception of the Four	32
2. The Gospels and Meal Meetings	39
Christianity as a Meal Fellowship	40
Meals and Diversity of Practice	43
Luke and Paul and the Meal Meetings	47
Mark, John, and Matthew on Meals	51
Eucharistic Origins	55
3. Mark in Detail: "There You Will See Him"	61
Secrets Revealed	62
Houses Reformed	68
Circles Constructed	75
Mark as a Ring Composition	81
Mark on Worship: The Resurrection Appearance	87

Contents

4. Matthew and Luke in Detail: Word and Meal in the Churches	93
Matthew: Reforming Discourses for the Assemblies	96
Matthew on Worship	104
Luke: Meals on the Journey and the Assemblies	109
Luke on Worship	118
Beginnings and Endings	121
5. John in Detail: Signs and Discourses on Sunday	125
The Fourth Book	125
Assembly in the Johannine Structure	130
Sunday: John on Worship	139
The Four Beasts	145

PART TWO The Beasts on Our Sundays: Assembly according to the Gospel

6. Word, Sacrament, and Assembly according to the Gospel	
The Gospels in Assemblies Today	153
Assembly according to the Gospel	156
Houses, Feedings, Appearances	160
Preaching, Eucharist, and Baptism according to the Gospel	166
Four Voices for Reform	173
7. Leadership according to the Gospel	177
Leaders Criticized	177
Mark on Scribes and Rulers	181
Ministry: Leadership according to the Gospel	186
8. The Reforming Gospels: Renewing the Biblical-Liturgical Movement	191
The Bible and the Liturgical Movement	191
The Gospels and the Biblical-Liturgical Movement in Our Time	198
The Four Beasts Again, Not Tame	207
Index of Biblical Texts	211
Index of Names and Subjects	216