

The Mass; Our Participation as a People of God in the Work of God

In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people of God's own possession and a royal Priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him and so that they may learn to offer their very selves. They should, moreover, take care to show this by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration. (CCC 1069 & GIRM 95)

GATHERING – INTRODUCTORY RITES (establish communion and dispose ourselves to encounter Christ).

- Sign of the Cross – Invokes God's (Trinitarian) Presence, confesses him as Lord
- Confiteor - Examination of Conscience-Repentance of our sins
- Lord Have Mercy - Implore his mercy
- Gloria – We profess his glorification
- Collect - gathering the community in one prayer to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit

STORYTELLING – LITURGY OF THE WORD (Christ is present in the proclamation and the preaching)

- 1st Reading – From Old Testament (thematically connected to the Gospel Reading)
- Responsorial Psalm – Our literal response to God's Word (message) of the 1st Reading
- 2nd Reading – New Testament (typically an Epistle, letter)
- Gospel Reading – through their acclamations the faithful acknowledge and confess that Christ is present and is speaking to them and stand as they listen to the reading.
- Homily (Greek for "Explanation")
- Profession of Faith – purpose is to honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith.
- Prayer of the Faithful – exercise our baptismal Priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all.

RITUAL ACTION/RESPONSE – LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST – spiritually join ourselves at the altar of sacrifice

- Preparation/Presentation of the Gifts (bread, wine, alms) and join with Christ together at the altar
- Eucharistic Prayer – Prayer of Thanksgiving/ Sanctification; joined with Christ (Head) and us as His Body
- Communion Rite – the Lord's command, his Body and Blood received as spiritual food
- Lord's Prayer – Prayer to the Father in Heaven
- Fraction Rite – The gesture of breaking bread done by Christ at the Last Supper
- Lamb of God – asking God to have mercy on us
- Lord I am not worthy – a personal recognition of our unworthiness

COMMUNION RITE - SENDING FORTH

- We receive Jesus, body, blood, soul, and divinity – Our spiritual nourishment – we receive back what we have given - multiplied
- The Mass (missa) Latin for "sending" Go, and make disciples of all nations, teach them, baptize. Sharing God's love and forgiveness of sins with the rest of the world. To be his witness, by fulfilling God's will in our daily lives.

Sacred silence is also a part of the celebration. Its nature, however, depends on the moment when it occurs in the different parts of the celebration. For in the Penitential Act and again after the invitation to pray, individuals recollect themselves; whereas after a reading or after the Homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to him. Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner.

The Bible, The Jewish Roots, and the Mass

Introductory Rites

- 1. Procession**
 - a. Sign of the Cross (Ezek 9:4; Rev 7:2; 22:4)
 - b. Procession of Moses to Tabernacle (Exod 33:7-9)
- 2. Greeting**
 - a. Jesus Greets the Apostles on Easter Sunday (Luke 24:36)
- 3. Penitential Rite**
- 4. Confiteor ("I Confess...")**
 - a. Jewish Prayer over Sacrifice (Edersheim, *The Temple*, 82)
 - b. Beating of Breast: Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)
- 5. Kyrie ("Lord, Have Mercy...")**
 - a. Jesus Heals the Blind (Matt 9:27-30)
 - b. Jesus Opens the Eyes of the Blind and they Follow Him (Matt 20:30-31)
- 6. Gloria ("Glory to God in the Highest...")**
 - a. Song of Angelic Hosts at the Nativity (Luke 2:13-14)
- 7. Opening Prayer (Preface)**

Liturgy of the Word

- 1. First Reading (Old Testament)**
 - a. Book of the Law Read in Presence of all the People (Deut 31:9-13)
- 2. Responsorial Psalm (Book of Psalms)**
 - a. Singing of Psalms in Temple (Edersheim 132-33; Mishnah, *Tamid* 7:4)
- 3. Second Reading (New Testament)**
 - a. Reading of New Testament in the Liturgy (Rev 1:3)
- 4. Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation**
 - a. Heavenly Alleluia (Rev 19:1, 3, 4, 6)
- 5. Gospel**
 - a. Reading of the Torah: all people stand (Ezra 8:1-6)
- 6. Homily**
 - a. Levites Help the People to Understand (Ezra 8:7-8)
- 7. Profession of Faith**
 - a. Jewish *Shema'*: recited daily (Deut 6:4-9)
- 8. General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful)**
 - a. Intercessions for All (1 Tim 2:1-8)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- 1. Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts (Offertory)**
 - a. Jewish Blessing over Bread and Wine (Mishnah, *Berakhoth* 6:5; *Pesahim* 6:1)
 - b. Mystery of Divinity and Humanity (2 Pet 1:4)
 - d. Incensing of the Altar, Priest, and People (Rev 5:8; 8:3-5)
- 2. The Anaphora (Eucharistic Prayer I, II, III, or IV)**
- 3. Incipit ("The Lord be with You")**
- 4. Sursum Corda ("Lift up your hearts")**
 - a. Jewish Talmud: Heart Should be lifted to Heavenly Temple (*Yebamoth* 105b)
- 5. Preface (variable)**
- 6. Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy")**
 - a. Isaiah in Heavenly Temple: Song of Seraphim (Isa 6:1-9)
 - b. St. John in Heavenly Temple: Song of 4 Creatures (Rev 4:8-9)
 - c. Hallel *Todah* Psalm: Messiah comes to His Temple (Ps 118:25-29)
 - d. Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matt 21:1-9)
- 7. Epiclesis (Calling Down of Holy Spirit)**
 - a. Fire From Heaven Consumes Sacrifice (Lev 9:23-24; 2 Chron 7:1-2)
- 8. Institution Narrative (Words of Consecration)**
 - a. Jesus at the Last Supper (Matt 26; Luke 22; 1 Cor 11)
 - b. "In Remembrance": Passover Sacrifice (Exod 12:14)
- 9. Mysterium Fidei ("Mystery of Faith")**
 - a. The Mystery of Our Religion (1 Tim 3:16)
- 10. Anamnesis (of Paschal Mystery)**
- 11. Intercessions**
 - a. Prayers of the Saints in Heavenly Liturgy (cf. Rev 5:8-9)
 - b. Prayers for the Dead (cf. 2 Macc 12:39-45)
- 12. Per Ipsum ("Through Him...")**
 - a. Heavenly Doxology (cf. Rev 5:13-14)
- 13. Communion Rite**
- 14. Our Father**
 - a. Taught by Jesus (Matt 6:9-13)
 - b. Parallels: Jewish *Kaddish* and *Amidah* (Idelsohn, *Jewish Liturgy*, 307-308)
- 15. Doxology ("For the kingdom...")**
 - a. Prayer of David before Temple Bldg. (1 Chron 29:10-11)
- 16. Sign of Peace:**
 - a. St. Paul and the "Kiss of Peace" (2 Cor 12:12-13)
- 17. Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God")**
 - a. Proclamation of John the Baptist (John 1:29)
- 18. Communion**
 - a. "Behold, the Lamb of God" (John 1:29)
 - b. The Healing of the Centurion's Servant (Matt 8:5-13)
 - b. The Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:8-9; cf. 5:6)
- 19. Prayer after Communion**

Concluding Rite

- 1. Final Greeting and Blessing** (cf. Num 6:22-26)
- 2. Dismissal** (*Ite, Missa est*)