



The Order of the Mass

On Sundays we gather as a community to celebrate the Eucharist. Although there are many parts to this celebration, it is one unified act of worship in which we give thanks and praise to God.



1. The Introductory Rites

In the Introductory Rites, we gather together and prepare ourselves to celebrate the Eucharist.

1. Entrance Chant

We stand and sing a hymn. The priest, along with others who will serve at the Mass, process to the altar.

2. Greeting

We make the Sign of the Cross. The priest welcomes us. The priest prays that God will give us blessings in the Mass. There are other similar greetings from which the priest can also choose.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

3. The Penitential Act

We pray to God to have mercy on us, with these or similar words.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in
what I have failed to do,
(We strike our breast as we say the following
two lines.)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord Have Mercy

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

4. Gloria

On most Sundays, we praise God by praying or singing the Gloria.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

5. Collect (Opening Prayer)

The priest invites us to pray. We pause for a moment of silent prayer that helps us remember that we are in the presence of God. Then the priest says a prayer and we respond.

Priest: Let us pray. . . .

People: Amen.



II. The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word is the part of the Mass when we hear God's Word proclaimed. Hearing and reflecting on God's Word helps make us ready to receive the Body and Blood of Christ during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

1. First Reading

We listen closely to a reading from the Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles. At the end of the reading, we say:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

2. Responsorial Psalm

The cantor or reader sings or says the verses of a psalm from the Old Testament, and we give the response.

3. Second Reading

Again we listen closely to a Scripture reading. This reading is from the letters in the New Testament or the Acts of the Apostles. At the end of the reading, we say:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

4. Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation

We stand for the Gospel Acclamation. On most Sundays, we sing, "Alleluia!" which means "Praise the Lord."

5. Gospel Reading

We listen closely to a reading from the Gospels proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Before we hear the Gospel reading we say:

Priest or deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest or deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to . . .

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

We all make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips, and heart.

After the reading we respond:

Priest or deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Homily

The priest or deacon talks to us about the Scriptures and their meaning for our lives.

7. Profession of Faith

We stand and profess our faith by proclaiming either the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(We bow as we say the following two lines.)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

8. Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

We pray for the needs of the Church and people everywhere.

III. The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the core of the Mass. The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar and we give thanks to God. The gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, and those who are prepared to do so receive Holy Communion.

1. Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

Altar servers prepare the altar for the gifts, and members of the assembly bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. We usually sing during this preparation.

The priest holds the bread above the altar and prays:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

People: Blessed be God forever.

The priest holds the chalice filled with wine above the altar and prays:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

People: Blessed be God for ever.

The priest then prays and we ask God to accept our gifts:

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

2. Prayer over the Offerings

The priest prays over the gifts of bread and wine, and we respond "Amen."

3. The Eucharistic Prayer

This is the Church's great prayer of thanksgiving. The priest leads the prayer, and the assembly prays the responses.

Preface Dialogue

We give thanks to God by singing or saying:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

Then the priest sings or says the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Acclamation (Holy, Holy, Holy)

With the priest we sing or say:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The priest then praises God, and prays for the needs of the Church. Then he recalls what Jesus did and said at the Last Supper.

Consecration

Taking the bread the priest prays:

Priest: Take this, all of you, and eat of it,
for this is my Body,
which will be given up for you.

The priest holds up the consecrated bread, or Host, which, through the priest's word and actions and the power of the Holy Spirit, is now the Body of Christ.

The priest takes the wine and says the words of Jesus:

Priest: Take this, all of you, and drink from it,
for this is the chalice of my Blood,
the Blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which will be poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

The priest holds up the consecrated wine, which through the priest's words and actions and the power of the Holy Spirit, is now the Blood of Christ.

Memorial Acclamation

Priest: The mystery of faith.

People: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. (Other similar acclamations can also be used.)

The priest asks God the Father to remember the Church throughout the world and help us all grow in love and unity. He finishes by holding up the Body and Blood of Christ and singing or praying:

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

4. The Communion Rite

The Communion Rite is the name for the part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist that begins with the Lord's Prayer. During the Communion Rite, those who are prepared can receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. The word *communion* means "unity" or "oneness."

The Lord's Prayer

We pray to God the Father with the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

After the priest prays a prayer to grant us peace and freedom from distress, we pray:

For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.

Sign of Peace

We are invited to share a Sign of Peace with one another.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace.

The Breaking of the Bread (Lamb of God)

The priest breaks the Host. During this we sing or say:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,
grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

The priest holds up the Body of Christ and invites us to receive Holy Communion.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People: Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Communion

The priest receives Holy Communion. We then receive Holy Communion:

Priest: The Body of Christ.

People: Amen.

We may also be invited to receive the Blood of Christ:

Priest: The Blood of Christ.

People: Amen.

We return to our seats and pray quietly, giving thanks for the gift of the Eucharist.

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays a prayer after everyone has received Holy Communion. We respond "Amen."



IV. The Concluding Rites

We are blessed and dismissed by the priest.

1. Greeting

The priest invites us to pray.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

2. Final Blessing

The priest offers us a final blessing.

Priest: May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

3. Dismissal

The priest or deacon dismisses us, inviting us to serve God.

Priest or deacon: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

People: Thanks be to God.

We sing a closing hymn and the priest and other ministers process out.



Eucharist Key Words

B

Baptism the sacrament that gives us new life in Christ and makes us members of the Church

C

Concluding Rites the final part of the Mass, during which we are blessed and sent forth

Confirmation the sacrament that seals us with the gift of the Holy Spirit and strengthens our relationship with Jesus and the Church

consecration when the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and the actions of the priest

creed a statement of our beliefs

D

Dismissal the part of Mass where the priest or deacon dismisses us, inviting us to serve God

E

Eucharist the sacrament that nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

Eucharistic Prayer the Church's great prayer of thanksgiving to the Father. It includes the consecration of the bread and wine. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, at the consecration, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

G

genuflect to touch one knee to the floor as an act of adoration in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist

H

Holy Communion the Body and Blood of Jesus, which we receive in the Eucharist

hymn a song we sing during the Mass

I

Introductory Rites the beginning part of the Mass, during which we are welcomed and we pray for God's mercy

K

Kingdom of God the power of God's love reigning over the world and our lives

L

Liturgy of the Eucharist the second main part of the Mass, during which we praise and thank God, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus, and we receive Holy Communion

Liturgy of the Word the first main part of the Mass, during which the Word of God is proclaimed

M

Mass the celebration of the Eucharist

P

parable a type of story told to teach important lessons

Penitential Act a prayer in the Mass in which the Church community asks for God's forgiveness

S

sacraments seven holy signs that Jesus gave to the Church, which give us a share in God's life. The Seven Sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, which begin our lives in the Church

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