

The Mass – The Divine Liturgy – The Sacred Liturgy

Session 1.

Text: Edward Sri, **A Biblical Walk Through the Mass**, Ascension Press, 2011

Some excellent additional references:

1. Josef A. Jungmann, S.J., **The Mass of the Roman Rite**, Benziger Brothers, 1959.
2. Josef A. Jungmann, S.J., **The Early Liturgy to the Time of Gregory the Great**, University of Notre Dame Press, 1959.
3. Robert Cabié, **History of the Mass**, Pastoral Press, 1990.
4. Joseph Husslein, S.J., **The Mass of the Apostles – The Eucharist: Its Nature, Earliest History and Present Applications**, P.J. Kennedy & Sons, 1929.
5. Romano Guardini, **Meditations Before Mass**, Sophia Institute Press, 1939.
6. Romano Guardini, **Sacred Signs**, Pio Decimo Press, 1956. The entire text of this book can be downloaded for free from: <http://www.ewtn.com/library/LITURGY/SACRSIGN.TXT>
7. A downloadable PDF of the Order of Mass is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/order-of-mass.pdf>

Some preliminary questions:

- What is the Mass/Divine Liturgy/Sacred Liturgy?
- What does the word liturgy mean?
- Where were early Christian liturgies celebrated?
- When was the early Christian liturgies celebrated?
- Who was the *priest* for these liturgies?
- Who was the bishop/priest/deacon?
- Name the three most important pieces of furniture in the church today.

The Liturgy Today

1. Introductory Rites (Week 1 -2)
2. The Liturgy of the Word (Week 2 – 3)
3. The Liturgy of the Eucharist (Weeks 3, 4, 5)
4. Concluding Rites (Week 5 – 6)

1. Introductory Rites

- Entrance Procession
- Veneration of the Altar
- Sign of the Cross
- Greeting
- Penitential Rite
- Gloria
- Collect

The Sign of the Cross

A prayer in itself.

Ezekiel 8:3-17: Abominations in the Temple

Ezekiel 9:1-8: The "Sign" sets the righteous apart. The sign is the Hebrew letter tau written on the forehead. In cursive Hebrew, tau is written like an "'X".

By making the Sign of the Cross we express our desire to be loyal to God. We do not desire to live according to the standards of this world, but to have our whole lives marked by Christ's cross.

We also invoke the power of God's Name:

Psalms 54:2 - "O God, by your name save me."

Philippians 2:10 - "... at the name of Jesus every knee should bend..."

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

John 14:13 - "And whatever you ask in my name, I will do..."

When we make the Sign of the Cross we:

- Acknowledge Jesus as Lord
- Invoke His presence

The Lord be with you

2 Corinthians 13:13 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you.

When a Bishop is presiding, **Peace be with you.**

John 20:21- Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you.

Exodus 3:10-13 - Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God answered: I will be with you; and this will be your sign - that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God at this mountain. "But," said Moses to God, "if I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what do I tell them?" God replied to Moses: I am who I am.* Then he added: This is what you will tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.

Judges 6:14-16 - The LORD turned to him (Gideon) and said: Go with the strength you have, and save Israel from the power of Midian. Is it not I who send you? But he answered him, "Please, my Lord, how can I save Israel? My family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the most insignificant in my father's house."† The LORD said to him: I will be with you ..."

Joshua 1:5 - No one can withstand you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, I will be with you: I will not leave you nor forsake you.

The words "The Lord be with you" serve as an encouraging reminder that the Lord is with us to guide and help us through the struggles we face.

The Penitential Rite (The Confiteor)

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,
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.

1 John 1:9 - If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.

Matthew 3:2 - "Repent,⁴ for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 3:5-6 - At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

Proverbs 28:13 - Those who conceal their sins do not prosper, but those who confess and forsake them obtain mercy.

Sirach 4:26 - Do not be ashamed to acknowledge your sins, and do not struggle against a rushing stream.

In my thoughts...

Matthew 5:22-24 - But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' (an Aramaic word meaning imbecile blockhead) will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:27-28 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 6:25-34 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.

Phillipians 4:6 Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

1 Corinthians 7:32 - 34 I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

Matthew 7:1-5 - "Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove that splinter from your eye,' while the wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite,⁴ remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

In my words...

2 Corinthians 12:20 - For I fear that when I come I may find you not such as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish; that there may be rivalry, jealousy, fury, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

Romans 1:30 – They are gossips and scandalmongers and they hate God. They are insolent, haughty, boastful, ingenious in their wickedness, and rebellious toward their parents.

Colossians 3:9-10 - Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator.

1 Corinthians 5:6 – Your boasting is not appropriate. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?

Ephesians 4:29 - No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear.

In what I have done...

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy,* drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 13:11-14 - And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

2 Timothy 3:2-7 - People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious, callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power. Reject them. For some of these slip into homes and make captives of women weighed down by sins, led by various desires, always trying to learn but never able to reach a knowledge of the truth.

In what I have failed to do...

James 4:17 - So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin.

Colossians 3:12-17 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 5:48 - So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Penitential Rite (Lord have mercy)

Romans 5:8 - But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The Gloria

Name the top three liturgical hymns heard in church in the order of their importance.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We **praise** you, we **bless** (acknowledge as holy) 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, (not Caesar!)
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Revelation, Chapter 5: I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it. I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it. One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals."

Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the [seven] spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn:

"Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth." I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing." Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

At the Incarnation the only begotten Son of God, also called the *Word of God* (what does that mean?) in John 1:14, was sent by the Father and took on human flesh. Jesus' death as the sacrificial lamb that would be offered for sin - as prophesied by Isaiah.

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

Luke 2:14 - And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

"Only begotten Son... of the Father"

What does the word "begotten" mean?

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh* and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave* his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

"Lamb of God ... you take away the sins of the world"

John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53:7, 10 - Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth. But it was the LORD's will to crush him with pain. By making his life as a reparation offering, he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days, and the LORD's will shall be accomplished through him.

"You are seated at the right hand of the Father"

Mark 16:19 - So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

The Collect (The Opening Prayer)

We said and done a lot already. Now we "collect" and focus our thoughts and prayers as we prepare to enter into the mystery if mysteries.

The Liturgy of the Word