

## Week 2

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### ***Commentator, before Mass begins says the following:***

Once again, we will be conducting a step-by-step explanation of the Mass. Last week we looked at the Introductory Rites or the gathering as well as the Concluding Rites or the commissioning. Today we look at our storytelling, the Liturgy of the Word, and next week we will examine our meal sharing or the Liturgy of the Eucharist. More information will be offered as we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word.

#### ***Commentator, after the assembly is seated, following the Collect, comes forward and says:***

**Let us take time to focus on the Liturgy of the Word or our storytelling.** When we gather at a friend's home for a meal, we almost always begin with conversation, telling our stories. At Mass, after the gathering rites, we sit down and listen as readings from the Word of God are proclaimed. They are the stories of God's people.

On Sundays, there are three readings from the Bible. The first reading will be from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season). We recall the origins of the covenants God made with our ancestors in faith. The first reading often relates to the Gospel selection of the day and will give background and an insight into the meaning of what Jesus will do in the Gospel. Then we will sing or recite a psalm—a song from God's own inspired hymnal, the Book of Psalms. The second reading will usually be from one of the letters of Paul or another apostolic writing. The third reading will be taken from one of the four Gospels.

#### ***The First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, and Second Reading are proclaimed as usual.***

#### ***Commentator, after the Second Reading (before the Alleluia) says the following (The choir waits to lead the Gospel Acclamation until after the commentator concludes):***

**Why do we stand for the Gospel?** Because of the unique presence of Christ in the proclamation of the Gospel, it has long been the custom to stand in attentive reverence to hear these words. We believe that Christ "is present in his Word, since it is He himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the church".<sup>1</sup> The priest will again greet us with "The Lord be with you." He then introduces the Gospel reading while marking a small cross on his forehead, lips and heart with his thumb while praying silently that God cleans his mind and his heart so that his lips may worthily proclaim the Gospel. In many places, the congregation performs this ritual action along with the priest. The Gospel reading concludes with the ritual formula "The Gospel of the Lord" and we respond, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ," again proclaiming our faith in the presence of Christ in the Word.

#### ***Choir sings the Gospel Acclamation.***

#### ***Priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel and gives the homily.***

#### ***Commentator, after the homily is done, says:***

**The homily is more than just a sermon or a talk** about how we are to live or what we are to believe. The homily is an act of worship rooted in the texts of the Mass and Scripture, especially the readings that have just been proclaimed. The priest takes the word and brings it into our life situation today.

---

<sup>1</sup> (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #7)

**From there we stand as a community of faith to proclaim our Creed.** On Sundays, we stand and together to recite the Nicene or Apostles' Creed. The recitation of the creed is both a series of core truths we believe as Catholics, and a statement of our faith in the Word we have heard proclaimed in the Scripture and the homily.

"The profession of faith links the Liturgies of the Word and Eucharist as the congregation recalls the mysteries of faith which will again be proclaimed in the Eucharistic Prayer. The people accept God's Word before they move on to the celebration of the Eucharist, which itself is a profession of faith."

***Priest leads the recitation of the Creed.***

***Commentator now says the following:***

Responding to the Word of God, Father leads us as we offer prayers for the needs and the salvation of all the world. The petitions usually fall into four categories: the Church, nations and their leaders, people in special need, and the local needs of our parish.

***Priest introduces the Prayers of the Faithful.***

