

Preparation for the New Roman Missal – Part 2

Introduction: In the first bulletin insert the Introductory Rites and the Penitential Rites were reviewed and the changes that will be made to these prayers were discussed. This insert will primarily review the Gloria and most of the Liturgy of the Word. Changes in the Gloria will necessarily lead to new music and our music directors will be helping us to learn new renditions of the Gloria. Because the Gloria is neither said nor sung during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent and the new Roman Missal will go into effect in Advent 2011, we will want to pay special attention to any musical preparation so that we may sing the Gloria with confidence at Christmas!



The Gloria:

The purpose of the Gloria is to praise our wonderful God. Many of the changes in this prayer are made to expand our words of praise and remind us of who our God is. This ancient prayer begins with the words that the angels sang at the birth of Jesus: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. (Lk 2:14). This shift in words describes the quality of the people to whom peace is offered. When we think of the poor shepherds overwhelmed by the angel of God and a multitude of heavenly hosts, it helps us to understand the expansion of the number of words of praise that are added to our prayer. Just imagine what it is like to be in God’s presence even for a moment and these words make perfect sense! When we gather at mass, we ARE in God’s presence and we can never say enough or even find the all the right words to describe our experience because our God is so AWESOME!!!

Current Translation

Gloria Glory to God in the highest, and **peace to his people on earth.**
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

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

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.

New Translation

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.

The phrase “Only Begotten Son...Son of the Father” reminds us in no uncertain terms that Jesus is the only Son of God. The capital letters are there because they exist in the original Latin. The early Church struggled through the first four centuries trying to understand who Jesus is in relation to God, the Father, and this phrase comes from their reflections and prayers.

Jesus, who sits at the right hand of the Father, is not only seated in a place of honor but in the place of power, authority, judgment and mercy. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, God's right hand symbolizes God's judgment over the oppressors and sinners, God's victory over his enemies and God's saving mercy upon the poor, the sick and the oppressed. Jesus has that power over us; he is our savior and we confidently praise him for hearing our prayers and offering us his mercy. We acknowledge that Jesus takes away not just the "sin of the world" but our individual "sins". And we find another expansion here as we repeat our prayer for him to "have mercy on us."

The Gloria helps us to acknowledge God's greatness, magnificence, wisdom, power and glory in a powerful prayer/song of praise. As we say/sing this prayer we might want to sing it out loud and clear as we sing our favorite Christmas carols or say it with increased enthusiasm because our God is so AMAZING!!!

The Liturgy of the Word:

Our scripture readings will follow the current pattern established by Vatican II. The three year cycle of Matthew, Year A, Mark, Year B, and Luke, Year C, with parts of John read during the Easter season, and the two year cycle for weekday readings will continue. "**Christ is present in his word** as he carries out the mystery of salvation, he sanctifies humanity and offers the Father the perfect worship." (Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, p.4)

The prayers the priest and deacon say quietly before proclaiming the Gospel will change but the only change for the people is the inclusion of "O" Lord. This tiny addition is added to show respect.

Before the Gospel *Deacon (or Priest):* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.
People: Glory to you, Lord.

Deacon (or Priest): A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.
People: Glory to you, **O** Lord.

The homily continues to be based on the scriptures and any of the texts of the Mass, and no doubt, Father Anthony and Deacon Jim will have more thoughts to share with us throughout the year as we prepare for the implementation of the New Roman Missal.

The Creed will be discussed in our next bulletin insert.

Our Prayer of the Faithful concludes the Liturgy of the Word. We should not experience any differences in how the petitions are structured. Four considerations must be covered: the needs of the church, public authorities and the salvation of the whole world, those burdened by any kind of difficulty and the local community. Within this framework the content of the petitions can be focused on whatever the local community wants to include in these prayers. This prayer is the only prayer in the Liturgy that can be freely composed by the local church community!

In general, the Liturgy of the Word will continue as it we know it. As some of the words of the other Mass texts change, let the Word of God keep you grounded.

