

## Pastor's Message

**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.**

If there is one acclamation that should always be sung at Mass it is the *Sanctus*, the Holy, Holy, Holy... St. John Chrysostom said that the liturgy of the Eucharist invites us to participate in the heavenly banquet. The *Sanctus* calls our minds from our earthly banquet to the heavenly banquet. "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory". This acclamation comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah, from Isaiah's call in the Temple in Jerusalem to be a prophet of God. In that call the heavens are opened and God appears to Isaiah in glory. So too this acclamation invites us to open our hearts and minds to the heavenly glory that is ours in Christ Jesus. We are invited to the heavenly banquet with all the angels and saints, the seraphim and cherubim and all the heavenly hosts. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" is a phrase that comes to us from the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday shortly before he will suffer, die and rise for us. (see Psalm 118:27)

Like so many other parts of our Eucharistic prayer, the *Sanctus* comes to us from an ancient Jewish prayer. The *Sanctus* is a song that unites us into one family. It is a prayer of unity "with the angels and saints" [see Eucharistic Prayer (EP) II] and "with all of creation" (see EP IV).

In the Book of Revelations 4:8 we read: *...the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, Holy Holy, is the Lord God, the almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."* Next time you join in singing the *Sanctus* at Mass, think of St. John Chrysostom's reminder that now we, together as one family and with all creation, are entering the heavenly banquet with Jesus and all the angels and saints, dominions and powers, seraphim and cherubim to give praise to God for all that we have been given in faith. "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..."

Fr. Chris