

Lesson 8 The Collect

Last week we talked about the Gloria. As you may recall the Gloria echoes the words spoken by the angels to the shepherds at Jesus' birth. Aside from praising God it serves to bring us together as a worshipping community.

Action

After the Gloria the priest will say out loud, "Let us pray." After a brief pause he extends his hands and prays the opening prayer or what's called the (colic) "Collect." The prayer is addressed to God the Father in the name of the people. It recalls His greatness or some of His great deeds among us and asks for a specific gift or grace. Each collect ends, with slight modifications, with a Trinitarian ending: "We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen." This is recognition that God is the Holy Trinity – one God -in three divine persons. The Collect completes the Introductory Rites of the Mass. Next, the Mass moves to the Liturgy of the Word.

History

The Opening prayer or Collect was included in the Mass no later than the end of the fifth century. In it the priest draws the people to Jesus and then Christ Jesus leads us to the Father. In ancient Gaul (France), the opening prayer or Collect was included in the Mass by priests and bishops, including one of the greatest of European missionaries, St. Boniface. By the fifth century the Collect was part of the Masses in all the rest of the Church.

What we can do to better participate in this part of the Mass:

When the priest says, "Let us Pray," there is a brief pause- this is the signal to quietly collect or gather all our own personal needs and intentions for the Mass giving them to God the Father. At this time we should also ask the Lord to give us

the grace to open ourselves to the sacrifice and celebration we are about to experience.

Each Mass has a different Collect which sets the tone of the rest of the Mass.

“‘Amen’ in the Hebrew language signifies, ‘so be it’.” St. Justin Martyr, 155 AD