

# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading, Responsorial Psalm & Second Reading

**The Liturgy of the Word** is alive and active through the Holy Spirit. As we listen and participate, we learn how to be good Christians and follow Jesus' teachings. By listening to the Word, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Eucharist.

The same readings are proclaimed in all Catholic churches around the world.



There are several parts to the Liturgy of the Word. We will look at the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, and Second Reading.



### 1. **The First Reading**

is usually from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the first major section of the Bible, about 75% of the Bible. These are stories about God and the people before the times of Jesus.

The lector or reader finishes the passage from the Old Testament by saying, "The Word of the Lord." All respond, "Thanks be to God."

## 2. The Responsorial Psalm

is read or sung. It comes from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament of the Bible. These are poems and prayers that express our feelings to God such as forgiveness, thankfulness and praise.

When sung or read, the cantor sings or the lector reads the antiphon of the psalm and is repeated by all.



## 3. The Second Reading

comes from the New Testament. The New Testament is the last section of the Bible. These are stories and letters written about Jesus from his birth, death and resurrection and early Christians.

The Second Reading is from letters that St. Paul and other Apostles wrote to people in order to teach and answer questions about Jesus and his teachings. The lector finishes the passage by saying, “The Word of the Lord.”

All respond, “Thanks be to God.”

