

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

## The Eucharistic Prayer

(During normal times outside the pandemic)

The **Eucharistic Prayer** is the part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist during Mass where we give thanks to God with a special dialogue.



Eucharist means “**giving thanks.**”

The **dialogue** is between the people and God through the priest.

There are different Eucharistic Prayers that the priest chooses from depending on the occasion.

Each of the Eucharistic Prayers has the same parts to it with different words.

They are:

- **Thanks and praise to God.**
- **Priest calls down the Holy Spirit to change the bread, wine and us.**
- **We hear the story of how Jesus gave us the Eucharist.**
- **We remember Christ’s Passion, Resurrection and Ascension.**
- **We offer Christ’s sacrifice and ourselves to the Father.**
- **We pray for all living and those that have died.**
- **We say or sing “Amen.”**



### Thanks and Praise

The **Eucharistic Prayer** begins with a **dialogue** between us and the priest.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord. (We offer our hearts to God.)

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just. (It is our duty to give thanks to God as his people.)

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the Sanctus where we join with the angels to **praise** God: “**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...**”

### Calls Down the Holy Spirit

When the priest calls down the Holy Spirit, he asks the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into Jesus’ Body and Blood. And he makes the Sign of the Cross over them.

He also asks that the Holy Spirit changes us so that we can serve Christ.



## Story of the Last Supper

Then we here the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples before he dies on the cross. The priest uses Jesus' words to his disciples that the bread and wine are his **Body and Blood to be broken and shared to all.**

These words are called the words of **consecration.**

This is when ordinary bread and wine are now the **Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ.**

The priest says, "**The mystery of faith.**"

And we respond with an acclamation to remember that Christ will come back again at the end of time. There are several different responses but one is, "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again."



## In Jesus Christ's Memory

We celebrate the Eucharist because Jesus asked us to do this in memory of him. We remember his suffering, death on the cross, rising up, and going back to heaven.

## Offering

We ask God to accept our offering of the bread wine and ourselves. We pray that our prayers and offerings will be taken to God in heaven.

## Prayers of Intercessions

We remember those living and dead. We pray for the people of the Church, the bishop of our diocese, and all who serve the Church such as the Pope. We ask all those who have died and the saints and when we die to be together in heaven with God.

## Concluding the Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with the offering of the Body and Blood of Christ to the Trinity. The priest says, "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is your, for ever and ever." We respond, "Amen."

