

Series on the Mass, Part 79: The Placeat, part 1

Oct. 10, 2021

In certain Masses, there is a further liturgical action that follows the Mass, and on these occasions, the “Ite Missa Est” spoken by the priest is replaced by the “Benedicamus Domino” (Let us bless the Lord), to which the faithful respond as before, “Deo Gratias”. The reason for the change is that the faithful are not being dismissed since there is a further liturgical function in which they should be taking part. One example is the Feast of Corpus Christi when there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament right after Mass. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar after Holy Communion, and following the Postcommunion prayer, there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament with benediction at the end.

The prayer of the Placeat is said immediately after the Ite Missa Est or the Benedicamus Domino, depending on which one is used, but nevertheless before the blessing is given, if it is to be given. This is a prayer that helps the priest to acknowledge his unworthiness of celebrating the sacrifice of the Mass and to ask for pardon for any shortcomings. The priest recites this prayer in a low voice while bowing down at the center of the altar with the hands joined. The prayer is addressed to the Holy Trinity, as is each of the prayers at the end of an important part of the Mass (Credo, Suscipe Sancta Trinitas, the Per Ipsum, and the Placeat, which is also followed by a benediction invoking the Holy Trinity).

Sincerely in Christ,

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