

Four Parts of the Mass

Part Two: Liturgy of the Word

**What do I say?
(response/prayer)**

**What do I do?
(posture: sit, stand, kneel, bow)**



Liturgy of the Word

The **Liturgy of the Word** consists of:

- ▶ The First Reading
- ▶ The Responsorial Psalm
- ▶ The Second Reading
- ▶ The Gospel
- ▶ The Homily
- ▶ The Creed
- ▶ Intercessory Prayers

Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, and the Second Reading.

- ▶ ***The First Reading***: this is usually from the Old Testament. During the Easter Season, the First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.
- ▶ At the end of the reading, the lector says, “The Word of the Lord.”
- ▶ We respond, ***“Thanks be to God.”***



Liturgy of the Word

The Responsorial Psalm

- Remain seated
- Respond with whatever the Psalm is for that day. This will either be spoken or sung.

Liturgy of the Word

The Second Reading: This reading is from the New Testament. (In daily Mass, there usually is no Second Reading unless it is a special feast.)

- Stay seated for the second reading
- The lector ends with these words: “The word of the Lord.”
- We respond, ***“Thanks be to God.”***



Liturgy of the Word

Jesus speaks to us
in the Gospels!

The Gospel (*Stand and say/sing the “Alleluia” verse*)

- The Gospel is taken from either Matthew, Mark, Luke or John (in the New Testament).
- It's only read by the priest or an ordained deacon, who says, “*The Lord be with you.*”
- We Respond, “*And with your spirit.*”
- Priest or deacon: “A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____.”
- We respond: “*Glory to you, O Lord.*”
- Using our right thumb, we trace a small Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips, and chest. We are praying that the Word of God will always be in our thoughts, spoken on our lips, and “written” upon our hearts.
- The reading ends with, “The Gospel of the Lord.”
- We respond, “*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*”



Liturgy of the Word

The Homily:

We sit and listen to the words the priest (or deacon) shares.

You can have a special notebook to write down key words that help you remember what is said, or if something has special meaning to you.



Liturgy of the Word

We stand and proclaim the Creed

The Creed: The Creed contains all the main truths we believe as Catholics.
(Look on pages 96 and 97 of your books to study the Creed.)

The Creed also contains Four Pillars of our faith. The Church is:

1. **One** (The Church has ONE founder, Jesus Christ; we worship ONE GOD.)
2. **Holy** (Jesus has made the Church Holy through his life, passion, death, and resurrection.)
3. **Catholic** (With a small “c” this means the church is “universal;” Jesus Christ won salvation for all people.)
4. **Apostolic** (The Catholic Church, begun by Jesus, has been passed down through all generations starting with the 12 Apostles, who were chosen by Jesus. The teachings of the Church are still passed on through the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, and Priests.)

Liturgy of the Word

Intercessory Prayers: Please Stand

- We pray for the Pope, Bishops and Priests, world leaders, the sick, those who have died, special intentions,
- After each petition, the reader says, “We pray to the Lord.”
- We respond, ***“Lord, hear our prayer.”***

Liturgy of the Word

Review:

What are the two parts of the Bible?

How many Gospels are there?

What prayer tells what we believe as Catholics?



Liturgy of the Word

Questions

Why do we stand, sit, and kneel during the Mass?

- We pray with our whole bodies!
- **We Stand**
 - To be at attention to receive what God has to offer
 - As a sign of reverence
- **We Kneel**
 - To worship and adore God who comes to dwell *within us*
- **We Sit**
 - To listen and receive the Word of God
 - To listen to the messages that God is giving us through the readings and homily
 - To think about what we will offer to God

Liturgy of the Word

Questions (cont'd)

- In the Creed, you will find a BIG word you may not understand, namely “**consubstantial.**”
- Let’s break it apart:
- Con – sub – stan – tial (pronounced “shal”)
- The base of this word is “substance.” It means that Jesus is of the *same substance* as the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us “The Father and I are ONE.” (Jn 10:30) The Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) are of the same substance. They are ONE.