

NOT ON BREAD ALONE

Real Presence

“Jesus is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church” (Liturgy 7).

The Two-Principal Parts of the Mass

- The Liturgy of the Word
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Books Used for the Liturgy of the Word

- **The Lectionary** is a “collection of readings” (Scripture) assigned by the Church for the Mass. The church uses a three year “cycle” of readings which are contained in a book called a lectionary.
- **The Book of the Gospel** contains the Gospel readings assigned by the Church for the three-year cycle of Sunday readings.

Three Year Cycle

- Cycle A: Matthew (2020, 2023, 2026...)
- Cycle B: Mark (2018, 2021, 2024...)
- Cycle C: Luke (2019, 2022, 2025...)

The Gospel of John weaves in and out of all three years, primarily during the Easter Season and the Bread of Life Discourse (Cycle B).

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (usually from the Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm (fosters meditation on the Word of God)

The Old Testament reading and the psalm response are chosen to fit in with the theme of the gospel passage.

Second Reading (from New Testament Letters)

We **sit** for the first two readings because it is a posture of reflection and receptivity.

Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation

Before the Gospel we acclaim God with an “alleluia,” a word that means “praise God.”

There is a procession with the Book of the Gospels to the ambo (a Greek word meaning mountain or elevation), thus highlighting the importance of the Gospel.

We **stand** as a mark of honor for this most special of scriptural texts. Christ will speak to us.

Gospel

Deacon or priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.

People: Glory to you, O Lord. We make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead (to open our minds to hear), lips (to share His words with others), and heart (to live the Gospel with all our heart).

Deacon or priest (at conclusion of Gospel): The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. We affirm that we have truly heard the voice of Jesus speaking directly to us.

Homily

The purpose of the homily is to open up for us the message of God’s Word for our lives today.

Profession of Faith (Creed)

The Creed leads us to an act of faith in the Holy Trinity and what each divine person does for us, **I believe in one God the Father almighty...I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ...I believe in the Holy Spirit...**

Finally, we are asked to renew our faith in the Church and the sacraments, **I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church...**

Universal Prayer: Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with a series of prayers for the needs of the church, for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world, for those burdened by any kind of difficulty, and for the local community