

### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the ability to give praise and thanksgiving to you in union with your Son, who died and rose for our salvation. We ask you to open our hearts to encounter your Son through our participation in the celebration of the Mass and make us hunger to receive Jesus in our lives. We ask this the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Scripture Reading *Luke 24:13-35*

In this passage from Luke's Gospel that takes place on Easter Sunday, Jesus appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Through his interaction with the disciples, he gives us the model for the Mass through his four-fold action of greeting, breaking open the scripture, celebrating the Eucharist, and sending forth. The Mass is the celebration of the Risen Lord and his presence with us.

### What are the parts of the Mass?

- The two major parts of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the Liturgy of the Word, we encounter Jesus as the "word made flesh." In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we encounter the same Jesus as the "bread made flesh." Both parts are bookended by the Introductory Rite and the Concluding Rite. All of the parts of the Mass flow together to form a continuous movement that should shape the whole of our lives.
- All of the parts of the Mass are a sacramental moment, meaning each part is a visible sign of the invisible presence and activity of God.

### What happens during the Introductory Rite?

- **The Sacrament of the Assembly**
  - All the prayers of the liturgy are spoken in terms of "us".
  - The presider of the Eucharist is bound together to the assembly – in the Body of Christ in prayer.
  - The Eucharist is the celebration, manifestation, and fulfillment of the Church as the Body of Christ.
  - In order to get the most of out of the Eucharist, we must be active as assembly in the celebration.

# *Incarnating* THE **KERYGMA** THE MASS

- **The Sacrament of the Kingdom of God**
  - The Eucharistic celebration is at its fullest in the Kingdom of God.
  - The Eucharist returns all people to God and orients us toward and is a foretaste of heaven.
  - When the community assembles, the Church realizes its unity and proclaims to the world that the Kingdom of God is going on here and now in the actions of the Church.
- **The Sacrament of the Entrance**
  - In the entrance procession, the Church becomes one and moves from the secular world to the world of the sacred.
  - The entrance procession takes us to another time; it makes us sacramentally present to another age – the Eucharist transcends secular time, making us present in sacramental time.

## What happens during the Liturgy of the Word?

- **The Sacrament of the Word**
  - The Book of the Gospels is processed into the Church during the Entrance symbolizing Christ coming among us as well as an icon of the Resurrection.
  - The Liturgy of the Word is important to the Church's worship as is the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
  - **Pulpit** (Ambo): the "table" or "altar" that the Scriptures are proclaimed.
- **The Sacrament of the Faithful**
  - Through the common priesthood of Baptism, we share in the offering of the Church.
  - The Church as a whole offers the sacrifice of itself together with the sacrifice of Christ once and for all. The BODY OF CHRIST is being offered.
  - In order for the Church to offer itself, it must be complete – a community of believers hierarchally ordered.

## THE MASS



### What happens during the Liturgy of the Eucharist?

- **The Sacrament of Offering**
  - We offer ourselves to God in order to be united (reconciled) with God. It is only accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
  - The offering of the Christ is not repeated at every Mass, rather we are united with that one offering.
  - In offering ourselves together as the Church, we are actually offering Christ, who is the priest and the sacrifice, the one who does the offering and is the offering.
- **The Sacrament of the Anaphora**
  - **Anaphora:** another term for the Eucharistic Prayer. Greek word for "offering."
  - In the Eucharistic Prayer, the bread and wine are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of Christ.
  - We cannot pinpoint the moment during the Eucharistic Prayer that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. The entirety of the Eucharistic Prayer is important to the change that is taking place.
- **The Sacrament of the Holy Spirit**
  - **Epiclesis:** We offer ourselves to the Lord, but this offering is impossible without the Holy Spirit. We call upon the Holy Spirit to make the gifts acceptable to God so that we may become the Body and Blood of Christ.
  - The epiclesis is the summit of the Eucharistic Prayer, when we are most closely joined with God.
- **The Sacrament of Remembrance**
  - **Anamnesis:** we call to mind what God has done for us, most notably Jesus giving his life for us.
  - **Institution Narrative:** we call to mind that Jesus took bread and wine gave it to disciples, saying "This IS my body; this IS my blood," commanding them to do this in memory of him.
  - **Mystery of Faith:** we respond to the anamnesis by proclaiming the Paschal Mystery. Offered once on the cross, the sacrifice of Christ is eternally actualized in the Eucharist.
- **The Sacrament of Thanksgiving**
  - **Eucharist:** literally means "thanksgiving."
  - Because we have called to mind all the things that God has done, we cannot help but to give thanks for this.
  - Our sacrifice is one of thanksgiving. Our thanksgiving to God says that everything that we have depends on Him and that we need Him in our lives.

# Incarnating THE KERYGMA

## THE MASS

- **The Sacrament of Communion**
  - Through the **breaking of the bread**, we express our communion with one another and with the Lord. We are gathered together by one bread and one cup.
  - The **Lamb of God** unites us with the Lord: we recognize our unworthiness to receive Him, but He becomes one with us because it is His will and we are able to share in this communion.
  - Our **Reception of Communion** is another sign of unity.

### What happens during the Concluding Rite?

- **The Sacrament of the Mass**
  - The word **Mass** comes from the Latin word "missa" which means "to send forth."
  - The Eucharistic celebration does not end with the reception of the Eucharist, rather we are commissioned to go out into the world with God's blessing, to bring the message of the Gospel to the whole world.
  - We are called to make present the Kingdom of God that we experienced to all.

### How can I participate more actively at Mass?

- In the Introductory Rite:
  - Being there.
  - Being prompt.
  - Being friendly.
  - Being well located.
  - Being a singing believer.
- In the Liturgy of the Word:
  - Preparing to listen.
  - Receiving the Word respectfully, silently.
  - Being and looking attentive.
- In the Liturgy of the Eucharist:
  - Identifying ourselves with the bread and wine.
  - Making the collection part of the action.
  - Participation in the Eucharistic Prayer.
  - Seeking the larger unity.
    - "Gather all who share this one bread and one cup into the one Body of Christ, a living sacrifice of praise."
  - Giving ourselves through the responses.
  - Sharing the Eucharistic Bread and Cup.

## THE MASS



- In the Concluding Rite:
  - Paying attention to the announcements which express the community's work towards being the Body of Christ in the world.
  - Being excited for mission, the call to go forth.
  - Going forth from Mass with joy and excitement for the Gospel.
- The Church desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy ("work of the people"), and to which the Christian people, who are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people" have a right and obligation by reason of their baptism.