

Gloria

The Gloria is a joyful prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, often referred to as the ‘angelic hymn’. It is typically sung and has been part of the Mass as early as the 4th century.

The first line originates from Luke’s Gospel (Luke 2:14) when the angels announced the good news of Christ’s birth to the shepherds. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When we sing the Gloria, we remember the first Christmas where God was manifest to the world just as he is made present sacramentally on the altar at the consecration in every Mass. We welcome Jesus as the angels did in Bethlehem.

The Gloria also sums up the story of Christ’s saving work in 3 parts: his coming as a child, his redeeming death on the Cross as the ‘Lamb of God’ sacrificed for our sins, and his resurrection and ascension into heaven to reign over heaven and earth. (Edward Sri, ‘Biblical Walk Through the Mass’)

Did you know? The Gloria is sung on Sundays and Feast Days except during Lent and Advent because these are penitential seasons where Catholics focus on repentance.

A helpful practice: When you sing the Gloria, remember to actively participate and give Glory to God for all that he has done. At this point in the Mass, you’ve confessed your sins, asked God for his mercy in the Kyrie, and now it’s time to give him praise.

~Nicole Forsman, Synod Evangelization Team

Collect

The Collect occurs after the Gloria in the Introductory Rites.

The priest says “Let us Pray” then...

Everyone, together with the priest, observes a brief silence and should make an intention mentally, silently in their hearts. Whatever your intention is, you want to bring it to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Then the priest says the prayer which is known as the Collect which collects all of the intentions of the people at Mass. The Collect prayer is usually addressed to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and is concluded with a Trinitarian ending.

Everyone, uniting themselves to this appeal, makes this prayer their own with the acclamation, “Amen”.

Did you know? When the priest holds up the bread and says “Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation” etc, we should have a disposition to offer ourselves in an act of sacrifice: all of our thoughts, words, actions, deeds, prayers, our conformity to God’s Will.

Then after the words “this my body... this is the cup of my blood”, when the priest holds up the sacred host and the chalice, we should renew our intention that we made during the Collect.

A helpful practice: After receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, once again call to mind the prayer intention that you made during the Collect. You do that coupled with the fact that you just offered yourself in an act of sacrifice.

~Paul Tinebra, Synod Team & Liturgy Commission member

Sources: General Instruction of the Roman Missal,

2022-07-07 ETWN Homily by Fr. Joseph Aytona