

# Are you in the know?

## The Dialogues of the Mass – The Liturgy of the Word

### The Liturgy of the Word

*At the end of the reading(s) the following dialogue takes place*

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The lector at the Eucharist or any liturgy of the Word concludes each reading before the gospel with “The Word of the Lord.” We reply: “Thanks be to God.” This dialogue affirms that the Bible is unique among works of literature. It is really God’s word in human language. As God’s message and self-communication, it is completely divine; as words written on a page and proclaimed in the liturgical assembly, it is completely human.

The lectionary readings from the various books of the Bible are all trying to communicate one great idea: that God calls a people; that God wants to help and care for them, even when they stray; that God asks this people to respond in love, freely and generously. By our “Thanks be to God,” we honor the Word that we have received “in faith and with grateful hearts” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no, 59). We embrace the Word that shapes us into God’s holy people as it shows us the way to know, love and serve God.

### Dialogues at the Proclamation of the Gospel

*Before the presider proclaims the Gospel*

Presider: A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel*

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. ...

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the priest or deacon speaks a greeting and announces the gospel reading, the assembly responds: “Glory to you, O Lord.” He concludes the reading with the words: “The Gospel of the Lord.” We reply: “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” Thus this reading is framed by two praise-filled salutes to Jesus Christ, who speaks to us in the gospel we hear at every Eucharist. But we hear him speaking in many different voices: that of the shepherd; peacemaker; life-giver; consoler; teacher; healer; liberator; storyteller; Savior. We are privileged to hear what prophets and righteous people before the coming of Christ longed to hear but did not (Mt 13:17). We receive the Gospel, the “good news” of Jesus Christ, in which his life, death and resurrection become the pattern for our own. His story becomes our story, our hope of glory.

# Are you in the know...you are now!

