



Are you in the know?

The Dialogues of the Mass – The Communion Rite and Concluding Rite

The Communion Rite

After the Lord's Prayer sung or said by all there follows the Rite of Peace. In word and gesture, "the Church asks for peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity" before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 82). The peace that the priest and assembly pray for is not good feeling among family and friends or fellow parishioners, but the reconciliation that Jesus Christ accomplished through his dying and rising and now gives to us in the Eucharist. We ask to be renewed in a spirit of love and unity before we approach the holy table of the Lord.

Current words	New words
Presider: The peace of the Lord be with you always.	Presider: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Response: And also with you.	Response: And with your spirit.

In this dialogue we taste, here and now at the Eucharist, the peace that will mark God's everlasting feast of victory over evil, sin and death.

Invitation to Communion

Current words	New words
Presider: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.	Presider: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
People: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed	People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed

After the final blessing, we are dismissed by the priest or deacon. In the pre-Vatican II liturgy this was short and to the point: *Ite, missa est—Go, this is the dismissal*. And from this *missa*, the Mass got its name. But this *missa* becomes mission, “so that each may go out to do good works, praising and blessing God” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 90c). We leave the place of worship to take up again our service of God and others in everyday life, praising the Lord who works in us and through us to help establish God’s reign on earth. This is where two new options for the dismissal point us: “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

These new texts were added to the Order of Mass by Pope Benedict XVI in response to a recommendation of the Eleventh Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2005. They remind us that we are to be the best witnesses to the power of the Eucharist by our love for Christ present on our altars and in our tabernacles, in the Mass and by our love for the members of his Body in this world. “Go forth, the Mass is ended.” “Go in peace.” Become the Gospel of peace that you have received in Word and sacrament. Glorify the Lord in all you say and do. “Thanks be to God” is our brief but heartfelt thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in the Eucharist: thanks be to God that we have received a divine mission; thanks be to God that we have been strengthened for service by the holy gifts we have received; thanks be to God for our nourishment in the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation whereby Jesus Christ makes us one with him, so that we can work with him for the salvation of the world. Thanks be to God!

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



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