

LITURGY LESSON

Lesson 6: The Eucharistic Prayer



*Preparing for the 3rd Edition of
the Roman Missal*

The Eucharistic Prayer begins with a dialogue between the priest and people. There have been some subtle and clarifying changes made to this prayer. The new translation will emphasize the sublime power of God. The prayer begins with “The Lord be with you.” We respond with “and with your spirit.” “Lift up your hearts,” answered with “We lift them up to the Lord.” “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” responded with “It is right and just.”

These responses provide a more natural bridge to the preface. The preface will explain why it is truly right and just to give God thanks on this particular occasion.

The Eucharist Prayer is the center of our celebration. We ask the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. We praise God before we ask this request. We choose a text that itself is very holy. We proclaim the “Holy, Holy, Holy” with the new phrase “Lord God of hosts.” The replacement word, hosts, means the angelic hosts, the invisible powers that work at God’s command. Shortly after singing this hymn we ask the Holy Spirit to exercise that power by changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. This miracle happens because the only one who can do it is God. The Holy, Holy, Holy affirms the divinity of Christ, the power of God over all forces, and the desire of all creation to raise a voice together to praise God.



The closing of the Eucharistic Prayer is another dialogue between the priest and the people. The doxology is slightly different: “Through him, and with him, and in him, to you, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit is all honor and glory, for ever and ever” and we answer “Amen.” Amen means so be it -- or even I agree -- or I believe. Amen is a holy word that resisted any further translation and stays the same. We make this a great AMEN because it concludes the greatest of prayers.

Printed below is a comparison of the current text used at Mass and the words from the New Edition of the Roman Missal...

Changes in the People's Parts : the Eucharist Prayer

<p>Preface Dialogue</p>	<p>Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Priest: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them up to the Lord. Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.</p>	<p>Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And with your spirit. Priest: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them up to the Lord. Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right and just.</p>
<p>Sanctus Holy, Holy</p>	<p>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</p>

More information concerning the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal including extended commentary on the new translation visit the website of the American Bishops at

<http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/index.shtml>