



THIRD EDITION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

BULLETIN INSERT #9: THE GLORIA

As we prepare for the changes in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal we invite you to ponder some of the gestures and words that shape our liturgical prayer.

“The Gloria, or Glory to God, follows the penitential rite. Both are acts of praise. In the penitential rite, we sing of the mercy of Christ. In the Gloria we praise God’s saving action in the universe.

The Gloria is a relatively late addition to the Mass. It first appeared in the Roman liturgy in the sixth century, and then it was sung only by the pope—and only on Christmas! With time, the hymn came to be sung by bishops on major feasts, and then by priests; finally, it became the song of the entire assembly. With the advent of more elaborate musical settings, the people gradually stopped singing the Gloria, until this song of the people became the exclusive domain of the priest and the choir. But the liturgical reforms have restored it to its place as primarily the song of the assembly.

The Gloria is a rejoicing prayer, an exclamation of praise. It begins with the song of the angels at the announcement of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:14), a heavenly burst of praise for God’s loving action in the world. But in the Gloria, the song goes on, leaping, as it were, from height to height, with every kind of praise, blessing, adoration, glory, and thanksgiving.

We begin by thanking and praising God the Father; then we turn our gaze to Christ, the Lamb of God. The paschal mystery of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection is found here, at the heart of this prayer, which descends to the depths with Christ, but then rises with him to the heavens, where he is seated at the Father’s right hand. The Gloria ends with a series of acclamations to Christ, emphasizing over and over that he “alone” is the Holy One, the Lord, the Most High, truly God, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Our prayer of praise ends where it began, in the “glory of God the Father.” The Gloria, with its arc leading us from the glory of God to the suffering of Christ and again to glory, is the pattern of the Mass itself. At the center of all our prayer is the sacrificial love of Christ.”

Text taken from Building Blocks for Parish Bulletins, *Feast of Faith, The Gloria (1)*, Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

In the new translation you will notice the Gloria is much longer, since every word is now translated. In the Diocese of London we will be singing the Gloria from “The Mass of Joy and Peace”, composed by Tony Alonso. To prepare for the implementation date of the First Sunday of Advent, we will start to learn this musical setting in the Fall.

THINGS TO DO OR TO PONDER

This week every time you notice a blessing, praise God.

Prepared by the Diocese of London, Committee for the Implementation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. June 2011.