

ALTAR SERVER LITURGY OF THE WORD

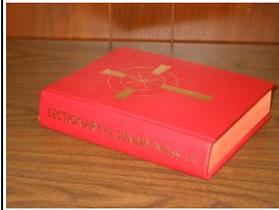
ABBREVIATIONS

GIRM = General Instruction of the Roman Missal

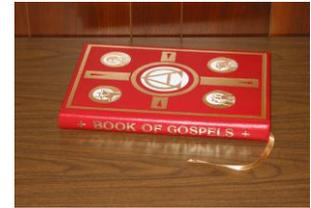
PARTS OF THE MASS

- I. LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Most of the Liturgy of the Word is made up of readings from Scripture. On Sundays and solemnities, there are three Scripture readings. During most of the year, the first reading is from the Old Testament and the second reading is from one of the New Testament letters. During Easter Time, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles which tells the story of the Church in its earliest days. The last reading is always taken from one of the four Gospels.
- A. FIRST READING:** The First reading is most often taken from the Old Testament.
- B. RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** The Responsorial Psalm is sung between the readings. The psalm helps us to meditate on the word of God.
- C. SECOND READING:** A second reading, usually from the New testament is used on Sundays and solemnities.
- D. GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the reading of the Gospel. Because the Gospels tell of the life, ministry, and preaching of Christ, it receives several special signs of honor and reverence. The gathered assembly stands to hear the Gospel and it is introduced by an acclamation of praise. Apart from Lent, that acclamation is "Alleluia," derived from a Hebrew phrase meaning "Praise the Lord!" A deacon (or, if no deacon is present, a priest) reads the Gospel.

GIRM #349: Lectionary & Book of the



Gospels...In a particular way, care must be taken that liturgical books, particularly the Book of the Gospels and the Lectionary,



which are intended for the proclamation of the Word of God and hence enjoy special veneration, really serve in a liturgical action as signs and symbols of heavenly realities, and hence are truly worthy dignified, and beautiful.

- E. HOMILY:** After the Scripture readings, the celebrant preaches the homily. In the homily, the preacher focuses on the Scripture texts or some other texts from the liturgy, drawing from them lessons that may help us to live better lives, more faithful to Christ's call to grow in holiness.
- F. PROFESSION OF FAITH (is said on Sundays, solemnities, and special occasions):** In many Masses, the Profession of Faith then follows the homily, either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed. The Nicene Creed is a statement of faith dating from the fourth century, while the Apostles' Creed is the ancient baptismal creed of the Church in Rome. If baptismal promises are renewed, from a formula based on the Apostles' Creed, this takes the place of the Creed.
- G. UNIVERSAL PRAYER / THE PETITIONS / PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL / GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:** The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Universal Prayer, also called the Prayer of the Faithful. The gathered assembly intercedes with God on behalf of the Church, the world, and themselves, entrusting their needs to the faithful and loving God.