Consider for a moment how the words proclaimed in the liturgy are not just meant to convey ideas or information, but are avenues through which God can act among us and for our salvation. In his book *Models of the Eucharist*, theologian Msgr. Kevin Irwin writes about how renewal and the accomplishment of God’s will can happen in the Liturgy of the Word, when we proclaim the sacred texts and respond to them in faith. He calls it the “effective word of God”: “What we hear happens. What we proclaim, occurs” (page, 86). We are asked to express and assent to this idea when we respond with “Thanks be to God” to the statement “The word of the Lord,” and when we say “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ” after the Gospel proclamation. In these responses, we are committing out loud—for all those around us to hear--to the Word proclaimed, with all of its demands, paradoxes, challenges, and encouragements. The next time we pray these responses at Mass, may we deepen our commitment to the proclaimed Word, allowing it to take root in our lives, to renew and re-create us.