
Worship Aid for Sept. 26:

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WITNESS: "Anyone who is not against us is for us!" Consider this statement in a new way. Jesus is inclusive: he wants all his followers to be saved! He encourages each of us, "Take up your baptismal cross to do marvelous things in my name." Jesus tells those who place obstacles in the way of faith that they exclude themselves and are open to punishment. Faith bears witness to the resurrection of Christ. Obstacles that come from hypocritical actions or excuses bear false witness. Christians grasp Christ Jesus risen in their lives of faith.

STAND GATHERING SONG

GREETING

PENITENTIAL ACT: **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

GLORY TO GOD: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Glory to God...

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. Glory to God...

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God...

COLLECT

Some say that Mass is antiquated, or ritualistic. However, interestingly, much of the content of Mass is based on the book of Revelation, which is a book all about the future, and of that which is to come. For example, in each Mass we sing the "Holy, Holy, Holy," which is straight out of Revelation 4:8. The idea is we are joining in with those in heaven in their unending hymn of praise. So that's a real profound moment, if you think about joining in singing the same song those in heaven are singing, and the connection between the physical and the spiritual that is occurring. And that's just one tiny example. You can do an entire study on Revelation and the Mass. The more you know, the more amazing Mass becomes.

There's a lot of Bible in each Mass. First, there is an Old Testament reading (except during the season of Easter, when we read through the whole book of Acts.) Then there is a Psalm, except instead of it being read, the Psalm is typically sung. Which is cool because the Psalms are originally songs. So, in the Mass we put them to music, and it's sung responsorally, where a lead singer, or cantor, sings part of it, and the congregation joins in throughout. After that, there is a New Testament reading. And, finally, we conclude with a reading from the Gospels. Often, there is a theme that connects many of the readings, and there are studies available to further dig into the readings of each week. Also, the Catholic readings cycle over 3 years, throughout which, if you are attending daily Mass, you'll have read through pretty much the entire Bible! And finally, the readings are the same globally. So at each Mass, I am hearing the same readings as Catholics in Seattle, in Minnesota, Africa, Europe... everywhere! This is cool because I can discuss something about the readings with other Catholics from a different parish, and we all have heard the same Scripture each week.

SIT FIRST READING Numbers 11:25-29
Moses said to Joshua, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!"

RESPONSE: Psalm 19 **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

SECOND READING James 5:1-6
"Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away."

STAND GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
Jesus reassured the disciples, "Whoever is not against us is for us... If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off."

SIT HOMILY

Christians have shared a creed, or set of beliefs, since the earliest days of Christianity. The Nicene Creed was formalized in 325 A.D. It's a series of "I believe" statements, and is a beautiful, easy to understand representation of Universal Christian teachings. Every Sunday, we stand up together and state our beliefs corporately. That's a cool moment – publicly affirming your beliefs among others who are affirming the same.

STAND PROFESSION OF FAITH: **I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, [bow] and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he**

suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his Kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER *response:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Anyone looking to attend Mass can find one any day of the week (except Good Friday), often offered at different times in different parishes. An interesting thing about this is if you think about time zones, and that daily Mass has been a global practice since the days of the Early Church, there is pretty much a Mass being offered somewhere continually on Earth at all times... and has been for... well a really long time!

SIT PREPARATION of GIFTS: Gifts are collected for the poor and for the Church. Bread and wine are brought to the altar table, and everything is prepared for the celebration.

STAND When all is ready, the priest prays, "...that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father," and all respond: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PREFACE to the EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The priest continues with the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, ending with a statement of how we join our voices with all the angels and the saints in proclaiming God's glory.

HOLY, HOLY

KNEEL EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: This is the central prayer of the entire celebration. It is during this prayer that the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. The Church tells us that liturgy is the *action* of Christ the priest and His Body the Church.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.**

GREAT AMEN: The Eucharistic Prayer culminates and concludes when the priest sings: "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever." All respond with: **Amen.**

BREAKING of the BREAD: The "Lamb Of God" litany is sung. At the conclusion, all kneel.

KNEEL

COMMUNION: The priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God..." and all respond: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Catholics believe Communion is more than just a representation, or symbol, of what Jesus did in the Upper Room. And Catholic belief on Communion actually goes way back into Jewish culture and history. Historically, when Jewish people celebrated the Passover of Moses' day, they didn't believe they were just symbolically representing what happened; they believed they were participating in a "making present" of that actual one time historical Passover event – that they too, somehow, mysteriously, were also participating in the Passover of Moses. In Mass, we believe that Communion is a "making present" of Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples – that we too, are participating, mysteriously, in that one time event. There are a lot of connections to Judaism in Catholicism and in Mass as well. This is only one of them.

We come forward together as the Body of Christ to receive the Body of Christ, so that together we may be the Body of Christ in the world. We say "Amen" to that which we are, and we become what we receive.

After all have received, everyone is invited to sit or kneel for a period of silent prayer. The Communion Rite concludes with a prayer to which all respond: **Amen.**

STAND PRAYER after COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER and DISMISSAL

*We give thanks to all those at our liturgies
who preside at our prayer
welcome God's people • proclaim God's word • lead and inspire us in song
prepare our liturgies and worship space • bake our bread
minister the Holy Eucharist to us
and for all who pray and celebrate with us this day.*