Celebrating the Paschal Mystery of Christ

Liturgy

Sacraments

Chapter 14
US Catechism of the Catholic Church
What is Liturgy?

• CCC 1069  The word “liturgy” (Greek term liturgia) originally meant a “public work” or a “service in the name of/on behalf of the people.” In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in “the work of God.” Through the liturgy, Christ, our redeemer and high priest, continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through his Church.

• Every liturgical celebration is an action of Christ the High Priest and of his Mystical Body, which is the Church. It is Holy Work and it requires the participation of the People of God in the work of God. Christ as eternal high priest, pleads continuously on our behalf in the presence of the Father.

• Liturgy* is all rites and ceremonies that constitute the Church’s corporate worship: the Mass, celebration of the other sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, Rite of Christian Initiation, and blessings.

  • Chief liturgical actions are the Mass/Sacraments.

Notes: (1) This is different from private worship like the rosary, novenas, prayers to the Sacred Heart, or prayers to the saints

  (2) Because the Eucharist is the preeminent act of worship, people often mean the Mass when they say Liturgy.
The Church celebrates in the liturgy above all the Paschal Mystery by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation. CCC 1067

- Paschal Mystery?: Christ’s work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection and glorious Ascension, whereby “dying he destroyed our death, rising he resorted our life.

- Through liturgy, Christ continues the work of Redemption in our midst. Paschal mystery and Christ are present in His church.*

- Jesus’ death and resurrection become present to us and effective for us in the liturgical life of the Church. Read CCC 1085** – Paschal Mystery transcends all time.
Heavenly Liturgy

• There is another reality happening in Heaven to which the liturgy of the Church is united: *Jesus standing before the Father in Heaven offers himself eternally.*

• Jesus is not alone: We are united with the great multitude of Heaven worshipping the Lamb of God (Rv 7:9-12) (Read)*

• In liturgy, we get a taste of heaven because divine things are happening.
Christ, the Church, & the Sacraments

Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, … but especially under the Eucharistic species. By His power He is presence in the sacraments, so that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them’ (Mt. 18:20).” 

(Vatican II, Sacrosanctum Concilium, 7)

• “What was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries (sacraments)”**
  
  (St. Leo the Great, d. 461)

• The actions of Christ’s life are the foundations of the sacraments. Jesus used signs of His presence in ministry during His life: water, bread and wine, touching, spittle, mud, etc. and the Apostles followed His example (Examples ***)

• Christ has entrusted the sacramental mysteries to the Church and they are dispensed by his ministers****
  - They are “from her” in that they are actions of Christ’s mystical body, the Church
  - They are “for her” in that they build and sanctify the Church*****
The Sacraments

Sacraments are **efficacious signs** of grace, instituted by Christ and **entrusted to the church** by which divine life (grace) is dispensed to us. (CCC 1131)

- **Efficacious** - Effective. They effect us. The Sacraments DO what they symbolize. When sacramental signs are celebrated, they reveal and make present the reality they signify because Jesus Christ is at work in them.
  
  Example: In baptism, the washing with water and the words bring about the cleansing of the soul from original and personal sin.

- **Entrusted to the Church**

*The whole liturgical life of the Church revolves round the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments.*

*(CCC 1113)*
The Sacraments

- There are a total of seven sacraments
  - Baptism
  - Confirmation
  - Eucharist
  - Penance
  - Anointing of the Sick
  - Holy Orders
  - Marriage
The Seven Sacraments

There are different ways to categorize the 7 sacraments; one way is by looking at what they do

- Sacraments of initiation
  - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
- Sacraments of healing
  - Penance, Anointing of the Sick
- Sacraments of vocation
  - Holy Orders, Marriage
A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace

- Outward sign
  - Form (words) and
  - matter (sacred action)
- Instituted by Christ
  - Scriptural foundation
- To give grace
  - Effect of the sacrament
Sacrament is: **An Outward Sign**

Every sacrament deploys the use of sensible things which constitutes its outward sign

- These signs and symbols come from *creation* (water, bread, wine, fire), *social life* (washing, anointing), and the *history of salvation* (sacrifices, laying on of hands)
- There are two inseparable aspects to the outward sign: matter and form

**Matter (actions)***
The concrete elements and actions necessary to bring the sacrament about, e.g. poring of water, anointing with oil, laying on of hands

**Form (words)**
The words necessary to specify the meaning of the sacrament

The **outward signs bring about what they signify**
- Example: in baptism the washing with water and the words bring about the cleansing of the soul from original and personal sin
Sacrament is **Instituted by Christ** …

- Instituted by Christ - Given importance by Christ *
- All are referenced in Scripture. (next page)
INSTITUTED BY CHRIST.....

BAPTISM IN SCRIPTURE
Matthew 28:19
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11; John 3:5; Galatians 3:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 10:44-47; Titus 3:5; Acts 8:11-13; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12

CONFIRMATION IN SCRIPTURE
Acts 8:14-18
Then **they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit.** When Simon saw that **the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles' hands** ...

2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Acts 19:1-6; Eph 1:13; Heb 6:2

CONFESSION IN SCRIPTURE
Matthew 18:18
**Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall Be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth Shall be loosed in heaven.**

John 20:23; Mt 9:2-8; James 5:14
EUCARIST IN SCRIPTURE

Mark 14:22-24

• While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."

1 Corinthians 10:16

MARRIAGE IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27-28

• God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."

Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; Ephesians 5:21-32
HOLY ORDERS IN SCRIPTURE

Acts 14:23

- They *appointed presbyters* for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith.

Acts 6:3-6; Acts 13:2-3; 1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-9; 1 Tim. 4:14; 1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Tim. 5:17-19; 1 Tim. 5:22.

ANOINTING OF SICK IN SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:13

They (the Twelve) drove out many demons, and they *anointed with oil* many who were sick and cured them.

James 5:14-15; Jn 20:23; Mt 16:18-19
A Sacrament purpose is **To Give Grace** …

- **Sacramental grace** – is a grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ, that is proper to each sacrament
  - Each sacrament has unique effects and gifts*
- The Sacraments also give (or increase) sanctifying grace and many actual graces
  - **Sanctifying grace** – God’s life within us
  - **Actual grace** – gifts for specific actions and circumstances**
Ex Opere Operato*

- The Sacraments are effective *ex opere operato*, that is, by the very fact that the sacramental action is performed
  - This is the case since it is Christ who acts in the sacraments and communicates the grace they signify
  - Thus, the efficacy of the sacraments *do not* depend upon the personal holiness of the minister**
- Yet, the fruits of the sacraments *do* depend on the dispositions of the one who receives them***
Sacramental Character

- **Sacramental character** - is a spiritual seal which confers an indelible (permanent) mark on the soul

- The three sacraments which bestow a sacramental character are:
  - Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders
  - Since this character is permanent these sacraments can only be received once
Liturgical Year

- The liturgical year cycles through different seasons similar to the natural year
  - Summer
  - Fall
  - Winter
  - Spring

- This parallels the life of Jesus Christ; the liturgical year is based upon the central mysteries of His life
  - Birth
  - Life
  - Death
  - Resurrection
Seasons of the Liturgical Year

- **Advent** – preparation for the coming of Christ
- **Christmas** – celebration of Jesus’ Incarnation and birth
- **Ordinary Time** – recollection of Jesus’ public life
- **Lent** – Christ’s life culminating in his betrayal and crucifixion
- **Easter** – celebration of Christ’s Resurrection and Ascension, as well as the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- **Ordinary Time** – period when we continue to learn about the path to holiness as witnessed by the life of Christ
- **Feast Days** – days throughout the year dedicated to Jesus, Mary, the saints, and angels
Readings of the Liturgical Year

- The readings at Mass reflect the liturgical year, for example we have:
  - Readings about the Nativity at Christmas
  - Readings on the Passion during Holy Week
  - Readings about the Christian life during Ordinary Time
- There are 3 yearly cycles to the readings; thus in three years the Church goes through nearly the entire Bible
  - Year A: Matthew
  - Year B: Mark
  - Year C: Luke
- On Sundays the first reading is from the Old Testament (and Acts) and is chosen because it corresponds to the Gospel reading
# Liturgical Colors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Purple</th>
<th>Rose</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meaning</strong></td>
<td>Life, Hope</td>
<td>Fire, Love, Blood</td>
<td>Purity, Joyful Festivity</td>
<td>Sorrow, Penitence</td>
<td>Joy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use</strong></td>
<td>Masses during Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Feasts of martyrs, Pentecost, and Passion Sunday</td>
<td>Masses during Christmas and Easter, and feasts of Jesus, Mary, and the saints</td>
<td>Masses during Advent and Lent, and masses for the dead</td>
<td>Gaudate Sunday in Advent and Laetare Sunday in Lent</td>
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Holy Days of Obligation

- In addition to Sundays there are special feast days the solemnity of which obliges us to celebrate the Liturgy
- The Church celebrates six holy days of obligation in the United States
  - **The Immaculate Conception** – December 8
  - **Christmas** – December 25
  - **Mary, Mother of God** – January 1
  - **The Ascension of Jesus** – Forty days after Easter*
  - **The Assumption of Mary** – August 15
  - **The Solemnity of All Saints** – November 1

*The bishops’ conference may transfer this feast to the following Sunday*

• Who celebrates the Liturgy?
  The entire body of Christ!
  The priest has a unique function of service during the Liturgy

• How do we celebrate the Liturgy?
  With signs, symbols, and rituals to help us experience God’s invisible presence
    Music, processions, blessings, bread wine oil, gestures, peace, bowed heads, kneeling, standing,
    sitting, incense, holy water, flowers, candles, colors, vestments, choir, musical instruments, sculpture,
    architecture, paintings, icons, stained glass
  Liturgy of the Word – reading of scripture
    CCC 1190 The Liturgy of the Word is an integral part of the celebration. The meaning of the
    celebration is expressed by the Word ...
    Homily

• When do we celebrate the Liturgy?
  Sunday. The Lord’s Day. The day of Christ’s resurrection.
  Sunday Mass is an obligation
  Throughout the day – Liturgy of the Hours
    The daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer.
    The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer.

• Where do we celebrate the Liturgy?
  Church
  With your worshipping community

  1 Peter 2:4-5  Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.