

LITURGY LESSON

lesson 2: The Introductory Rites

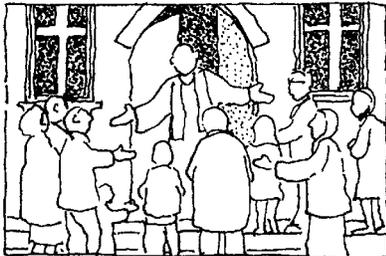


*Preparing for the 3rd Edition of
the Roman Missal*

The Introductory Rites include everything that happens from the moment we stand at Mass until we sit down for the first time. They include the Opening Song, the Sign of the Cross, the Greeting, the Penitential Act, the Opening Prayer or Collect and the Gloria which will be discussed in our next Liturgy Lesson.

Mass begins with an Entrance Song. On Sundays this is usually a song or hymn. (At weekday Masses this is a one-sentence antiphon.) After this, the priest says the words for the Sign of the Cross as the congregation makes the gesture and answers “Amen”. There will be no notable changes with this.

At the Greeting the priest says “The Lord be with you”. Our response will change to “**And with your spirit**”. This is a closer translation of the Latin, “Et cum spiritu tuo”, and it matches the response that already exists in most other major languages, including Spanish, French, Italian, and German. The revised response aims to root us more deeply in the scriptures and is inspired by passages that conclude four of the New Testament epistles. The greeting is more than a simple hello and alerts participants that they are entering a sacramental realm. It expresses a desire that the Holy Spirit be present to the entire community. The dialogue establishes the interdependence of the priest and the people as they take up their roles to praise God. There are two other choices for greeting by the priest. One greeting is “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” The other greeting is “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”.



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There are three options for the Penitential Act. The priest or deacon makes three acclamations concluding with “Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.” There is a new translation of the acclamations. Also there will be a new translation for the Confiteor which begins “I confess to almighty God”. It will have us express more grandly the seriousness of our sin and the sincerity of our contrition. The Confiteor still concludes with “Lord, have mercy”. The priest then continues with an absolution that has had a change of text to: “May almighty God have mercy on us and lead us, with our sins forgiven, to eternal life.” The congregation still responds with “Amen”.

The Introductory Rites conclude with the Opening Prayer or Collect said by the priest. There are several choices. All have been re-translated and will sound a little different. The congregation still responds with the words, “Amen”. This solemnly affirms one’s belief in God and the unity of the prayers of everyone present. In faith, we are then seated and ready to hear the Word of God.



Printed below is a comparison of the current text used at Mass and the words from the New Edition of the Roman Missal...

Changes in the People's Parts : Introductory Rites		
PART OF MASS	PRESENT TEXT	NEW TEXT
Greeting	Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.	Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And with your spirit.
Penitential Act, Form A (Confiteor)	I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and 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.	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.
Penitential Act, Form B	Priest: Lord, we have sinned against you: Lord, have mercy. People: Lord, have mercy. Priest: Lord, show us your mercy and love. People: And grant us your salvation.	Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord. People: For we have sinned against you. Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy. People: And grant us your salvation.

More information concerning the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal including extended commentary on the new translation visit the website of the American Bishops at

<http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/index.shtml>