

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THE MASS



Gloria

This is article 4 of 21 of the Mass series

Gloria: The Unparalleled Hymn of the Liturgy

What? The Gloria is the hymn of praise the angels sang at Christ's birth (Lk 2:13-14) (CCC #333). It gets its name from the first line "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" that is in Latin. It has been part of the church's liturgy since the 6th century (Roc O' Connor, 2003).

This venerable hymn that may not be replaced by any other has three parts (GIRM, 53). The first part is the proclamation of the angels at Christ's birth, the second part is praising God, and the third part is asking Jesus to have mercy on us and thanking him. Gloria is essentially a Trinitarian prayer offering worship to the Father and Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

When? The Gloria is said at all Sunday Masses, Feasts, and Solemnities except during Lent and Advent.

How? The Gloria can be read or sung. The congregation stands when this praise is offered.

Who? Often the priest may start the first line and the choir and congregation will follow.

In conclusion, the Gloria is a profoundly beautiful hymn that praises God and His divine mercy extended to us through salvation. With this knowledge, let us join the angels and give praise to God with revived gusto.