

The Eucharist: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Chapter 31 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore the various parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- The participants will examine various elements of the Eucharistic Prayer.
- The participants will reflect on how the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer prepares us to celebrate the Eucharist.

Content Summary

1. The Liturgy of the Eucharist includes the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts and the Eucharistic Prayer, ending with the Amen after the Concluding Doxology.
2. In the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts, members of the assembly bring the bread and wine to the altar, and money for the support of the parish and the help of those who are poor is collected from the people.
3. The Eucharistic Prayer is the core of the Mass. It consists of several parts: the Preface Dialogue, the Preface, the Preface Acclamation (or Holy, Holy, Holy), the Mystery of Faith (or Memorial Acclamation), the Concluding Doxology, and the Amen.
4. The Preface Dialogue is an invitation to pray together.
5. The Preface is a summary of the good things the Father has done for us throughout history, and it leads us to the main reason we are thankful at this Eucharist: the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
6. The *epiclesis* is a calling down of the Holy Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine.
7. The Institution Narrative and Consecration are familiar parts of the Eucharist in which the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. This change is called *transubstantiation*.
8. The Mystery of Faith (or Memorial Acclamation) gives the assembly the opportunity to affirm the love of Christ for us, as we remember that he died on the cross, was raised by the Father, and will come again.
9. In the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer, the oblation, we ask God to receive our sacrifice of praise and our own lives lived as his children. This is followed by prayers and intercessions in which we pray for the Church, the Church's leaders, and all the living and the dead.
10. The Concluding Doxology and Amen end the Eucharistic Prayer. A doxology is a statement of praise, and it is affirmed by our Amen.

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