



**STUDYDADDY**

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CHAPTER  
FOUR



*The Structure  
of the Mass*

*Worship in spirit and truth.*

John 4:24b

◇ **CONSIDER THIS:**

Our official rituals are composed of small liturgical units linked together into larger units. The eucharist, for example, has four main liturgical units: the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites. The Introductory Rites, in turn, are composed of a series of smaller liturgical units, such as the Opening Prayer which itself is a liturgical unit of four elements: the preparatory dialogue, the silence, the prayer proper and the closing Amen. The interplay of these various structures provides a certain rhythm to worship that is to be respected.

Proper preparation requires identification of these units and recognition of which are primary and which are secondary. (*Milwaukee Symposia for Church Composers*, 39–40)

While a step-by-step, expanded development of these various ritual moments will be examined in the next four chapters, a look at the overall structure and order of Mass is presented here in chart form to provide an overall sense of the movement of the liturgy. The various parts of the Mass are named with a brief explanation of the part's corresponding spirituality.

**STRUCTURE OF THE MASS**

**SPIRITUALITY OF THE MASS**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Many Becoming One**

Entering, Gathering, and Hospitality

Forming the community

Preparation Time

Honoring the community's participation

The Entrance Procession and Chant (Song)\*

Opening expression of gathering and statement of faith

Veneration of the Altar, Sign of the Cross\*, Greeting\*

Honoring our identity and beginning

Penitential Act and Kyrie\*

Recognizing the mercy of God

The Blessing and Sprinkling of Water\*\*

Remembering our Baptism

The Gloria\*\*

Giving praise

The Collect\*

The community focuses on the mysteries in prayer

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

[Dismissal of Children for Liturgy of the Word]\*  
 First Reading (Old Testament, except during Easter Time, then from the New Testament)\*  
 Silence  
 Responsorial Psalm\*\*  
 Second Reading (New Testament)\*  
 Gospel Procession /Acclamation\*\*  
 Gospel\*  
 Homily  
 [Special Rituals: i.e. Christian Initiation rituals, anointings, blessings, etc.]\*  
 Dismissal of Catechumens\*  
 Creed / The Profession of Faith\*  
 Universal Prayer / Prayer of the Faithful\*

## TELLING THE STORIES

Growing in the Word  
 Telling the ancestral story  
 The community pauses to reflect  
 A prayerful bridge for the entire Word toward the Gospel  
 Telling more of the story  
 Praising the Word alive  
 Telling the Good News  
 Preaching the Good News  
 Celebrating our sacramental life, blessings  
 Going forth to be deepened by the Word  
 Stating our beliefs  
 Praying for the world

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts\*  
 Prayer over the Offerings\*  
 Eucharistic Prayer\*  
     Opening Dialogue\* / Preface\*  
     Acclamation: Holy, Holy, Holy\*\*  
     Epiclesis\*  
     Institution Narrative\*  
     Acclamation: Memorial Acclamation\*\*  
     Anamnesis and Offering\*  
     Intercessions\*  
 Doxology and Acclamation: Amen\*\*

## ACTING AND THANKING IN MEMORY OF CHRIST

Preparing gifts (us, money, bread and wine)  
 Calling on God's presence  
 Blessing, praising, giving thanks  
 Thanksgiving for God's activity  
 Joining the acclamation of the angels  
 Calling down the Spirit  
 Calling to mind what Jesus did  
 Remembering the mystery of faith  
 Honoring the memory  
 Calling to mind the needs of the Church, the world, the community  
 Our communal assent of belief

<b>THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST</b>	<b>ACTING AND THANKING IN MEMORY OF CHRIST</b>
The Communion Rite	Sharing the meal
The Lord's Prayer*	Praying as Jesus taught
The Sign of Peace	Extending communal peace and reconciliation
The Fraction of the Bread / Lamb of God**	Breaking and pouring
Invitation to Communion*	Humility and reverence
Sharing of Communion / Communion Song**	Receiving and becoming the Body of Christ
Silent Prayer and Song of Praise**	Thanking God for gifts
Prayer after Communion*	Summing it up

<b>THE CONCLUDING RITES</b>	<b>BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST</b>
Announcements	Being Church
Greeting*, Final Blessing*, Prayer over the People*	Receiving God's care
Dismissal / Song*	Going forth in mission to love and serve

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\*Text can be sung.

\*\*Text is always sung.

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