

The Church's Prayers in the Eucharist

Deacon Mary Baker, Nov. 10, 2024

The action of the Liturgy recapitulates the experience of every Christian soul, showing forth visibly its invisible movement towards union with God; and that every soul, so far as it is given to this liturgical action, reproduces in their own experience, the peculiar rhythm of Christian sacrifice . . . the Liturgy recapitulates all the essentials in this life of sanctification—to repent, to pray, to listen, to learn; and then to offer upon the altar of God, to intercede, to be transformed to the purposes of God and to be fed and maintained by the very life of God.” Evelyn Underhill, *The Mystery of Sacrifice, A Meditation on the Liturgy*

Introduction:

Prayer: one definition: “Human approach to God and addressing God in praise and adoration, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession. The consciousness of God's presence, love, direction, and Grace.”

Why do we pray? What happens when we pray?

Lex orandi est lex credendi et agendi. “The rule of prayer is the rule of belief and action” (maxim attributed to Pope Celestine I (422-432AD))

The Eucharist or *eucharista* = “giving thanks”

The Order of Prayers, Intercessions, Praise, and Thanksgiving in the Holy Eucharist

Small Group Discussion of aspects of each of these prayers, why they are where they are in liturgical order, what meaning is added to eucharistic worship, how do these prayers affect your worship, what aspect of these prayers includes thanksgiving?

Preparation

The Invocation/Acclamation, p.123

The Collect for Purity, 124

(followed by the Summary of the Law or the Ten Commandments in Lent)

The Gloria, 125

The Collect of the Day

The Prayers of the People, 128-129

The Confession and Absolution, 130

(followed by the Comfortable Words)

The Sursum Corda and the Sanctus, 132

**The Prayer of Consecration
(also called The Great Thanksgiving)**

Thanksgiving for Christ's Sacrifice, 132-133

Oblation or Sacrifice, 133-134 (We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...)

The Lord's Prayer, 134

The Prayer of Humble Access, 135

Post-Communion Prayer, 137