

Week Two: The Liturgy of the Word – Jesus Teaches Us

The Liturgy of the Word is the part of the Mass in which we listen to God's word being proclaimed. We listen to three readings from the Bible as well as a song of praise called a psalm. The **First Reading** is usually from the Old Testament, the portion of the bible that talks about God's people who lived before Jesus. We then hear and usually repeat a **Psalm** which is followed by the **Second Reading** which is from the New Testament, the part of the Bible that talks about Jesus and his disciples and the beginning of the Church. The third reading is called the **Gospel** which means "good news" and is read by the priest. This reading is taken from one of the four gospels of the New Testament.

After the Gospel, the priest usually explains the readings and how they all fit together in his **Homily**. When he is done, we pray the **Creed**, a prayer that announces what we believe as Catholics. The final part of the Liturgy of the Word is the **Prayers of the Faithful** or **General Intercessions** when we pray for the needs of others.