

It's Ascension Thursday (on a Sunday)!



Last week we started covering the Eucharistic Acclamations and there is a little more to go over in that regard. Immediately after the Sanctus, the Eucharistic Prayer begins. There used to be only one Eucharistic Prayer, (the first one), but with the changes after the Second Vatican Council, several more were added. In any case, all of them, and all the text of the Eucharistic Prayer can (and sometimes should) be sung. The next big Acclamation is the Memorial Acclamation. This was also added as a result of the Second Vatican Council, and its purpose is to reaffirm the Paschal Mystery. There are three options to choose from, the most common being: “We proclaim your death Oh Lord...”.

Next is the Great Amen. This one is pretty important because it represents all of us assenting to the entire Eucharistic Prayer (see *Sing To The Lord* 180). We are saying that we believe that our Blessed Lord is really physically present with us. The Pastoral Introduction to the Order of Mass says that it should be sung or at least spoken vigorously (124). This one word may be small, but it is certainly mighty!

A final note for today is that we are celebrating the Ascension of the Lord. Normally, today would be the 7th Sunday of Easter, and the Ascension would have been this past Thursday. That sequence of events lines up with the historical accounts (Ascension is 40 days after Easter, and Pentecost is 10 days after the Ascension). In the Archdiocese of Chicago (and most dioceses of the USA), the bishops have “transferred” the observance of the Ascension to today in order to make it easier for everyone to meet the obligation of participating in the Mass on the Ascension. So happy Ascension Thursday (on a Sunday)!

St. Cecilia, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity...Pray for us!

--Mark Wozniczka, Music Director (mwozniczka@archchicago.org)

