

Unit Two: The Word of God in Worship

Liturgical celebration is based primarily on the Word of God (LM §13)

The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly (SC §51)

The Purpose of Scripture in Worship

Scripture recalls major events in our salvation history

recalls our identity as the body of Christ

– in liturgy the word becomes new event

1. Call and Response

The pattern of the operation of scripture

- **Call**, *showing*:
 - *the presence of Christ*
 - *the action of the Holy Spirit*
- **Response**: *our participation*
 - *by positive listening*
 - *Response in worship*
 - *Word, leading into Sacrament*
 - *Response in life and mission*

2. Implications

The word in worship implies or requires

- Symbols and elements,
i.e. worthy ambo, Book of Gospels, candles, incense, posture, kissing
- an attitude of reverence
- quality of proclamation
(judged by effectiveness in being heard); including adaptation to needs of particular groups, e.g. CHILDREN, CATECHUMENS
- Preaching:
essential link between WORD AND SACRAMENT

Elements of the Liturgy of the Word

Structure of the Liturgy of the Word

There should be a full Liturgy of the Word in every liturgy; consisting of

- **Readings and chants**
 - *arrangement*
 - *implications for readers and musicians*
- **Homily**
 - *what it is*
 - *its function*
- **Intercessions**
 - *purpose*
 - *structure*
 - *model content*
 - *composition*

Preparation

1. Spiritual

- *biblical (view of the bible as a whole)*
- *liturgical (how Scripture is selected for worship)*

2. Technical

- *Reading skills*
- *Mechanical aids*
- *Gesture and posture*
- *Movement ('choreography')*

Documentation and Bibliography

Constitution on the Liturgy 24, 35-36, 51-52.

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Second Vatican Council [*Dei Verbum*]. (Included in Flannery)

General Instruction on the Roman Missal 8, 9, 33-47.

Lectionary for Mass: Introduction (included in Flannery)

D. A. Withey **Catholic Worship** Kevin Mayhew 1990, ch.10

Lawrence J. Johnson, **The Word and Eucharist Handbook** San Jose: Resource Publications, 1986.

Ralph A. Keifer, **To Hear and Proclaim** Washington: The Pastoral Press. A commentary on the Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass.