

The Structure of the Eucharistic Prayer (I)

Gathering	Preface Dialogue	The opening dialogue gathers the priest and the assembly together in the shared work of the prayer
Reason for Thanksgiving	Preface	The Preface names the particular reason for this celebration - a particular saving work of God, or sometimes the memory of what God's grace has achieved in one of his saints.
	Sanctus	The prayer of the Church on earth, is joined with the prayer of the Church in heaven.
	Thanksgiving	The thanksgiving began in the Preface, and continues in this first section after the Sanctus.
Invocation of the Holy Spirit	First Epiclesis	The Holy Spirit is called down on the gifts of bread and wine to transform them into the Body and Blood of Christ. ('Epiclesis' is from the Greek for call down on)
Remembering	Institution Narrative	An account of the Last Supper, including the words by which Jesus instituted this rite, commanding that it be done by the Church in memory of him. Although the whole of the prayer has a consecratory function, it is these words in particular that are seen as bringing about the consecration of the gifts of bread and wine.
	Memorial Acclamation	The Assembly joins in professing the Paschal Mystery, the saving events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Each of the acclamations, in their different way, name those events, name their present reality and name the glory that is still to come.
	Anamnesis	The memory of the saving death and resurrection of Christ is once more the focus of the prayer. ('Anamnesis' is from the Greek for remembering or memorial)
Invocation of the Holy Spirit	Second Epiclesis	The Holy Spirit is invited to come upon the Church and to unite her more fully with Christ.
Intercession	Intercession	The needs of the Church and the world, of the living and the dead, are prayed for.
Praise	Doxology	The whole of the prayer is directed to the Father, through the Son and in the Spirit. That direction of our prayer is made explicit in the Doxology. ('Doxology' is from the Greek for words of praise and glory)
	Amen	The assembly puts its seal on the prayer with the Great Amen. ('Amen' is a Hebrew word meaning 'So be it' or 'It is so'.)

The Structure of the Eucharistic Prayer (II)

Gathering	Reason for Thanksgiving	Invocation of the Holy Spirit	Remembering	Invocation of the Holy Spirit	Intercession	Praise
<p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.</p>	<p>Father, it is our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p>His fast of forty days makes this a holy season of self denial. By rejecting the devil's temptations he has taught us to rid ourselves of the hidden corruption of evil, and so to share his paschal meal in purity of heart, until we come to its fulfilment in the promised land of heaven.</p> <p>Now we join the angels and the saints as they sing their unending hymn of praise:</p> <p>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</p> <p>Father, you are holy indeed, and all creation rightly gives you praise. All life, all holiness comes from you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit. From age to age you gather a people to yourself, so that from east to west a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name.</p>	<p>And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit, that they may become the body and blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist.</p>	<p>On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: 'Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you.'</p> <p>When supper was ended he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples and said: 'Take this all of you and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.'</p> <p>Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.</p> <p>Father, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation, his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven, and ready to greet him when he comes again, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.</p>	<p>Look with favour on your Church's offering, and see the Victim whose death has reconciled us to yourself. Grant that we who are nourished by his body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ.</p>	<p>May he make us an everlasting gift to you and enable us to share in the inheritance of your saints, with Mary the virgin Mother of God; with the apostles, the martyrs, and all your saints on whose constant intercession we rely for help. Lord, may this sacrifice which has made our peace with you, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church on earth; your servant, Pope John Paul, Cormac our Bishop, and all the bishops with the clergy and the entire people your Son has gained for you. Father, hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love unite all your children wherever they may be.</p> <p>Welcome into your kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship. We hope to enjoy for ever the vision of your glory, through Christ our Lord, from whom all good things come.</p>	<p>Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>

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