

Understanding the Mass

Gospel Reading

Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.

*Today our topic is the **Gospel Reading**.*

The **Gospel Reading** is always taken from one of the four Gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (who are all saints). The word gospel comes from *gōdspel* in Old English, combining *gōd*, meaning “good” and *spel*, meaning “news”.

The Gospels are literally the Good News of the life of Jesus, and they are the most precious part of the Bible, which means the Gospel Reading is the most important part of the Liturgy of the Word.

We recognise this importance when we stand to greet the Gospel during the Gospel Acclamation (our topic last week), and we stay standing throughout the Gospel Reading. Altar servers may stand on either side of the lectern (ambo) with candles while the Gospel is read. And the Gospel may be revered with incense by the priest (or deacon) before the Gospel Reading begins.



The priest greets us with the words: “The Lord be with you.” He then introduces the Gospel Reading while marking a small cross on his forehead, lips and heart with his thumb. We also complete these actions along with the priest - that we may hear the Word of God with an open mind, proclaim it with our lips, and treasure it in our hearts.

The Gospel Reading concludes with the priest announcing: “The Gospel of the Lord”. We respond: “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,” again proclaiming (stating) our faith in the presence of Christ.

Circle which statement is correct for you at Mass today

The priest said “The Lord be with you” before reading the Gospel	YES	NO
Altar servers held candles while the Gospel was read	YES	NO
The Gospel Reading was from the Gospel of Luke	YES	NO
You stood while the Gospel was being read by the priest	YES	NO