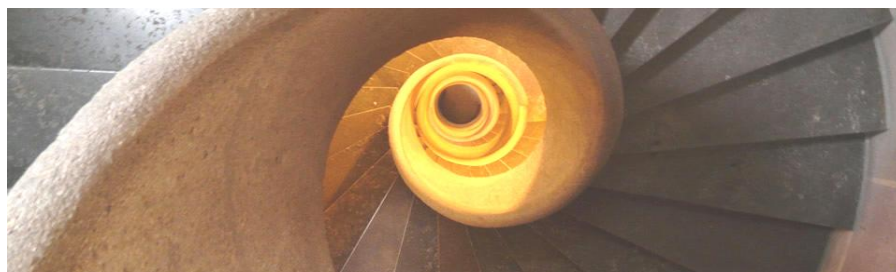


Resurrection Parish

CELEBRATE



Go: The Concluding Rites

Once there was a family who forgot to set their clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time. They scampered about quickly to get ready but arrived at their Episcopal Church just as the assembly was leaving. Slightly out of breath, the mother said to the pastor, "Oh, no, we're late for the service." The pastor, a kind and wise person, smiled and replied, "Our worship for this Sunday is complete but the service has just begun!" Now, there is a fine understanding of what the Concluding Rite is all about!

Thanksgiving at Great Aunt Martha's house . . . I am well-fed with conversation, companionship and her great cooking. When it is time to go, the conversation goes something like this . . . Great Aunt Martha says, "Be good, deary!" I reply, "I will! Thanks, Great Aunt Martha!" Off I go with a full tummy and a full heart . . . to be good.

It's like that at Mass too. The priest or deacon says, "The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." And we say, "Thanks be to God." We are not saying, "Thanks be to God that's done for another week. I've fulfilled my Sunday obligation." We are making a commitment to "be good" for God and for all the people we meet in the coming week. We are really saying, "Thanks be to God that we have been nourished and strengthened for our work of discipleship." "Thanks be to God that we have been called and sent to be healers and reconcilers just like Jesus." "Thanks be to God that we together as God's people can be Christ in the world for the life of the world!"

We are not dismissed FROM the Mass. We are dismissed TO the world. We are dismissed with a mandate, the mandate of the Mass. Just as God invites us to come and gather to give thanks and praise, we are called to invite others to come. Just as Christ speaks to us in the scriptures, we are called to proclaim the Good News. Just as Christ feeds us with his Body and Blood, we are called to be nourishment for a hungry world. Just as we are sent forth to love and serve, we are called to encourage others to share the mission and ministry of Christ.

Our worship for this Sunday is complete but the service has just begun. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*The concluding rite is a movement
from church to the world;
from altar to people;
from Christ crucified on Calvary
to Christ crucified in our streets.*

Walter Burghardt

*Our problem is how to live what we pray,
how to make our lives a daily commentary
on our prayer book,
how to live in consonance with what we promise,
how to keep faith with the vision we pronounce.*

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

For reflection and sharing . . .

- ❖ What do you normally do after Mass? How do you keep the rest of the day and the coming week holy?
- ❖ Think about what it means to you when someone says, "Be good!" Reflect on the words, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." In the coming week, what specifically do these words call you to?
- ❖ Think about the concluding rites at this Sunday's Mass being the beginning of next week's Mass.