

Changes in the Roman Missal that Affect the Music We Sing

Pope John Paul II announced a revised version of the *Missale Romanum* during the Jubilee Year 2000. Among other things, the revised edition of the *Missale Romanum* contains prayers for the observances of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Votive Masses and Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass.

The English translation of the *Roman Missal* will also include updated translations of existing prayers, including some of the well-known responses and acclamations of the people.

Why was there a need for an updated translation?

Over time, the rules for the translation of liturgical texts have evolved. The texts of the revised translation of the *Roman Missal* are marked by a heightened style of English speech and a grammatical structure that more closely follows the Latin text. In addition, many biblical and poetic images in the Latin (but missing from our current English translation) have been restored.

<p>Some of the changes affect portions of the Mass that are sung:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Glory to God (<i>Gloria</i>)✦ Holy (<i>Sanctus</i>)✦ Memorial Acclamation / Mystery of Faith	<p>Much of the music of the Mass is <i>not</i> directly affected by the updated translation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Opening Song✦ Kyrie✦ Responsorial Psalm✦ Gospel Acclamation✦ Offertory song or music✦ Amen✦ Lamb of God litany✦ Communion song✦ (concluding song or music)
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Many publishers and composers are revising current Mass settings to incorporate the text changes, as well as offering newly-composed Mass settings from a variety of composers.

Many people in musical leadership recognize that it will be more difficult to get an assembly to change the way they sing something they already know than to learn something new. In the process of learning entirely *new* music, the textual changes will be more natural and more easily remembered.

While it will not be *necessary* to learn new music for the acclamations of the Mass that are not affected by the updated translation, musicians should still seek to maintain a stylistic/musical connection between the acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer (Holy-Mystery of Faith-Amen). Indeed, using music selected from a composer's unified setting of all the parts of the Mass can help to support the unity of the entire liturgy.

The governing document for selecting and using music in the liturgy is still *Sing to the Lord* (USCCB, 2007), with which all music leaders must be familiar.

A Summary of the Textual Changes Affecting Liturgical Music

	CURRENT TEXT	UPDATED TEXT
Gloria	<p>Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.</p> <p>Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.</p> <p>Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,</p> <p>you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;</p> <p>you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.</p> <p>For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</p>	<p>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.</p> <p>We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.</p> <p>Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;</p> <p>you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.</p> <p>For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</p>
Sanctus	<p>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.</p> <p>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>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.</p> <p>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>

	CURRENT TEXT	UPDATED TEXT
Mystery of Faith	<p>Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:</p> <p>People: A – Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.</p> <p>or B – Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.</p> <p>or C – When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.</p> <p>or D – Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the World.</p>	<p>Priest: The mystery of faith.</p> <p>People: <i>(this text is not in the source material)</i></p> <p>A – We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.</p> <p>or B – When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.</p> <p>or C – Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.</p>