

Chapter 7

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *Describe the worship of the first Christians. What common elements does it share with our worship today?*

The early Christians worshipped by listening to the teaching of the Apostles, promoting communal life, breaking bread, and praying together. This worship continues in a similar form today. We gather as a community for Mass, where we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word (hearing the teaching of the Apostles), break bread in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and pray together throughout.

2. *In the Eucharist, what is the purpose of the Introductory Rites?*

The Introductory Rites of the Mass bring the assembly together as a worshipping community and prepare those gathered to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist.

3. *What is the purpose of the Penitential Act in the Eucharist?*

At the beginning of Mass, the Penitential Act provides a moment of silence for us to repent of sin, recall Christ's role in salvation, and have our venial sins forgiven. The purpose is to give the Holy Spirit an assembly of clean hearts in which to dwell, without lingering sin that will interfere with God's message or our communion with Christ.

4. *In what ways is Christ present in the celebration of the Eucharist?*

Christ is present in many ways in the Mass, or celebration of the Eucharist. He is our eternal High Priest, acting through the human priest who offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. He is also present in the Word of God and in the assembly gathered in his name. Finally, he is especially and really present in the Body and Blood of the Eucharist.

5. *How is the Holy Spirit at work in the celebration of the Eucharist?*

The Holy Spirit works through the Liturgy of the Word to help the Word of God support and sustain the entire celebration of the liturgy and to plant God's Word in the hearts of those gathered. The Holy Spirit also works in the Liturgy of the Eucharist to change our gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

6. *In what ways does the Liturgy of the Word prepare us to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist?*

The Word of God, proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word, supports and sustains the entire celebration of the liturgy by recounting facets of salvation history that were fulfilled in Christ. This Word is the new and living Word of God that does not stay on the pages of Holy Scripture. Rather, Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word, penetrating the hearts of those gathered and preparing us for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, in which we consume the New Manna, the New Bread from Heaven. The Profession of Faith in particular is where we assent in faith to the Word of God proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word.

7. *What is the Eucharistic Prayer, and why is it the high point of the Eucharist?*

The Eucharistic Prayer is the high point of the Eucharist because it includes the consecration of the essential signs of the Sacrament of the Eucharist: the bread and wine, which become Christ's Real Presence. It commemorates and makes present Christ's sacrifice, the Paschal Mystery.



8. *How is Christ's Paschal Mystery proclaimed and made present in the Eucharist?*

The Eucharist is a memorial of Christ's Paschal Mystery, the work of salvation he accomplished through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Eucharist makes this work present for us in the most direct way possible: through the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine consecrated to become his Body and Blood.

9. *Describe the role of the assembly in the celebration of the Eucharist.*

The assembly is important in the celebration of the Eucharist because each member is part of the one Body of Christ. The assembly's role is to affirm and help carry out the action of Christ in our midst. Together with the priest, the assembly offers Christ to the Father and offers themselves through Christ. As a result, all are called to be signs of unity with one another, and all should therefore participate by responding in prayer, joining in song, and performing the liturgical gestures as one body.

10. *From where do priests draw their strength to preach the Good News and minister to their faith communities?*

Priests follow the command of Jesus and make present the offering of Jesus to the Father. Jesus' entire ministry, to preach the Good News, draws its strength from the Eucharist.

