

Mass Parts 8/52: ***Gloria***



On Sundays and Holy Days outside of Advent and Lent, after the Penitential Rite, we break out into song with the *Gloria* and proclaim our belief in the awesomeness of Jesus Christ. Instead of analyzing each individual line of the song, we can spend our time in reflection on the first line.

“Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to people of good will.”

This line is a direct quote from the Gospel of Luke 2:14. This is the song of the angels appearing to the shepherds, announcing to them the birth of Jesus. When we sing it, we are joining with the angels, and proclaiming to the world that coming of our Savior. We should sing with such joy and volume that people walking down Fifth Street should wonder what is happening! Such a privilege, that in our joy we echo the same song of praise. We become angels, messengers of God, telling all why we are so happy in life. The birth of Jesus is the beginning of our hope, the beginning of the Gospel story, the Good News that God so cares for us, that He became one of us. This is what we have spent all of Advent preparing for. This is what our lives are preparing for. So important is this song, that we draw it out as long as possible in Christmas carols: “Glo-o-o-o-o-ria in excelsis Deo.

As angels/messengers of God, we too are called to proclaim the Good News of salvation and forgiveness to the shepherds of our own day: the outcasts, the poor, and the forgotten. It is for them, and for us in our lowliness, that God came to earth. Let our *Gloria* never cease!

One other point to make within the *Gloria*. The rubrics of the liturgy ask us, not just in the *Gloria* but always, to make a simple bow of the head at the names of Jesus, Mary, the Trinity, and the saint on their day. It is not a full body profound bow. It is a simple devotion of recognizing the saving grace connected with these names. To combat those that take these names in vain, we bow humbly in respect at their mere mention.

-Fr. Kopp

Next week: Mass Postures: standing, sitting, kneeling, bowing