

Mass Parts 13/52: ***Silence***



There are certain times in the Mass that call for silence and after the readings are certainly such times. This is a sacred silence, a pregnant pause. It is not just waiting for the lector to sit and the cantor to stand. It is more than just time for movement. It is a time to reflect on what we just heard. We take the time to let the readings mull around in our heads. What message did we hear? What was the main theme? What words stuck out? What would you preach about if you had to? What ideas can help throughout the week? What connects all of the readings together?

The silence can also be a continuation of our response. After we say, “Thanks be to God,” or “Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ,” what is our thanksgiving to God for speaking the Word aloud to us? We can continue our thanksgiving in silent prayer.

The silence also sets up the next phase of the Mass. From the silence after the First Reading, the first notes of the Psalm are sung into this silence. From the silence after the Psalm, the Second Reading is read into this silence. The silence after the second Reading is ended by the first notes of the Alleluia. There is also time for silence after the Homily. What message did you hear? How does it fit your own life? And from the silence after the Homily, our Profession of Faith enters into the silence.

With so much noise and distraction in our lives today, I always try to ensure proper time for silence throughout the Mass. Take advantage of these times, even if just to enjoy the quiet time alone with God.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Psalms