

Mass Parts 36/52: *Doxology and Great Amen*



At the end of every Eucharistic Prayer, we have the Doxology and the Amen. The priest raises the chalice containing the Precious Blood and the paten holding the consecrated Host and sings the summary doxology of the whole Eucharistic Prayer. “Doxology” comes the Greek *doxa* = “praise” and *logos* = “a word or rationale”. So our Doxology is our word of praise.

*Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.*

The “him” in this prayer is Jesus Christ and the prayer is addressed to God the Father. The Doxology is a Trinitarian word of praise. The Trinity in its completeness is addressed in the summary of the Eucharistic Prayer, the summary of the great event and memorial of our salvation.

The Great Amen should indeed be great. Imagine the priest going through the entire Eucharistic Prayer, that the God who created the universe and protects us each day, has taken the shape of simple bread and wine before our very eyes. We are invited to give all glory and praise in thanksgiving for all that we have in our lives and the salvation we are about to receive. And in response, many of us simply mumble a barely audible “amen.” How anticlimactic! Our Amen is a response to the whole Eucharistic Prayer and the presence of Jesus among us. All of our intercessions and calls for prayer are coming to a climax. Our “Amen” should shake the roof. The people on Monroe Street should be concerned as they walk by! So be it! So bet it!

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Our Father