

GLORIA!

WHAT IS THE GLORIA? The *Gloria* is a very ancient and venerable hymn in which the Church, gathered together in the Holy Spirit, glorifies and entreats God the Father and the Lamb. The *Gloria* is the Church's Greatest Hymn of Praise to render honor, glory & thanksgiving to the Trinity.

WHEN IS IT SUNG? It is sung or said on Sundays outside the Seasons of Advent and Lent, on solemnities and feasts, and at special celebrations of a more solemn character.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? It is the song of the Angels from Heaven given from the Gospel of Luke, "*And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*" (Luke 2:13-14.) It has been used in the liturgy since the Pope directed that it be sung at a Mass on Christmas Day in the 2nd Century.

WHAT DOES THE GLORIA TEACH US? The four ends of the Sacrifice of the Mass are found in the *Gloria*:

1. Adoration (Glory to God in the Highest)
2. Thanksgiving (We give You thanks)
3. Atonement (Have mercy on us)
4. Impetration (Receive our prayer)

DID YOU KNOW? The Church loves and sings the Gloria with such fervor and devotion that during the seasons of Advent and Lent, the Church 'gives up' the Gloria as a collective form of penance for the entire Church. It's omission from the Liturgy in these penitential seasons should make us long for the seasons of Christmas and Easter when we can again join the angels in singing their joyful refrains.

Translation from the new 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal:

Glory to God in the highest,
and **on earth peace to people of good will.**

**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.**

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;**
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

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.