





 The Church says its purpose is "to open the celebration, foster unity, introduce our Thoughts to the mystery of the feast, and accompany the procession" (GIRM 47).











For God is One, yet Three Persons.

The Father who created us,

the Son who redeemed us, and

the Spirit who guides us to heaven.

"At every step, at every coming in and going out, we trace upon the forehead the sign of the cross."

It is our shield,

our reminder that we live and move

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



"And with your spirit."

It is word-for-word from the Latin:

"Et cum spiritu tuo."

The priest prays for the Lord's presence upon the people;

the people pray for the Spirit's grace upon the priest.

In that brief exchange, the mystery of the Church is revealed: God present in His people,

God present in His minister,

God uniting both into one act of worship.



•the Penitential Act

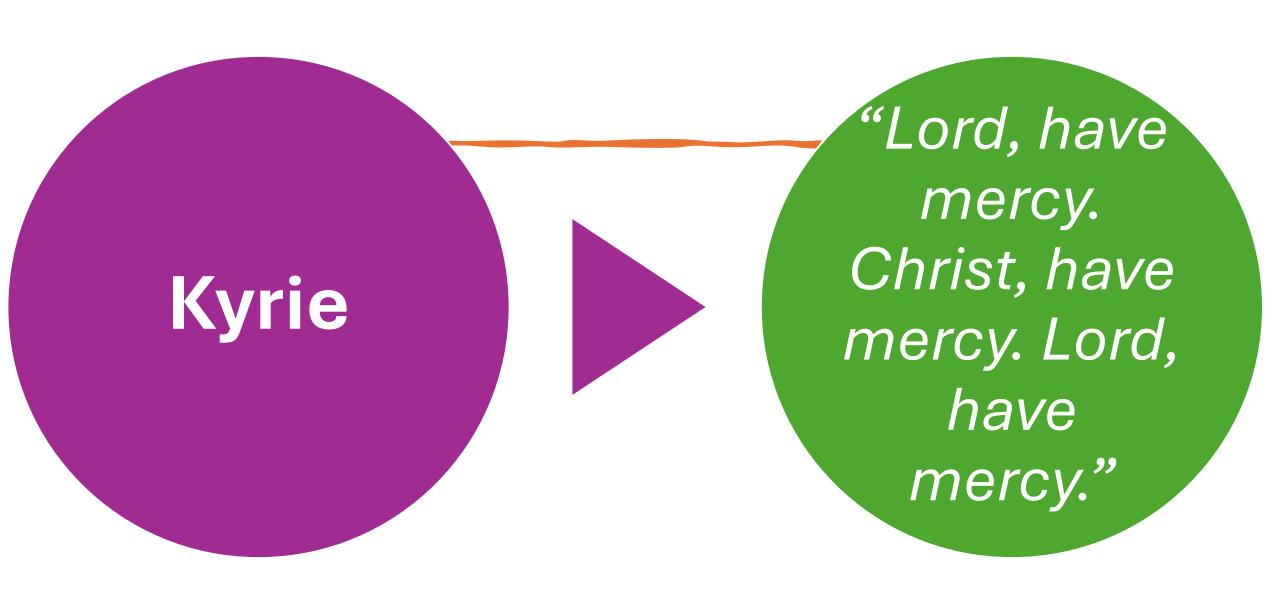
Notice how personal that is.

Not "we confess" in the abstract,

not "they."

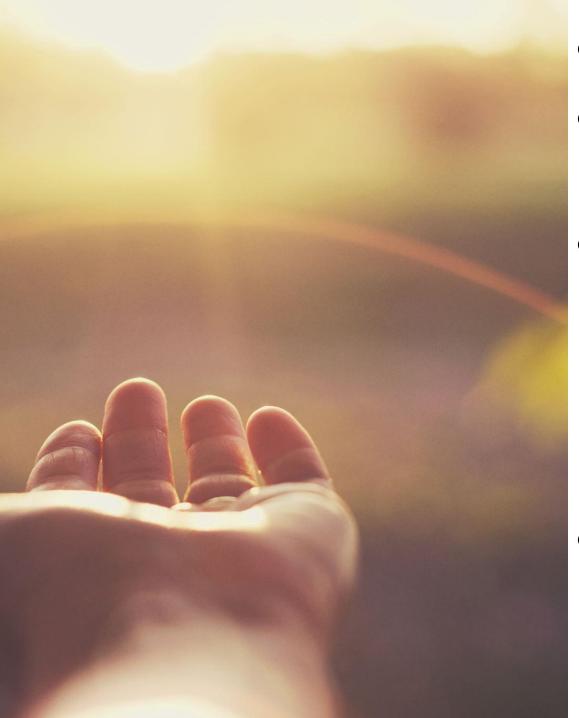
but / confess.

Each one of us stands before God and the community, acknowledging our weakness and our need for mercy.









- It is like a three-act play:
- •i. First, we glorify the Father.
- •ii. Then, we proclaim the saving work of the Son, His coming, His cross, His resurrection, and His ascension
- •iii. Finally, all is held together in the power of the Holy Spirit.

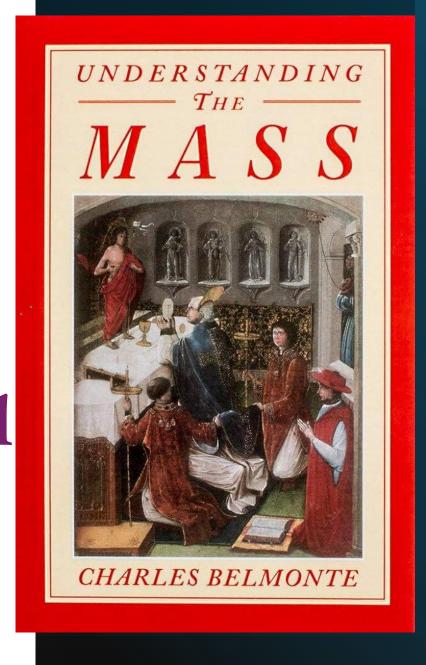
•Introductory Rites conclude as the priest says:

· Let us pray.'

·As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (no. 54) explains, the priest invites the people to pray and, with them, observes a brief silence, a silence that helps us become aware of God's presence and call to mind our intentions.



- •Fr. Charles Belmonte it is called the Collect precisely because it "collects,"
- •it gathers up all the intentions of the faithful and unites them into the offering of that day's sacrifice.





A Hebrew word meaning "So be it."

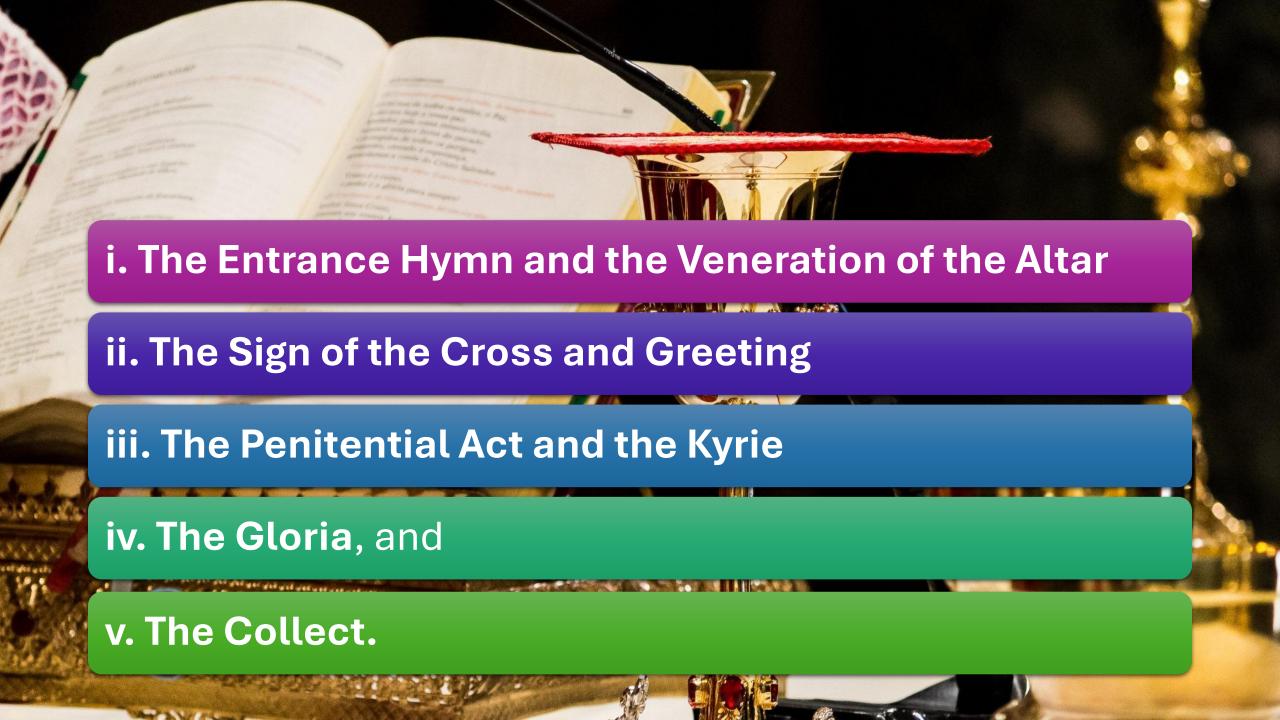
With that Amen, we make the prayer our own.

We are saying: Yes, Lord, let it be done.

Yes, Lord, this is my prayer too.



- Dear sisters and brothers,
- •from the opening hymn to the great Amen of the Collect,
- •the Introductory Rites are not just an introduction,
- •but they are our sacred preparation.



Amen!

Praise the Lord!

