



A Four-Weekend Journey Through the Parts of the Mass

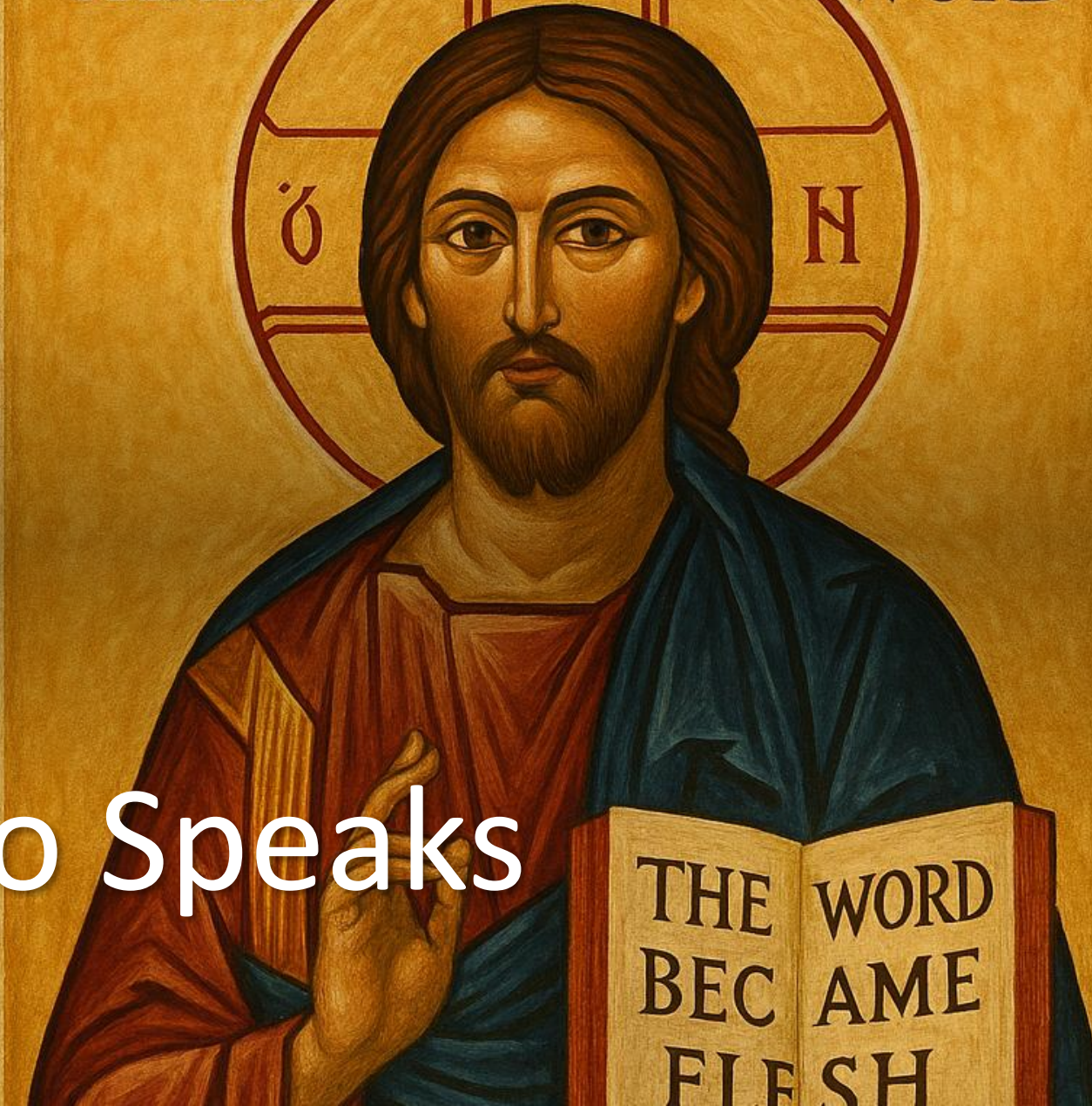
Week 2: The Liturgy of the Word

LE THERE BE LIGHT



CHRIST

WORD



God Who Speaks



Liturgy of the Word

Why Central?

- Not just old readings → Christ speaks now
- Road to Emmaus:
 - Hearts heavy → Christ opens Scriptures
 - “Were not our hearts burning within us?”
 - Hearts set on fire before eyes opened in the Breaking of Bread



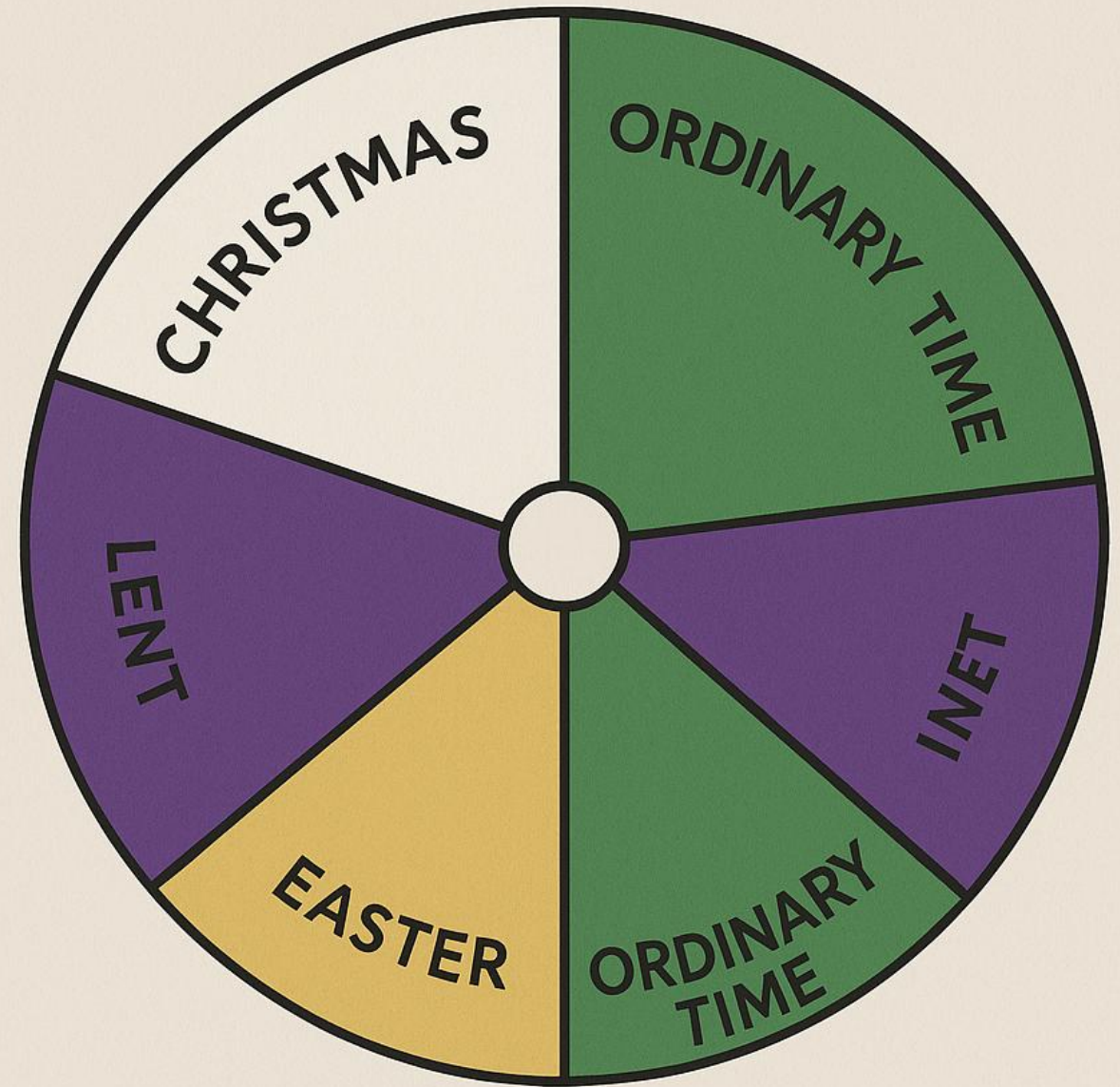
How Readings Are Chosen

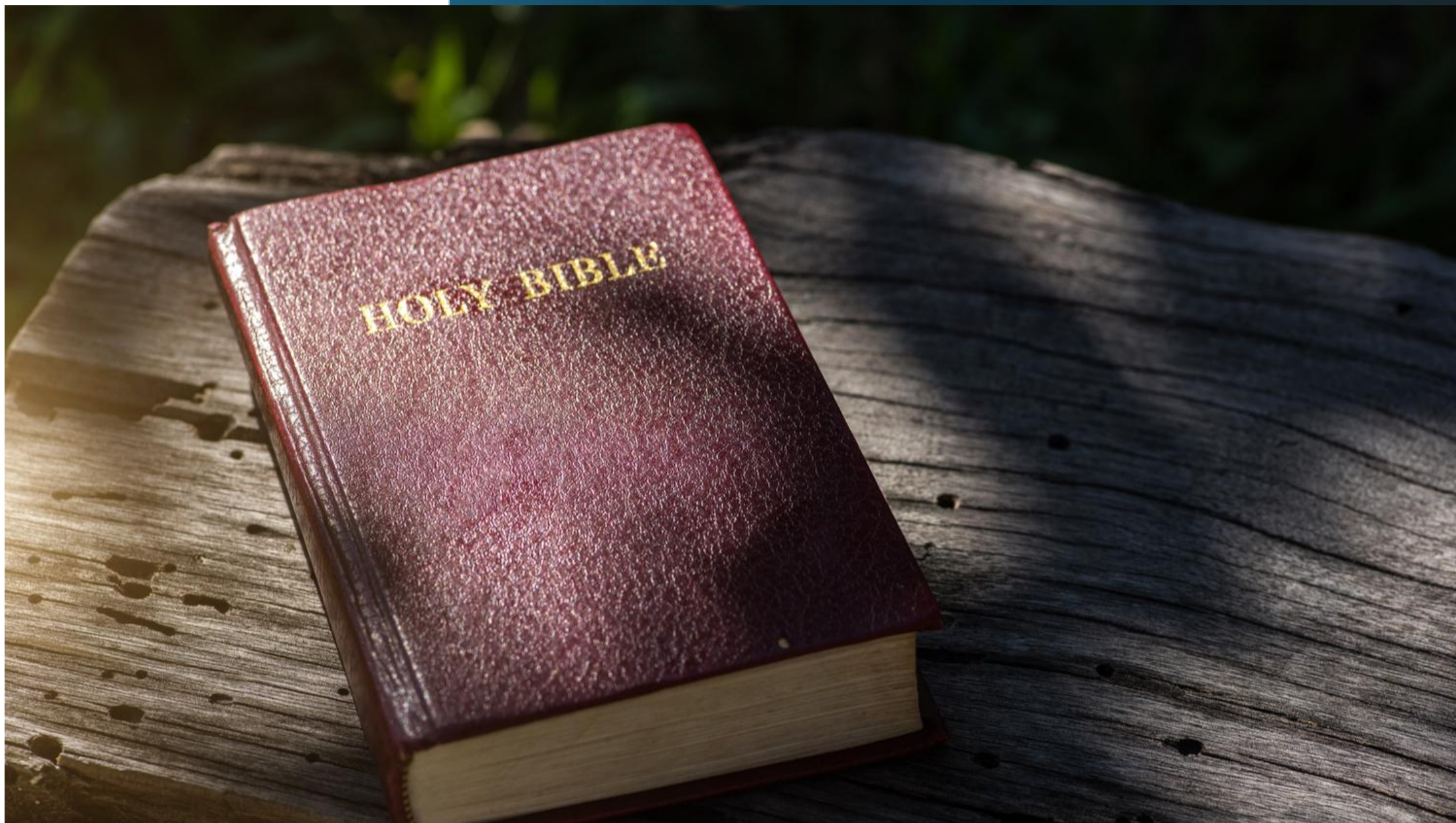
3-year Sunday cycle
(Matthew, Mark, Luke;
John in special seasons)

2-year daily Mass cycle

Almost the whole Bible
proclaimed at Mass!

LITURGICAL CYCLE





Eight Parts of the Liturgy of the Word



1. First Reading



2. Responsorial Psalm



3. Second Reading



4. Gospel Acclamation



5. Gospel



6. Homily



7. Profession of Faith



8. Prayers of the Faithful



First Reading

- ❖ Proclaimed by the Lector—voice of God's Word
- ❖ Stand in the line of the prophets..
- ❖ Lectors prepare carefully and prayerfully...

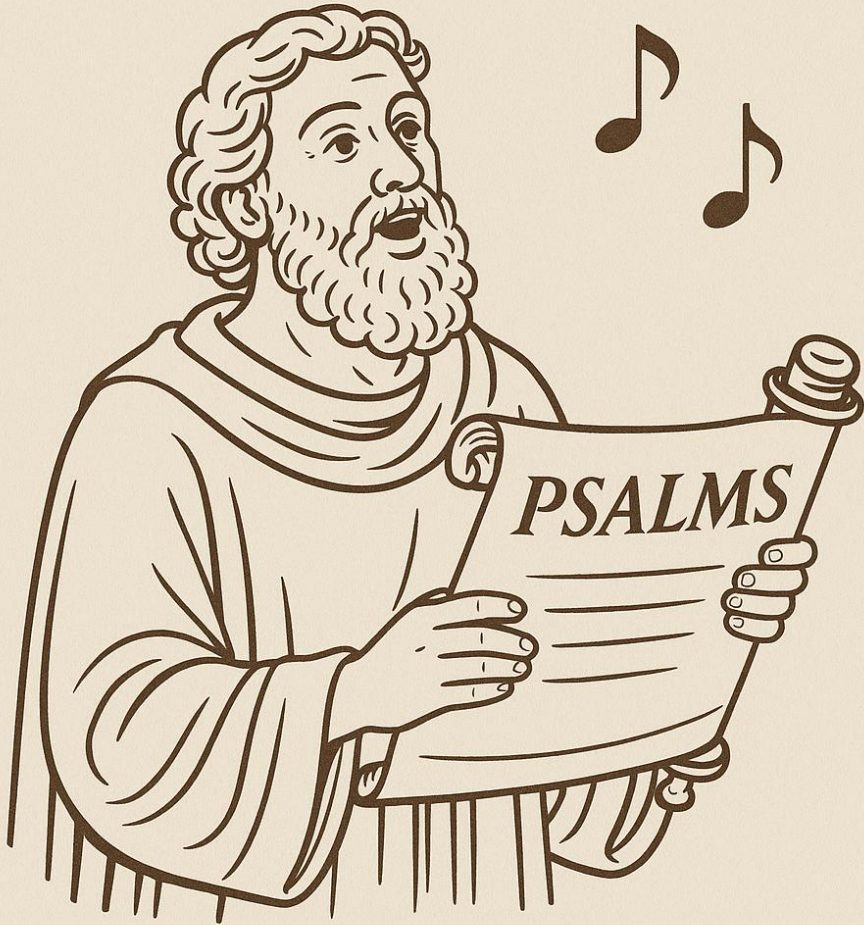
And just as the lector's task is holy,
so is ours: to listen with prayerful
attention, with hearts ready to
receive.



First Reading

- ❖ Roots us in the Old Testament, covenant, salvation history
- ❖ God has been speaking and acting from the very beginning...
- ❖ Connects to the Gospel reading

Responsorial Psalm



- Great liturgical and pastoral importance
- Every human emotion—joy, lament, trust, praise
- Bridge between First Reading & Gospel
- Our prayer back to God in Christ's own words



Second Reading

- Letters of the Apostles (Paul, Peter, John, James...)
- Speaks of the early Church's faith and struggles
- Still relevant for us today

Gospel Acclamation

- ❖ Alleluia = joyful welcome
- ❖ Procession with Book of the Gospels
- ❖ Cross traced on forehead, lips, heart



The Gospel: Climax

- ❖ The heart of the Liturgy of the Word
- ❖ Christ Himself speaks to His people
- ❖ We stand in reverence



The Homily

- Breaks open the Word, following Christ's example at Emmaus
- Not about preacher's eloquence, but God's Word
- Prepares us for Eucharist

The Creed

- ❖ Our shared confession of faith
- ❖ Unity with the Church across time & space
- ❖ Solemn bow at the Incarnation words

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

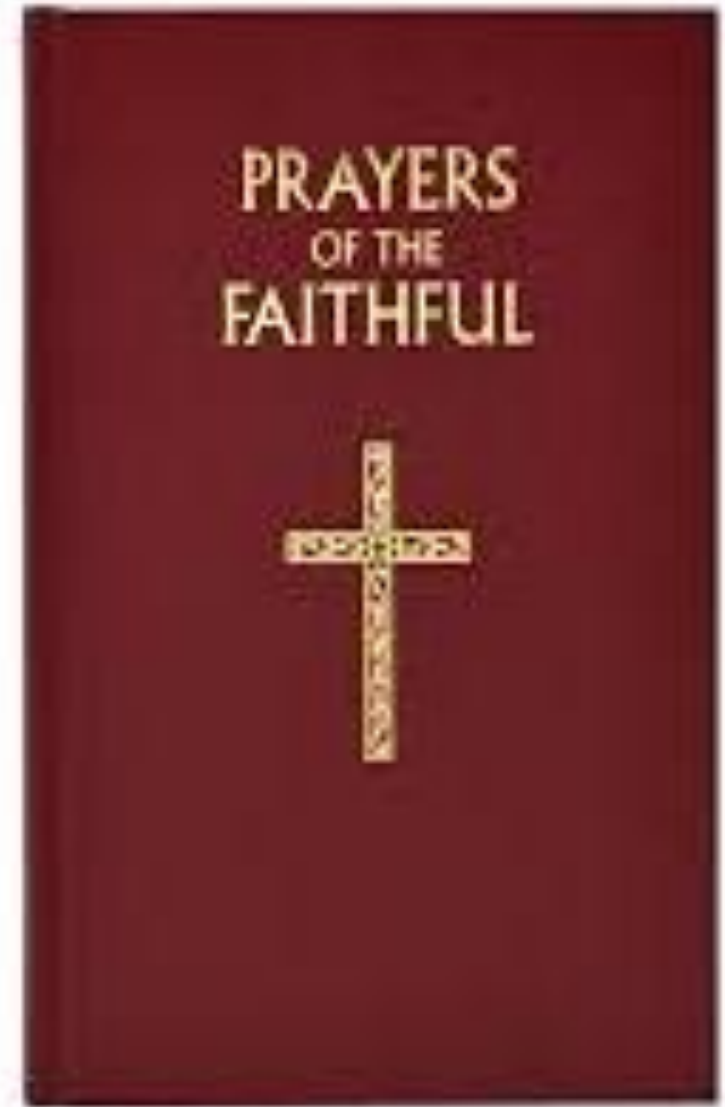
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son

Prayers of the Faithful

- ❖ Our response after hearing God's Word
- ❖ Intercede for: Church, world, community, those in need
- ❖ "Lord, hear our prayer"



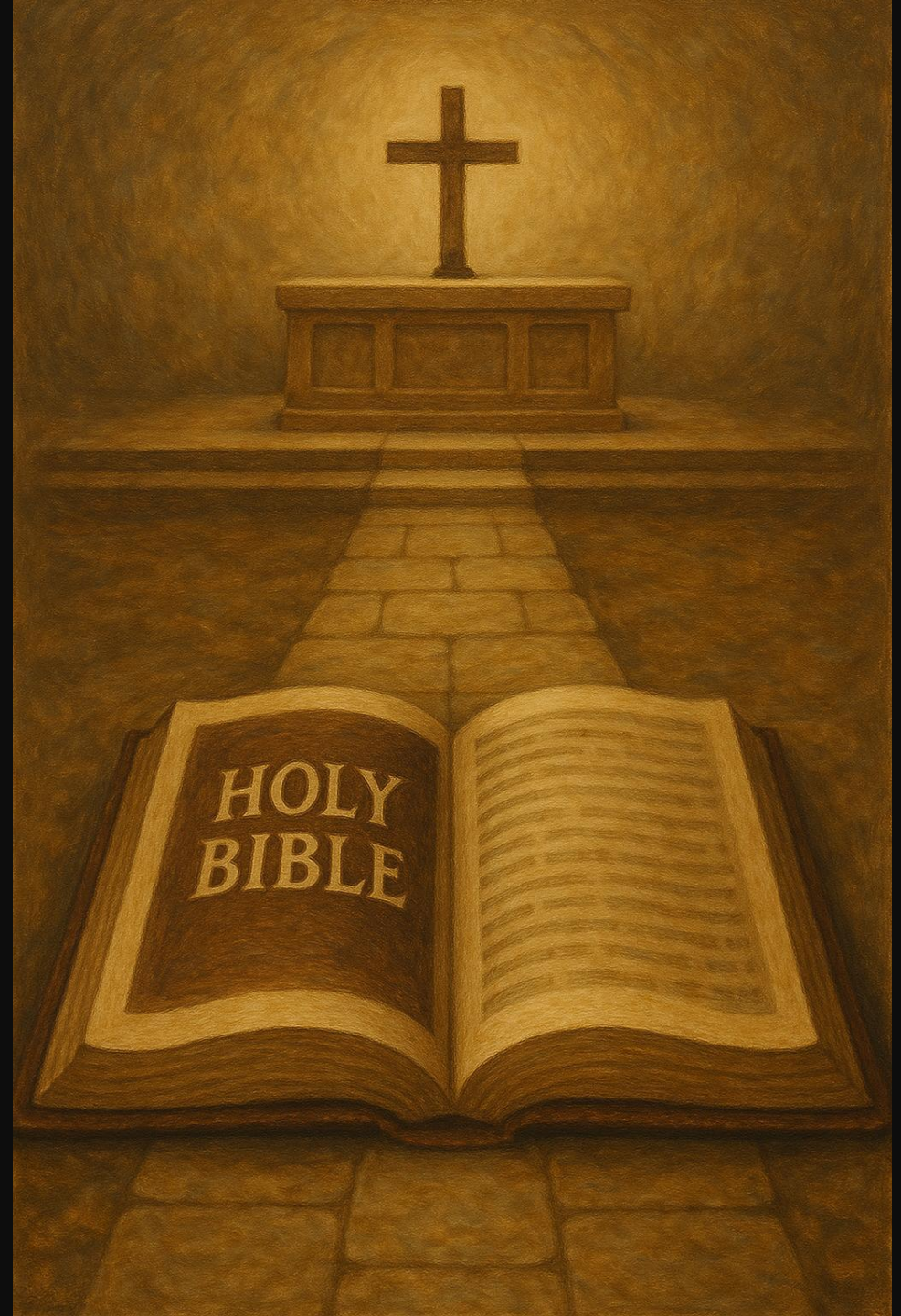
Word & Sacrament Together

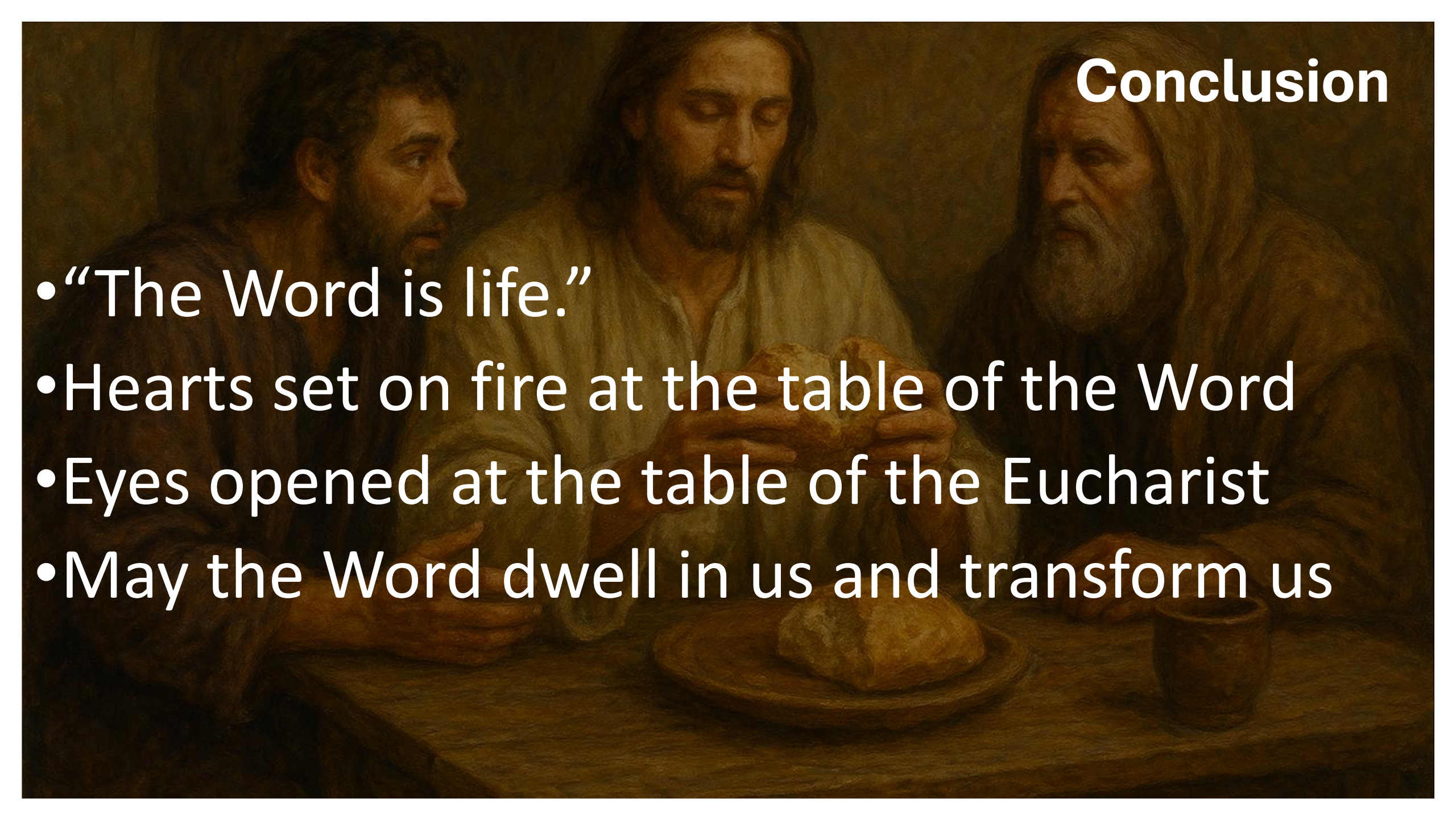
- Liturgy of the Word is not just an introduction
- Word prepares us for Eucharist
- Eucharist sends us to live the Word



Challenge for Us

- Listen with faith, not half an ear
- Let the Word shape mind, soften heart, strengthen soul
- Christ leads us from Word → Eucharist → daily life





Conclusion

- “The Word is life.”
- Hearts set on fire at the table of the Word
- Eyes opened at the table of the Eucharist
- May the Word dwell in us and transform us

BIBLE

CHALICE

An illustration of an open Bible and a chalice on wooden tables. The Bible is open on the left table, and the chalice is on the right table. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

the eternal Word—Christ Himself—will lead us from this table of the Word to the table of the Eucharist, and from the altar into the liturgy of our daily lives, in our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our community.



Liturgy of the Word