

# ***Unit Two: The Word of God in Worship***

*Liturgical celebration is based primarily on the Word of God (LM §13)*

*The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly (SC §51)*

## **The Purpose of Scripture in Worship**

**Scripture recalls major events in our salvation history**

*recalls our identity as the body of Christ  
— in liturgy the word becomes new event*

### **1. Call and Response**

The pattern of the operation of scripture

- **Call, showing:**
  - *the presence of Christ*
  - *the action of the Holy Spirit*
- **Response: our participation**
  - *by positive listening*
  - *Response in worship*
  - *Word, leading into Sacrament*
  - *Response in life and mission*

### **2. Implications**

The word in worship implies or requires

- Symbols and elements,  
*i.e. worthy ambo, Book of Gospels, candles, incense, posture, kissing*
- an attitude of reverence
- quality of proclamation  
(judged by effectiveness in being heard); including adaptation to needs of particular groups, e.g. CHILDREN, CATECHUMENS
- Preaching:  
*essential link between WORD AND SACRAMENT*

## **Elements of the Liturgy of the Word**

### **Structure of the Liturgy of the Word**

There should be a full Liturgy of the Word in every liturgy; consisting of

- **Readings and chants**
  - *arrangement*
  - *implications for readers and musicians*
- **Homily**
  - *what it is*
  - *its function*
- **Intercessions**
  - *purpose*
  - *structure*
  - *model content*
  - *composition*

## **Preparation**

### **1. Spiritual**

- *biblical (view of the bible as a whole)*
- *liturgical (how Scripture is selected for worship)*

### **2. Technical**

- *Reading skills*
- *Mechanical aids*
- *Gesture and posture*
- *Movement ('choreography')*

## ***Documentation and Bibliography***

**Constitution on the Liturgy** 24, 35-36, 51-52.

**Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation**, Second Vatican Council [*Dei Verbum* ]. (Included in Flannery)

**General Instruction on the Roman Missal** 8, 9, 33-47.

**Lectionary for Mass: Introduction** (included in Flannery)

D. A. Withey **Catholic Worship** Kevin Mayhew 1990, ch.10

Lawrence J. Johnson, **The Word and Eucharist Handbook** San Jose: Resource Publications, 1986.

Ralph A. Keifer, **To Hear and Proclaim** Washington: The Pastoral Press. A commentary on the Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass.