

Christian Prayer: April

The Memorial Acclamations

The Memorial Acclamation is one of the three acclamations that belong to the congregation during the Eucharistic Prayer.

The first acclamation is the Sanctus (the Holy) which concludes the Prayer's Preface.

The third is the Great Amen which concludes the Prayer as a whole.

The congregation's singing or saying of these responses is the audible, visible sign of our being joined together in the offering of the Sacrament of the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, offered by him on the Cross of Calvary, and re-presented at the altars of the Church.

These particular acclamations provide very concise and memorable summaries of that saving Sacrifice and the Paschal Mystery of which it is part. And yet in the Mass we may get little time to linger on them and consider their proclamation of faith.

In April every year we approach the great feast of Easter as we keep the last weeks of Lent and Holy Week - and we begin to live the Easter feast, as we keep the first days of Eastertide. Whichever season we find ourselves in, these little texts have much to say to us.

You might encourage students to meditate on one or other of the texts while using either the Breathing and Relaxing the Body prayer exercises included in this resource as Christian Prayer 1a and 1b.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

And the people continue, acclaiming:

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

Or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

Or:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

