



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, we'll begin by looking at the "Acclamation" – the Holy, Holy.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We left off last week saying that we are invited to pray with the saints and angels. We know by faith that they surround us, and are always praising God. At this point in the Mass, we join with them in a special way. The "Holy, Holy" is the song of the angels. We hear it in Isaiah and Revelation:

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they hovered. One cried out to the other:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!"
(Isaiah 6:1-3)

The four living creatures, each of them with six wings, were covered with eyes inside and out. Day and night they do not stop exclaiming:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come." (Revelation 4:8)

Because Hebrew doesn't have "-er" and "-est" in their language, the way they show something is greater or greatest is by repeating the word. "Holy, holy, holy" therefore means the holiest! This is a song of praise to God, sung by the angels ("day and night") and now we join in with them. This is a reminder to us that, as we enter into the Eucharistic Prayer, we are entering into an extraordinary event! Time enters eternity in the Mass, and here we participate in the sacrifice of Jesus, giving His whole self to the Father for us!

The next section of the Holy, Holy, hearkens back to Palm Sunday:

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." (Matthew 21:8-9)

This song is the song of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem – a song of praise of the people. It also hearkens to His true Kingship, though, as Jesus enters Jerusalem on His way to the Cross and Resurrection – the saving work for which He came to earth.

After the acclamation, here in the U.S., we kneel. We are about to enter into the most holy part of the Mass, the source and summit of our faith. Here, bread and wine are changed – transubstantiated – into the very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ our God. We know that we have been called into the presence of God, for, by Baptism, we are His children. Yet, we also recognize that we are not God. He is infinitely greater than us, and we owe Him worship. As such, we kneel in humility, worshipping the God who humbles Himself to come upon this altar.