

The Preface and Sanctus

The Preface & Proper Preface

Since AD 220, the Service of the Sacrament of the Lord's Table has begun this way:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

That's called the *Preface*. It leads into the prayer called the *Proper Preface*. It begins: *It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God ...*

The prayer continues with different words for different seasons. That's why it's called the **Proper Preface**. The Propers are the things that change, like the hymns, the prayers, the sermon, the readings, the Collect and this Preface. The things that don't change, the Kyrie, the Salutation, the Lord's Prayer, the Sanctus, etc. are called "Ordinaries."

During Advent, the Proper Preface talks about how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. During Christmas, it talks about how the Word became flesh. During Lent, it points out how our Lord overcame the assaults of the devil. During Easter, it talks about Jesus being the Paschal Lamb and ends: *with Mary, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying ...*

The Sanctus

This leads into the *Sanctus*. "Sanctus" means "holy." It has parts of two Bible verses: **Isaiah 6:3** – *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory*, and **Matthew 21:9** – *Hosanna to the Son of David! Blesses is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*

This helps prepare us to receive the holy body and blood of our Lord. This reverence for God's holiness should carry over into our daily lives.

Prayer:

Lord, You are holy. Help us to remember that wherever we go and whatever we do. Amen.