

We Listen to God's Word

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 8**.

✦ During the Liturgy of the Word, we listen as God speaks to us and teaches us through his Word.

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✦ The readings we hear at Mass are contained in a book called the *Lectionary for Mass*. They are organized by the time of year, and each day's readings are listed.

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✦ The First Reading is usually from the Old Testament, which tells us of God's love for the Israelites, the first people he revealed himself to.

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✦ The Responsorial Psalm is a song-prayer from the Old Testament. The psalms are responses to God written long ago and have been prayed for centuries.

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✦ The Second Reading is taken from the letters of early Christians, such as Saint Paul. These letters are also called epistles.

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✦ With the Gospel Acclamation, we welcome Christ, who will speak in the Gospel Reading. During Lent, the Alleluia is replaced with another response of praise.

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✦ The story of Jesus' life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension is told in the Gospel. Every celebration of the Eucharist includes a Gospel Reading.

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✦ At the end of the Gospel Reading, the reader says, "The Gospel of the Lord." We respond, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

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✦ During the Homily, the priest or deacon helps us better understand the Gospel Reading for the day.

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✦ During the Profession of Faith, we pray together the Nicene Creed. In this prayer, we proclaim the truths of our faith.

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