**Liturgy Matters Lesson #10**

 **The Word of God**

**By Bishop Chad Zielinski**

Thank you for joining me in this 4th week of the Easter Season as we continue our lessons on “What Happens at Mass.”

Now begins the first major part of the liturgy: the Liturgy of the Word. The “Word of God” in the Liturgy of the Word does not mean the words of the Bible are considered merely as words like our words; it is far more. The Word of God is an event: the event of creation and the event of what God is doing and saying in Israel, and finally, the event of what God is doing and saying in Jesus. The words of the Bible narrate the event. They are precious means to us, for they are given by the Holy Spirit. As such, they carry far more than mere human words can carry. They carry the very events of which they speak, and in their formulation is revealed the mystery of the event. In the proclamation of these words, the event proclaimed becomes present.

No matter what particular readings occur in a given liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word always has about it an event character; that is, the events of the past that are proclaimed become events for the believing community that hears them told. And all the events of the scripture find their center in the one event that is the center of them all: the death and Resurrection of Jesus. It is this about which all the scriptures speak. This is not talk delivering ideas and concepts. It is, as I say, an event: the same event in which God once acted to save His people, delivered now to this assembly by means of the scriptures, the gift of the Spirit to the Church.

May the Easter greeting of the Risen Christ fill you with a renewed peace and continue to strengthen us as we grow closer to Him through our understanding and participation in the Holy Mass. I look forward to sharing Lesson #11 with you next week. Let us keep one another in prayer. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Chad Zielinski