

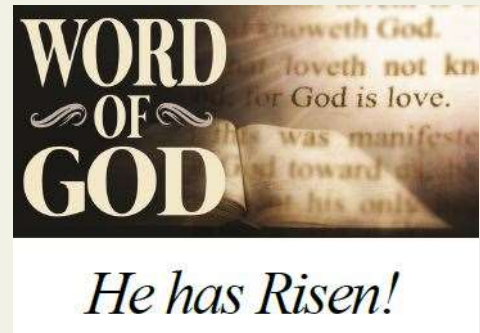


*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*God's Verbal Communication to Us*

*“The Lord be with you!” This is the greeting to the people from the deacon or priest before the Gospel is proclaimed. To this, we reply: “And with your Spirit.” Then the deacon or priest announces, “A reading from the Holy Gospel according to...” And the Church replies, “Glory to you O Lord.”*

*Do you now notice the shift? In this last phrase we no longer speak to the deacon or priest, but to God. This is because the Gospel reading is the high point of God's verbal communication to us. Just as Jesus spoke with the crowds in Galilee, Jesus, in person again, proclaims his Good News to us when the Gospel is PROCLAIMED at Mass. Note here, I said “proclaimed,” not read.*



*We know how important Jesus' words are as we stand attentively and listen. Special signs of reverence are used to call attention to the Gospel—we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads, our lips, and our hearts, asking God to open us to hear His Word and imitate it in our lives. The Gospel book is adorned with a decorative cover; the Gospel may be incensed when available.*

*The Gospel is the culmination of all we have heard in the readings thus far. Jesus is the Good News, the fulfillment of what we have heard in the Old Testament, and the source of the New.*

*After the Gospel has been proclaimed, the deacon or priest says, “The Gospel of the Lord!” and we respond, “Praise to you Lord Jesus*

*Christ!” Sometimes the “Alleluia” is repeated as we remain standing. Finally the assembly (the congregation) are seated for the reflection upon what they have heard—this is called the homily, the “breaking open” of the Word of God for us.*



*Peace and love to all*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*