

THE GLORIA

Glory, glory to God. Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your
great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty
Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us; you take away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.



The Gloria is one of the oldest hymns sung by the Church. It is known as the “Angelic Hymn” because it contains the words sung from the Heavens by the angels on the night of Christ’s birth: **And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”** Luke 2:13—14

The gloria is a true hymn, first intoned by the angels. Its opening burst of praise overflows into a series of joyful cries addressed to the Father: “we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.” The hymn goes on to implore the mercy of the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Gazing on Christ, the Church praises him: “You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High.” The final lines of the Gloria soar into the blinding mystery of the Trinity: “Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.” The hymn ends where it began: in the heavens.

Although no one knows who composed the rest of the lyrics for the Gloria, we can trace the hymn back to the third century of the Church. Tradition holds that it was first composed as a prayer in the East, and translated to Latin by Saint Hilary of Poitiers around the year 360.

The Gloria is sung on Sundays outside of Advent and Lent, solemnities and feasts. Because of the austerity of Lent and Advent, the Gloria is not used during those seasons except for the few feasts and solemnities which may occur then.

“The Gloria is the ancient and venerable hymn in which the Church, assembled in the Holy Spirit, praises and entreats God the Father and the Lamb. The text of this hymn is not to be replaced by any other. The Gloria is begun by the priest or, as needs dictate, by a cantor or a choir, but is sung by everyone together, or by the people alternately with the choir, or by the choir alone. If not sung, it is to be recited either by all or by two parts of the congregation responding to each other. (GIRM, 53)

Sources: <https://www.stapostle.org/explore-faith/parts-of-the-mass-the-gloria/> <https://epicpew.com/gloria-history-mass-hymn/>