Doxology

The word 'doxology' comes from the Greek word meaning an expression of glory or praise. Christians usually use it as a way of summing up all their feelings and intentions at the end of a longer prayer. In a sense, the glory of God is the purpose and the content of all our prayers and actions, and so we bring them all together as our act of glorifying God in the Blessed Trinity.

The origins of this praise of God arises from the marvelous work of the whole economy of God's salvation — It praises what God accomplished through his Son: his Incarnation, his death which conquered death, his Resurrection, and Ascension to the right hand of the Father.



A well known doxology is the Glory Be prayer:

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

The form of this prayer is used most often when praying the rosary, at the end of each decade, or set of Hail Marys. When Our Lady prayed the rosary with St Bernadette at Lourdes, this was the only prayer she said aloud.

But a doxology form of prayer is found most of all in the Mass and at the end of every psalm or hymn in the Liturgy of the Hours.

At Mass, we hear a doxology several times:

- The Collect, prayed at the beginning of each Mass, ends "... Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen."
- The Eucharistic prayer, which contains the high point of each Mass—the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ—ends with the beautiful "Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen."
- And what is known as the final doxology takes placed after the Lord's Prayer and the priest's prayer for deliverance from evil, that we may be granted peace and through God's mercy we may be free from sin as we await the coming of our Savior, together the congregation prays the final doxology: "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever."

Sources: The Catechism of the Catholic Church; https://www.catholic.com/tract/glory-be-doxology