

# The Physics of the Liturgy

by [Walt Garlington](#) (January 2023)



*Evening Mass in a Gothic Church*, Hendrick van Steenwyck the Younger, 1609

The Holy Liturgy  
Is heavy with reality.  
Divinity is densest there,  
The giant mass  
Of the Body  
Of God, present  
In the little

Portions of bread and wine,  
Creates a bend  
In the unseen realms,  
Around which hosts  
Of angels wheel,  
Countless multitudes  
Of saints bow low,  
And the gathered faithful  
On the earth stand and sing.

The power of God  
Reverberates throughout  
The cosmos from thousands  
Of these points, resting  
Upon the holy altars,  
The pillars that uphold  
The universe, like Atlas  
In the tales of old,  
Destroying the deeds  
Of darkness, making strong  
The works of light.

All of creation  
Is flowing back  
Into these parabolae  
That God has pressed  
Into the fabric  
Of the worlds, back  
To the God Who made it,  
Absorbing the energy  
Of the Maker's warming love.  
But what sorrow for those  
Who stubbornly resist,  
Who will feel the effects  
Of chilling entropy,

The biting cold,

The dreary

emptiness,

The

dreadful

loneliness.

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Walt Garlington was born and raised in that part of Dixieland called Louisiana. A chemical engineer by training, he has spent the last several years writing full-time. He has written essays and poems for *The Hayride*, *New English Review*, *The Tenth Amendment Center*, *The Abbeville Institute*, *Reckonin'*, *Katehon*, *Geopolitica*, and *USA Really*. He writes regularly at his own web site, [Confiteri: A Southern Perspective](#).

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