

## *Understanding Episcopal Liturgy*

#24. *What is the reason we sing this hymn, called 'The Sanctus', during the Eucharistic Prayer?*

*Sanctus* is a Latin word, meaning 'holy'. Like many parts of our liturgy, our singing of the *Sanctus* is based in ancient Jewish religious practices. The text of the prayer is derived from Isaiah 6. Jesus and the twelve named disciples were Jewish and likely said, or sang, a similar prayer in their gatherings together. The current form of the *Sanctus* is one of the most ancient parts of Christian worship, found in written form in Christian writings within fifty years of the first Easter.

We sing the *Sanctus* partly because this is the most traditional use of the prayer in Christian liturgy, and partly because the text indicates that it is a hymn of praise.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at [revmajor@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:revmajor@stpaulsyr.org).

Fr. Philip +