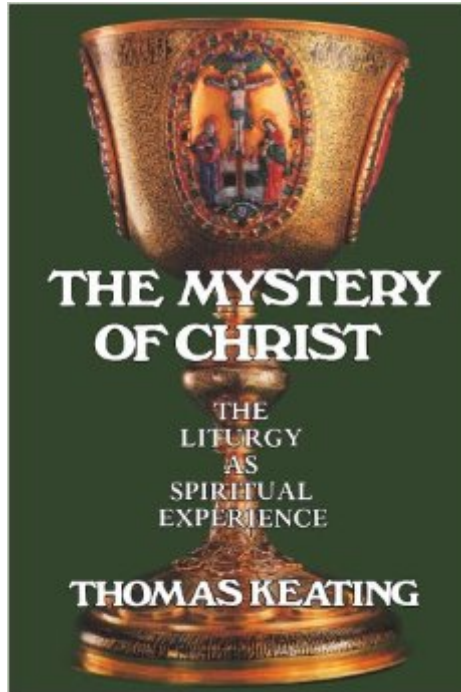


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# The Mystery Of Christ: The Liturgy As Spiritual Experience



## Synopsis

Following upon *Open Mind, Open Heart*, which presents a profound formation in Christian prayer, this book demonstrates the contemplative dimension of Christian worship. Here Father Keating recovers the deeper sense of the liturgical year and shares a theological and mystical perspective on the major feasts of the annual cycle. The reader is immersed in the wonder of faith in the mystery of Christ and of the unique nature of God's action and presence in and through the liturgy of our lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST is a marvelous, contemplative exploration of the mysteries of Catholic Liturgy as reflected in the central themes of Christianity throughout the year. There are certain rhythms to every season, whether in nature or in worship. The author captures a deep appreciation for these abiding themes and presents them as central to our faith and indeed, our personal spirituality. The book is well organized around the central themes of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time and integrates the various topics with the nature of centering prayer and contemplative prayer. The prose is rich in meaning, yet is easily read, making it a useful reference throughout the year. The book is just one of Thomas Keating's fine books, *OPEN MIND*, *OPEN HEART* and *INVITATION TO LOVE* being two others well worth the time.

Father Keating's haunting, exquisite reflections on the Scriptures and liturgy bring new depth and

freshness to passages one may have heard a hundred times - but which, with each chapter, seem refreshingly new. For example, his treatment of the Annunciation, John the Baptist, and the parable of the Prodigal Son, and the continuing call to holiness in each incident, presented beautiful truths in an engaging, casual, and deceptively simple style. Father Keating's words about the "double bind" (doing God's will when two "callings" seem contrary), which he applies to the Passion of Christ itself, are intense food for thought, and he skillfully presents them in terms which are very easy to understand. Excellent work for anyone interested in the spiritual life.

Having a strong interest in the contemplative, transformative, esoteric, or mystical side to Christianity I have searched for years to find some piece of work that would be sort of a "philosopher's stone" to unlock the implicit depth in the New Testament. After reading a ton of works with many great ideas, this small book is as close as I have come. At least as far as the Gospels are concerned. This book takes many quotes from the Gospels that are read liturgically for each season and comments on them in a deep but straight-forward manner. I have many of Keating's books and these are by far the best commentaries he has made. I highly recommend having this book in your collection of contemplative Christian ideas.

I use this book more than any other when I am planning classes on spirituality, liturgy, Scripture study or prayer. It invites us to experience the mystery of how Christ is present in our own lives. It is clearly written. It is an excellent starting point for planning Advent, Lent, and Easter liturgies or retreats. I read it as if it were a map that describes what I may encounter as I attempt to follow Christ. Students have been enthusiastic in praising this book because of its clarity and the insights it offers.

I have read many of Father Keating's books. This book is laser-focused on the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. Every member of the group that I read it with was grateful. I will read many more times in my life. I do however wish that it was available in Kindle format.

recently reread this and found it meaningful

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