

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST

**Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood
will live in Me and I in them, says the Lord.**

John 6: 57

As we come to the close of the special year of the Eucharist, we pause and ponder once again the great mystery and gift the Holy Eucharist is to us.



Let us pause and remember that our God dwells among us.

We are God's people and God pitches His tent among us.

The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. Those who have been raised to the dignity of the royal priesthood by Baptism and configured deeply to Christ by Confirmation participate with the whole community in the Lord's own sacrifice by means of the Eucharist.



***At the Last Supper, on the night He was betrayed,
our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of His Body and Blood.
This He did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages
until He should come again,
and so to entrust to His beloved Spouse, the Church,
a memorial of His death and resurrection:
a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet
in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.***

The name given to the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar in its twofold aspect of Sacrament and Sacrifice of Mass, and in which Jesus Christ is truly present under the bread and wine. Other titles are used, such as “Lord’s Supper” (*Coena Domini*), “Table of the Lord” (*Mensa Domini*), the “Lord’s Body” (*Corpus Domini*), and the “Holy of Holies” (*Sanctissimum*), The expression “Blessed Sacrament of the Altar”, introduced by Augustine, describes the great mystery from such different points of view, is in itself sufficient proof of the central position the Eucharist has occupied from the earliest ages, both in the Divine worship and services of the Church and in the life of faith and devotion which animates her members.

In memory of Jesus, we gather and give thanks.
In memory of Jesus, we speak, we pray.
In memory of Jesus we take and eat; all in memory of Him.

Remembering the manna, the heavenly bread;
remembering the day thousands were fed;
remembering the Supper, the meal of the Twelve;
we do all in memory of Him.

His memory is with us; His memory is near;
the day that He died to free us, the death that conquered fear;
the day the Father raised Him, the day of new life;
His memory lives with us to this day.

– Carey Landry, 1979, North American Liturgy Resources

Psalm 145

The hand of the Lord feeds us; He answers all our needs.
Let all your works give You thanks, O Lord,
and let Your faithful ones bless You.
Let them proclaim the glory of Your kingdom
and speak of Your might.
All eyes look faithfully to You,
and You give them their food in due season;
You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
The Lord is just in all His ways,
and holy in all His works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
to all who call upon Him in truth.



1 Corinthians 11 : 23–26

*I received from the Lord what I handed on to you,
namely, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed
took bread and after he had given thanks, broke it and said,
“This is My Body, which is for you.
Do this in remembrance of Me.”
In the same way, after supper, He took the cup saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in My Blood.
Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
Every time, then, you eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord Jesus until He comes.*

1 Corinthians 10: 16–17

Is not the cup of blessing we bless a sharing in the Blood of Christ?

And is not the bread we break a sharing in the Body of Christ?

*Because the loaf of bread is one, we many though we are, are One Body,
for we all partake of the same loaf.*

Reflection of De La Salle

The love of Jesus Christ for us led Him to institute this Divine Sacrament in order to give Himself entirely to us and to remain always with us. He knew that immediately afterward He would suffer and die for us, that this offering He would make of Himself on the cross would occur only once, and after His ascension into heaven He would no longer appear among us. This was why, to give us a sign of His tender love and goodness before dying, He left to His apostles and to the whole Church in their persons His Body and Blood to be for us in the ages to come a precious proof of His tender love He feels for us. Admire this holy institution, make yourselves worthy to profit from it by a holy life, and today beg Jesus Christ to destroy entirely your own inclinations and spirit, so that you may have no other inclinations except His, and may no longer be guided except by His spirit.

Intercessions

Response: *Sacred Bread for the journey, enliven and grace us.*

That we may comprehend more fully the Gift that Jesus has given us in the Eucharist, we pray:

That each time we receive the Eucharist, we may more and more take on the mind and heart of Jesus, we pray:

That we may recognize the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the Bread just as the two disciples did on the way to Emmaus, we pray:

That we may remember that the Eucharist is God's abiding presence with us, we pray:

That those who have lost faith in the Eucharist will find their way back to Jesus, we pray:

That each of us and all of our faithful departed will join together in the Heavenly Banquet, we pray:

That You, O Eucharistic Christ, will touch the hearts of many men and cause them to respond to the vocations to priesthood, we pray:

That all who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will realize the awesome privilege they have in bringing the Lord Jesus to others, we pray:



**O Sacred Banquet,
in which Christ is received,
the memory of His Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.**

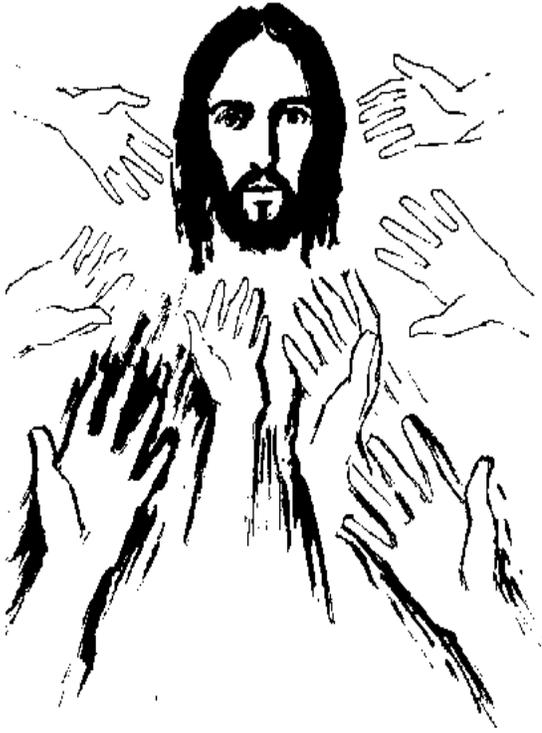
**Down in adoration falling,
Lo! the sacred Host we hail;
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing,
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying,
Where the feeble senses fail.**

**To the everlasting Father,
And the Son who reigns on high,
With the Holy Spirit proceeding
Forth from each eternally,
Be salvation, honor, blessing,
Might and endless majesty. Amen.**

**You have given them bread from heaven,
Having all delight within it.**

Let us pray.

**O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
left us a memorial of Your Passion:
grant, we implore you,
that we may so venerate
the sacred mysteries of Your Body and Blood,
as always to be conscious of the fruit of Your Redemption.
You Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.**



Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on us
Jesus, splendor of the Father, have mercy on us
Jesus, our everlasting light, have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our love, have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our wonder, have mercy on us
Jesus, mighty God, have mercy on us
Jesus, all-powerful, have mercy on us
Jesus, lover of us all, have mercy on us
Jesus, our teacher, have mercy on us
Jesus, our healer, have mercy on us.
Jesus, treasure of the faithful, have mercy on us
Jesus, Good Shepherd, have mercy on us
Jesus, the true light, have mercy on us
Jesus, our spiritual food, have mercy on us.
Jesus, our Way, our Truth and our Life, have mercy on us.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle and all you holy Brothers
who have gone before us,
help us to have a great love and devotion to Jesus in Word and Sacrament.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!