



Saint Jude Parish
Bible Study Program

**SELECTED TOPICS ON
THE LITURGY OF THE
EUCHARIST**

Presented April 9, 2024

Introductory Comments

- We WILL explore several rituals performed during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- We WILL explore the biblical foundations of these rituals.
- We WILL discuss the rituals and biblical foundations.
- We will NOT cover the entire Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- **Expectations:**
 - Some topical information & insights may be already known; some will be new.
 - Robust, respectful dialogue.
 - The intent is to plant seeds for further study and reflection.
- We should leave here with a better understanding of the Mass and therefore able to better worship God.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
who gave us the Paschal Mystery
in the covenant you established
for reconciling the human race,
so dispose our minds, we pray,
that what we celebrate by professing the faith
we may express in deeds.
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and
the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Collect prayed at Mass April 5, 2024



Agenda

- What is the Liturgy of the Eucharist?
- Biblical foundations for selected elements in the Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - Washing of Hands
 - Preface
 - Lift up your hearts
 - Sanctus
 - Anamnesis





Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Communion Rite



Washing of Hands

- Before beginning the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest washes his hands.
- Biblical foundations:
 - Exodus 30:17-20 and 40:31–32
 - Psalms 24:3-4 and 26:6-8
- Discussion
 - Why does the priest wash his hands?
 - What does he say?
 - Why at this point in the Mass?



Washing of Hands

Exodus 30:17-20

The LORD told Moses: For ablutions you shall make a bronze basin with a bronze stand. Place it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. Aaron and his sons shall use it in washing their hands and feet. When they are about to enter the tent of meeting, they must wash with water, lest they die. Likewise when they approach the altar to minister, to offer an oblation to the LORD, they must wash their hands and feet, lest they die. This shall be a perpetual statute for him and his descendants throughout their generations.

Exodus 40:31–32

Moses and Aaron and his sons used to wash their hands and feet there, for they washed themselves whenever they went into the tent of meeting or approached the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Psalms 24:3-4

Who may go up the mountain of the LORD?
Who can stand in his holy place?
The clean of hand and pure of heart,
who has not given his soul to useless things, what is vain.

Psalms 26:6-8

I will wash my hands in innocence
so that I may process around your altar, Lord,
To hear the sound of thanksgiving,
and recount all your wondrous deeds.
Lord, I love the refuge of your house,
the site of the dwelling-place of your glory.



Introductory Dialogue to The Preface

- The Lord be with you
- Lift up your hearts
- Let us give thanks...it is right and just
- Biblical foundations:
 - Lamentations 3:41
 - Colossians 3:1-4
- What is the OT understanding of “heart”?
- What does it mean to lift up our hearts?



Introductory Dialogue to The Preface

Lamentations 3:41

Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands toward God in heaven!

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The Sanctus

- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Biblical foundations:
 - Isaiah 6:3
 - Revelation 4:8
 - Psalms 118:26
 - Matthew 21:9
- Why repeat Holy?
- What does Hosanna mean?
- What are you experiencing when we sing the Sanctus?



The Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3

One cried out to the other:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!

All the earth is filled with his glory!”

Revelation 4:8

The four living creatures, each of them with six wings, were covered with eyes inside and out. Day and night they do not stop exclaiming:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come.”

Psalms 118:26

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Matthew 21:9

The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David;

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

hosanna in the highest.”

The Anamnesis

- What is the Anamnesis?
- Biblical foundations:
 - Matthew 26:26-28
 - Luke 22:19-20
 - Mark 14:22-24
 - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- What did Jesus really mean when he said, Do this in MEMORY of me?



The Anamnesis

The definition of *anamnesis* is to make a past event become present now. “Memory” (or “Remembrance”) in Greek is *anamnesis*, a word that literally means, “making present the past.” In other words, the celebration of the Mass is a re-presentation of the once and for all sacrifice of Christ. (Note that it is a “re-presentation”, not a “re-sacrifice” as some misinformed Protestants think we believe.)

This is why, as Catholics, we can say that the bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Anamnesis provides the details for why the Church has always taught that Christ is not re-sacrificed at each Mass, but that we enter into that one moment in history when he was scourged for our offenses and wounded for our sin.

On one hand this “remembrance” is directed toward the Last Supper itself (which we re-present via the Mass). But there’s another aspect. One that makes it even more personal. Our remembrance is directed toward what happened directly after the Last Supper. The crucifixion.

The Anamnesis

Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, I for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 2:19-20

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.”

Mark 14:22-24

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.”

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The Veil Removed

The Veil Removed is a short film that reveals the coming together of heaven and earth at Mass, as seen by saints and mystics, revealed by scripture and in the catechism of the Catholic Church.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOLZDaTglaM>

The Next Time You Go To Mass...

- Prepare for Mass
 - Watch Father Meyer's message on the Mass <https://youtu.be/cUNkocjtA4w>
 - Watch https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/03162024-reflection.html?utm_source=marketingcloud&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=best+lent+ever&utm_content=031624+33days+reflection
- Actively participate in the Mass
- What are you thinking/feeling when you lift up your heart to the Lord
- During the Sanctus, be mindful of the worship of the entire Church
- Engage your senses during the Anamnesis
- Look for opportunities to ask why

References

New American Bible. (1995). Oxford University Press.

Revised Standard Version Bible, 2nd Edition. (2001). Ascension Press

Catechism of the Catholic Church. (2022) (Original work published 1994). Ascension Publishing Group.

Carstens, C. (2017). A Devotional Journey Into The Mass. Sophia Institute Press.

Sri, E. (2021). A Biblical Walk Through The Mass. Ascension.

O'Malley, T. (2017). Bored Again Catholic. Our Sunday Visitor.



Holy Place

Holy of Holies

Courtyard

East Gate

Courtyard Fence

Bronze Laver

Sacrificial Four-horned Altar