



7 June 2015

Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

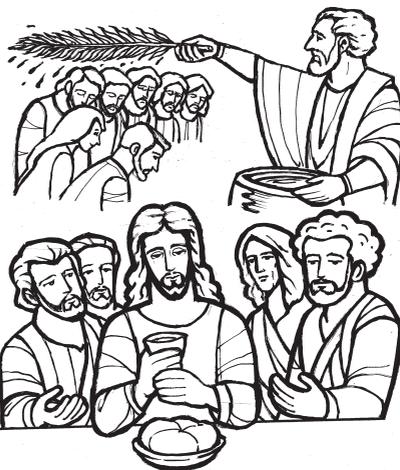
Year B

EUCHARIST: *The Seal of Our Alliance with God*

The Eucharist is a constant reminder that it was with his sacrifice on the Cross that Jesus sealed the alliance between the Father and the whole of humankind. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we renew this alliance with God as members of His new Chosen People, the Church.

This should be sufficient reason why we cannot be detached or distracted onlookers while the Eucharist is being celebrated. We are among the “contracting parties” and the beneficiaries of the Covenant. Our wholehearted active presence in the celebration manifests our determination to keep the terms of the Covenant by loving God and neighbor as Jesus taught and did.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, may we be able to express our ardent love for the Eucharist not only today but throughout our lives.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

Greeting

P –Praise and honor to Jesus Christ, the Mediator of the New Covenant. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All—**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Every Eucharistic sacrifice is a renewal of the saving Covenant that binds us with God. Let us pause for a while and ask ourselves how faithful we have been to the commitments that such a Covenant entails.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, you are the Mediator who has enabled us to enter into an alliance of love with the Blessed Trinity. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you are the Victim in whose blood we ratify our Covenant with God. Christ, have mercy!

All—**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you are the source of the grace we need to be faithful to the Covenant. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—**Amen!**

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we

glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Ex 24:3-8

The Sinai Covenant was a “foundational moment” in the history of the Chosen People. That is why its ratification was faithfully recorded in the Bible for all generations to remember it and make it their own.

R —A proclamation from the Book of Exodus

When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the Lord, they all answered with one voice, “We will do everything that the Lord has told us.”

Moses then wrote down all the words of the Lord and, rising early the next day, he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar. Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, “All that the Lord has said, we will heed and do.” Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words of his.”

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 116

R —I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord!

R. M. Velez



I will take the cup of sal- vation,



and call on the name of the Lord!

* How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. R.

* Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. R.

* To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. My vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of all his people. R.

2nd Reading Heb 9:11-15

Jesus Christ is not only the Mediator and High Priest of the New Covenant, but also the Victim itself. In his blood the New Covenant was sealed.

R —A proclamation from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer’s ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God!

For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Sequence

*Lo! The angel’s food is given
To the pilgrim who has striven;
See the children’s bread from
heaven,
Which on dogs may not be
spent.*

*Truth the ancient types fulfill-
ing,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood
spilling,
Manna to the fathers sent.*

*Very bread, good shepherd,
tend us,
Jesus, of your love befriend us,
You refresh us, you defend us,
Your eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.*

*You who all things can and know,
Who on earth such food
bestow,
Grant us with your saints,
though lowest,
Where the heav’nly feast you
show,
Fellow heirs and guests to be.
Amen! Alleluia!*

Gospel Acclamation Jn 6:51

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 14:12-16.22-26

Jesus knew that the time had arrived when he would be put to death as the victim of the New Covenant. In an act of supreme love he anticipated his self-offering on the cross by instituting the Eucharist through which the new and eternal Covenant is constantly renewed in the Church.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when

they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there."

The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, 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. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."

Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord!

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin

Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —With gratitude for the wonderful gift of the Eucharist, and full of confidence in the infinite mercy of our Divine Savior, let us address our petitions to him, saying:

All—Lord Jesus, sanctify us with your Body and Blood!

C —For the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ: May she find in the Eucharist the source of her growth and unity. Let us pray! *R.*

C —For the Holy Father, the bishops, priests, and lay ministers of the Eucharist: May their lives be a convincing witness to the holiness of the Eucharist and to the commitment to service it entails. Let us pray! *R.*

C —For the sick, the oppressed, and the lonely: May they find in the Eucharistic sacrifice a sure source of hope and salvation. Let us pray! *R.*

C —For the youth of our country: May they find in the Eucharist a vision for their lives and the spiritual nourishment they need for the fulfillment of their dreams. Let us pray! *R.*

C —For our community and each of us: May we find in the Eucha-

rist our source of unity and our inspiration for a life of service. Let us pray! *R.*

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. *(Pause)*
Let us pray! *R.*

P —Lord God, may our participation in this Eucharistic Sacrifice strengthen our determination to be faithful to our Covenant with you, till we reach the eternal Banquet you have prepared for us, through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace, whose signs are to be seen in mystery in the offerings we here present.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of the Holy Eucharist I

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he is the true and eternal Priest, who instituted the pattern of an everlasting sacrifice and was the first to offer himself as the saving Victim, commanding us to make this offering as his memorial. As we eat his flesh that was sacrificed for us, we are made strong, and, as we drink his Blood that was poured out for us, we are washed clean.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we

sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy . . .

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

P —Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of

your precious Body and Blood.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. *(Pause)* May God, the Father of mercy, keep you faithful to the Covenant sealed in the blood of Christ.

All—Amen!

P —May He give you all the moral strength that you need to transform your lives into a constant Eucharist.

All—Amen!

P —May He protect you from all dangers and lead you into the way of peace.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in the peace of Christ and bring the Eucharist into your lives.

All—Thanks be to God!

THE SACRIFICE OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT

Nowadays, important commitments and contracts are signed by the people concerned, in the presence of witnesses, and then they are notarized. This is what gives the commitment/contract/agreement its legal binding force.

Earlier in history, however, important agreements and commitments were signed or sealed not with ink but with blood. That is what the *Katipuneros* did in their famous *Sanduguan* (Blood Compact), and what Rajah Humabon and Ferdinand Magellan did in 1521 to seal their friendship when the Spaniards first set foot on the Philippine islands. The use of blood drawn from each of the contracting parties gave the promise/commitment a "sacredness" and a binding power that are far superior to any form of written agreement signed with ink.

This concept of sacredness coming from the letting of blood has its roots in very ancient civilizations and cultures, including that of the Hebrews who had several "covenants/agreements" with God Himself, the most important of which was the so-called "Sinai Covenant," which was sealed through the blood of victims offered in sacrifice. (See *Ex 24:1-8*.) But for all its importance, that covenant had a provisional nature. It remained in force, in spite of the many shortcomings of the Israelites, until the Lord fulfilled His promise to send the Messiah "in the fullness of time." It was in him — Jesus Christ, the "new Moses," and the Mediator par excellence — that a new and everlasting Covenant between God and the whole of mankind was sealed.

That Covenant was extraordinary in more than one way. It was extraordinary especially because, though ratified and sealed once and for all in the blood of Christ, that Covenant is renewed every time the Christian community celebrates the Eucharist, in accordance with the mandate of Christ. (See *Lk 22:19-20* and *1 Cor 11:23-26*.)

This is, indeed, a wonderful, divine "invention" of the Lord Jesus to enable all generations and peoples to feel "active partners" in the ratification of the saving Covenant with God and thereby participate in its fruits in the same way in which the apostles and the other believers of the first generation did.



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