

THE MASS OF ALL AGES

For almost 1900 years the same Mass has been given. Finding its roots in the Old Testament Passover supper (meal), Jesus is saying in essence to His disciples, *I am the Lamb, this is My blood, that causes the death angel to Passover you.*

+ John 6:22-65; Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-29.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

1345 As early as the second century we have the witness of St. Justin Martyr for the basic lines of the order of the Eucharistic celebration.

They have stayed the same until our own day for all the great liturgical families. St. Justin wrote to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) around the year 155, explaining what Christians did:

On the day we call the day of the sun (Sunday), all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place.

The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time permits. (The readings of the Scriptures)

When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things. (The Homily or Sermon)

Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves . . . and for all others, wherever they may be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation. (Prayer of the Faithful or Eucharistic Prayer)

When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss. (The Sign of Peace)

Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren.

He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: eucharistian) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts.

When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all present give voice to an acclamation by saying: 'Amen.'

When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the "eucharisted" bread, wine and water and take them to those who are absent. (St. Justin, *Apol.* 1, 65-67)

In the Mass you celebrate both His sacrifice (the one offering for the forgiveness of your sins) and you partake of the risen Christ (His whole Person, soul and Divinity). Both of these things happen at each Mass and has continued to do so for several thousand years.

Questions

1. Read Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 3:8.
Jesus sacrifice on the Cross: a. was unfortunate. b. defeated Satan's forces and destroyed the works of the Devil.

2. Read Hebrews 10:14. The sacrifice of Jesus: a. is a great story. b. was a sad event. c. perfects forever those who are being sanctified (those who are being consecrated or set apart to God).

3. Read Ephesians 1:7-8; Hebrews 9:22. Jesus sacrifice is: a. the foundation for our forgiveness. b. an event in history.

4. Read Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16. When we partake of the Eucharist, we partake of: a. a symbol. b. the risen Christ, His whole Person (soul & Divinity).

BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Revised in accordance with the official Latin text promulgated by Pope John Paul II. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* came about as a result of a proposal at a Synod of Bishops in 1985. It appeared first in French in 1992. Subsequently, an English translation was published in 1994. In September of 1997, the Latin Typical Edition was approved and promulgated. This second edition in the United States of the English *Catechism of the Catholic Church* incorporates the modifications that appeared in the Latin text. Pope John Paul II approved and promulgated the official Latin text, the *editio typica*, in his 1997 apostolic letter, *Laetamur Magnopere*.

The Holy Bible. The *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur* are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of doctrinal or moral error. The RSVCE, NAB, JB, NJB, CEV, GNB, Knox Version, translations have received the *imprimatur*. Therefore, Catholics may use them with confidence.

Questions and Answer Key

1. **Read Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 3:8.**
Jesus sacrifice on the Cross: a. was unfortunate. b. defeated Satan's forces and destroyed the works of the Devil.
2. **Read Hebrews 10:14.** The sacrifice of Jesus: a. is a great story. b. was a sad event. c. perfects forever those who are being sanctified (those who are being consecrated or set apart to God).
3. **Read Ephesians 1:7-8; Hebrews 9:22.**
Jesus sacrifice is: a. the foundation for our forgiveness. b. an event in history.
4. **Read Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16.** When we partake of the Eucharist, we partake of: a. a symbol. b. the risen Christ, His whole Person (soul & Divinity).

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