

# Liturgy of the Eucharist Part I

## Presentation of the Gifts

- I. After the Prayer of the Faithful, the Offertory Chant begins
- II. Bread and wine are brought forward
  - a. This expresses externally our internal participation in the Eucharist
- III. Baptismal priesthood
  - a. Priesthood of all the baptized (different than the ministerial priesthood)
  - b. The laity must offer sacrifice to exercise their baptismal priesthood
    - i. This sacrifice is the offering of themselves
    - ii. **Romans 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- IV. Ministerial priesthood
  - a. Priesthood of the ordained
  - b. The Priest must offer the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ
- V. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the Wedding Feast of the Lamb
  - a. Jesus is the Groom and the Church is the Bride
  - b. Trinity is an eternal exchange of love and marriage is a representation of that
    - i. In marriage the man and woman (the two) become one flesh
    - ii. In the Wedding Feast of the Lamb the man (Groom/Jesus) and the woman (Bride/Church) become one flesh
    - iii. Both Jesus (Groom) and the Church (Bride) need to be on the Altar
  - c. Since Jesus is offering everything he has, the Church should offer everything she has
    - i. We offer the entirety of our being to the Father in union with Jesus
  - d. If we are properly prepared, we receive the flesh of our Lord in Communion, to become one flesh with him.
- VI. Unveiling of the gifts represents the stripping off of the garments of the Lord to prepare him for his Crucifixion
- VII. Offertory prayer for the bread
  - a. Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.
  - b. People: Blessed be God forever

## Mixing of wine and water

- I. A small amount of water is mixed with wine
- II. If there is a Deacon this prayer is said by the Deacon, otherwise it is said by the Priest
  - a. By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
- III. Wine symbolizes Christ's divinity and the water symbolizes our humanity
- IV. Mixing them together symbolizes the Incarnation and God's call to us to partake of his divine nature (cf. 2 Peter 1:4)
- V. Offertory prayer for the wine

- a. Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands it will become our spiritual drink.
- b. People: Blessed be God forever
- VI. Bread and wine represent our unity
  - a. Bread is made up of many different grains to form one loaf
  - b. Wine is made up of many different grapes to form one cup
- VII. In spiritu humilitatis
  - a. Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.
    - i. Makes clear we too are offering ourselves with this bread and wine to be transformed into Jesus Christ
    - ii. **Psalm 51:17** The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **The Lavabo (Washing Hands)**

- I. Priest: Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
  - a. Reminder of Old Testament priest's rites before they offered sacrifice and how Jesus washed the feet of the Apostles
  - b. The New Testament priest is in the most holy of holies, as soon the bread and wine will become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ
  - c. This gesture is a symbol of the purity of the priest's heart
- II. The priest asks the people for their prayers in preparation for the Eucharistic Prayer
  - a. Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
    - i. Recalls Jesus calling Peter, James, and John to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane as his Sacrifice approached
  - b. People: 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.
    - i. Our sacrifice is united to the Sacrifice of Jesus and offered to the Father through priest's hands

### **Prayer over the Offerings**