

## **Ep 7: Word Made Flesh, True Bread Of Heaven: The Mystery of The Liturgy and The Eucharist**

Aristotle once said: "The best activities are the most useless. This is because such things are not subordinated to a further end, but done entirely for their own sake". The celebration of the mass is one of these things. (1- 02:33)

**What are some "useless" activities do you engage in?  
Why is the mass considered one of these activities?**

(#2) The mass is where people come together, people of various cultures, economic status, education status, or social strata. In Christ there is "neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28). The way we worship should transcend our nature of judgement.

The mass:

(2-3:46) Sign of the Cross: A symbol of the triune God. We do not belong to ourselves – but rather, we belong to the Lord. This is also a symbol of the Great Act – the Father sent the Son into the world in order to gather us through the Holy Spirit to the divine life.

The priest of the Liturgy is acting in the person of Christ. As he says "The Lord be with you" and we respond "And with your spirit", we are referring to Jesus from which the priest is operating.

(2-6:33) Calling to mind our sins. "We are incapable of saving ourselves – we are beggars before the Lord... but (God) wants to forgive, but it is imperative that we realize that there is something in us that needs forgiving". Look at the "pane of glass" analogy.

We say: "Lord have mercy, Christ has mercy, Lord have mercy"

Gloria: The whole Catholic theology resides in this prayer.\_

(2-11:35) Readings from Scripture – draws us into the world of the bible.

- Old testament reading
- From one of Paul's letter
- Gospel readings (telling of stories between believes of Christ's life)

(13:07): Homily/Reflection: Priest speaks in the mind of Christ. Applying scriptures to the present culture. This is a deeper identity, not a place for sharing private opinions on politics, or culture, or even religion.

(14:18): Declaration of the Creed: "I believe in One God"... This is a statement of the entirety of the Catholic faith. Precludes any claim to ultimacy – country, culture, political system, leader, etc... Standing against all forms of idolatry.

Arius was priest in church of Alexandria, who denied full divinity of Jesus. Council of Nicaea – expressed the Jesus shares fully in the divinity of the Father. Consubstantial with the Father (homousios) – of the same essence. **This is the standing or falling point of Christianity.**

**(#3) Liturgy of the Eucharist begins.**

Think of the Liturgy as a relationship/conversation with the person of Christ. He calls us and we respond back.

Offering of Prayers of the Faithful; Prayers are offered for the living and the dead. We see the interconnectedness of one another, as members of the body, the Church – a living organism.

(3- 3:08): The Offering: Remember that in our fallen world, there is no communion with God without sacrifice. To achieve communion with God, there must be sacrifice. **God does not need our sacrifice, but rather we need sacrifice in order to “reorder our hearts”.**

Members bring up gifts for offering. Gifts are representative of the entirety of creation.

(3:54): “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
Through your goodness, we have received the bread  
And wine we offer you...” (the Berachah prayer “Blessing”)

God doesn’t need our offerings, but they will return to the offerers “immeasurably elevated”.

*“Holy Holy Holy, Lord, God of hosts  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest”* - the mass on earth links us to the eternal praise in heaven.

(05:30) Eucharistic Prayer: “The mass on earth links us to the eternal Liturgy in heaven; the praise of the angels and Saints.”

Starts with a word of gratitude, for His creation and redemption. Prayer to send down the Holy Spirit for the transformation and sanctification of the bread and wine.

“Institution Narrative”

Jesus took the bread and gave thanks

“Take this all of you and eat of it, for this is my body which will be given up for you”.

Recounting the Last Supper and how Jesus gave thanks.

Priest offers the Blood of Christ. In the Old Testament, the High Priest sacrifices an animal for the atonement of the people’s sins (Leviticus 16). As our redemption, God feeds His people with His own body and blood.

(3- 09:15) Jews protested Jesus’ suggestion to “Eat my body and drink my blood” (John 6:53), as historically, Jews prohibit eating of any animal with blood. Many disciples left Jesus after His words (John 6:60-66), but Peter affirmed his commitment to Jesus, and in effect, confesses to the truth of the real presence: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68)

In 1263, German priest, Peter of Prague was celebrating mass in the Basilica of Bolsena. During the consecration, the Host was transformed into flesh, as blood began to stream out of the host.

Transubstantiation: Appearance vs. reality. Priest’s words of authority can affect reality.

Sending: When we meet Christ, we leave on a different path. The fact that the Magi left Bethlehem on a different route symbolizes this (Matthew 2:12).

### **Some scripture verses:**

#### **John 6:48-68: Jesus the Bread of life:**

*I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."*

*The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?"*

*53 Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.*

*Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."*

*These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.*

*60 Then many of his disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"*

*61 Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you?"*

*62 What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?"*

*63 It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

*64 But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him.*

*65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."*

*66 As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.*

*67 Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"*

*68 Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"*

#### **Matthew 26:26 Jesus breaking bread at the last supper**

*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, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father."*