

The Blood of the Covenant

Matthew 26-27

What We Found

- At Passover, over a sacrificial meal, the four verbs of the feedings returned: he took, blessed, broke, and gave, and said: Take, eat; this is my body. At a Passover table, the lamb was never a symbol of a lamb.
- “My blood of the covenant” quotes Sinai (Exodus 24) and seals the new covenant Jeremiah promised, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins: the mission his name announced in chapter 1, accomplished. This is why the Mass is a sacrifice: the one offering of the cross made present, never repeated.
- St. Paul warns that unworthy communion profanes the body and blood of the Lord, and St. Ignatius, within living memory of the apostles, calls the Eucharist the flesh of our Savior. The Church's realism is as old as her martyrs.
- In Gethsemane the cup was accepted with the Our Father's own words: not as I will, but as you will. Under oath at trial, Jesus spent Psalm 110 and Daniel 7 in one sentence, and died for the claim.
- Peter and Judas both failed the same night; the difference was the direction of the sorrow. Peter wept toward the Lord and was restored. The Church has never needed her first pope sinless, only repentant.
- The cry from the cross is the first line of Psalm 22, a psalm that begins in dereliction and ends with all the ends of the earth turning to the LORD. At his death the curtain tore from top to bottom, and a Gentile soldier confessed: truly this was the Son of God.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. Ignatius of Antioch (Letter to the Smyrnaeans)

The mark of false teachers is that they abstain from the Eucharist because they do not confess it to be the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins and which the Father raised.

Voices of the Church: St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Mystagogical Catecheses)

Do not judge by taste, but be fully assured by faith: since Christ himself declared of the bread, this is my body, who shall dare to doubt? He who changed water to wine is worthy of trust over bread and wine.

Voices of the Church: St. Augustine (Expositions on the Psalms, on Psalm 22, summarized)

Augustine teaches that in this psalm the Head cries out in the words of our darkness, taking the voice of sinful humanity into his own mouth; and the same psalm runs on to the feast of the poor

and the turning of the nations. The cross it describes is the cross that conquers.

Live It This Week

- Attend Mass with this session in your hands: at the words of institution, hear Exodus 24, Jeremiah 31, and the upper room.
- Pray Psalm 22 once, whole, for someone in dereliction right now.
- If it has been long since confession, let Peter's tears lead you there before this study ends.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 26:28 (RSV2CE): *"...for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*

Before Next Session

Read Matthew 28, our final chapter. And bring **both versions of your guess:** your Session 1 sheet with the rewrite you added after Session 8.

Catechism References

CCC 610-611 · CCC 1339 · CCC 1365-1366 · CCC 603