

## TAKE-HOME 2

**Finished, Not Gone**

*I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.* (Revelation 5:6, RSV2CE)

**What We Found**

- The sealed question: what can you offer God to gain entrance into heaven? Protestant answer: nothing, only Jesus and his finished work. Catholic answer: nothing of our own. Only Jesus, and his one sacrifice, finished once for all.
- “It is finished” (*tetelestai*) means accomplished, completed with an abiding result. The sacrifice is finished once for all; Hebrews says so five times, and the Church teaches exactly that (CCC 1367: one single sacrifice).
- Hebrews does not portray the enthroned Christ as a retired priest: he remains High Priest and minister of the sanctuary (8:1-3), holds his priesthood permanently, and always lives to intercede (7:24-25). In heaven the Lamb stands as though slain (Revelation 5:6). Finished, not gone.
- Israel offered a lamb morning and evening, day by day continually: the *tamid* (Exodus 29:38-42). Malachi promised a pure offering in every place, among the nations, from sunrise to sunset (1:11). By AD 155 Christians read that as the Eucharist.
- “Do this in remembrance” is Passover language. A biblical memorial brings the people into the event (Exodus 12:14; 13:8; Deuteronomy 5:3).
- Paul calls the Eucharist a participation and sets it beside Israel’s altar; “the table of the Lord” is altar language (1 Corinthians 10:16-21; Hebrews 13:10).
- Scripture says the members of Christ’s Body really do offer, through him (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15). The Church identifies the Eucharist as the supreme expression of that participation: she offers with Christ and herself in him (CCC 1368). Not added to Calvary. Taken into it.
- The one sentence: one sacrifice, one eternal Priest, never repeated, sacramentally made present in the memorial he instituted. Shorter: finished, not gone.

**The Answer**

Nothing of our own. Only Jesus, and his one sacrifice on the cross, finished once for all. He is a priest forever, so he presents that sacrifice to the Father without end. At every Mass the Church, his Body, is given to offer that same sacrifice with him, and its saving power is applied to our sins. And in him, we offer ourselves.

**Voices of the Church**

**St. Justin Martyr** *Dialogue with Trypho* 41, c. AD 155

Malachi’s prophecy of a pure offering in every place was about the bread and cup Christians offer everywhere, in remembrance of the Lord’s passion. (A summary.)

**St. Cyprian of Carthage** *Letter* 63.17, c. AD 253

The priest does what Christ did and offers what Christ offered. The passion of the Lord is the sacrifice we offer. (A summary.)

**St. John Chrysostom** *Homilies on Hebrews* 17, on Hebrews 9:24-26

Do we not offer daily? We do, but as a remembrance of his death, and the offering is one. We do not offer another sacrifice, but always the same one. (A summary.)

**Live It This Week**

- Go to one weekday Mass if you can. At the elevation, say silently: “It is finished,” and then: “He always lives.”
- At “Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours,” name one thing in your life and offer it, in him.
- Write one sentence you would say to a friend who thinks the Mass re-sacrifices Jesus. Bring it next week.
- Before next session read Luke 24:13-35, Acts 2:42-47, Isaiah 6:1-8, and Revelation 4-5.

**Memory Verse**

*Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.* (Hebrews 7:25)

## Catechism

CCC 1085; 1362-1367; 1368-1369; 1544-1545; 662; 2100; 2006-2011. Council of Trent, Session XXII, chapters 1-2.

### My Sentence (bring it next week)

A friend says, "The Mass re-sacrifices Jesus." In one sentence, in your own words, what do you say back?

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### What I Offered

At "Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours," I named and offered:

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