

Take-Home 4: A Memorial Forever

What We Found

The Bible shows its memorial (*zikaron*) logic in action (see also Exodus 12:14). Every father must say the Passover is kept because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt (Exodus 13:8), and Moses tells the children of the exodus generation that God made the covenant not with our fathers, but with us, who are all of us here alive this day (Deuteronomy 5:3). A biblical memorial places each generation inside the saving event.

Jesus instituted his Supper with exactly that word: do this in remembrance (*anamnesis*) of me. St. Paul says that as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes, and that the cup and the bread are a participation in the blood and body of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 10:16). The one sacrifice, offered once for all, is not repeated at Mass; it is made present.

Voices of the Church

St. Cyprian of Carthage (d. 258)

In summary of *Letter 63*: in the sacrifice we offer, we do what the Lord did, and the passion of the Lord is the sacrifice we offer. For a third century bishop, the Supper was participation in the Cross, not merely a reminder of it.

St. Leo the Great (d. 461)

What was visible in our Redeemer has passed over into his mysteries (*Sermon 74*; cited at CCC 1115). Christ's saving deeds are not locked in the past; they reach us through the sacraments.

St. John Paul II (1920-2005)

In summary of *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (n. 11): when the Church celebrates the memorial of her Lord, the central event of salvation becomes really present; the sacrifice of the Cross is not repeated and nothing is added to it; it is made present across time.

Live It This Week

- Once this week, pray the thief's prayer slowly: Jesus, remember me. Let the biblical meaning carry it.
- At Mass, when the priest says, do this in memory of me, silently add: place me inside this night, as you placed Israel inside theirs.
- Ask a parent or grandparent what the Mass meant to the generation before them, and listen for the covenant being handed to you.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
1 Corinthians 11:26

Before Next Session

Read Exodus 15:22-27, Israel's first steps into the wilderness, where the school of daily trust begins.

Catechism references for this session: CCC 1104-1105, 1362-1367.