

June 22, 2025



Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

SACRIFICE OF PEACE

By Julie Mussché

Excerpts from Today's Readings

In those days, Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, and being a priest of God Most High, he blessed Abram with these words:

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

GENESIS 14:18-20

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

*In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

*He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."
They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have,
unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people."
Now the men there numbered about five thousand.
Then he said to his disciples,
"Have them sit down in groups of about fifty."
They did so and made them all sit down.
Then taking the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven,
he said the blessing over them, broke them,
and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.
They all ate and were satisfied.
And when the leftover fragments were picked up,
they filled twelve wicker baskets.*

LUKE 9:13-17

Reflection

Today celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The first reading reveals the priestly blessing over the bread and wine by Melchizedek and recognizes the sacred lineage from Abraham (Abram) to Jesus and the covenantal relationship with the Eternal God. The second reading then clearly affirms the new covenant instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper, again with a blessing over the bread and wine. The Gospel reading, Luke's version of the Loaves and Fishes, has Jesus blessing the food with the disciples distributing the meal until all were satisfied. Perhaps symbolic of a commissioning, the "Staff of Life" becomes Divine, fundamental and mystery.

Included with the readings today is singing the *Lauda Sion*, a hymn composed by St. Thomas Aquinas and which goes back to the establishment of today's celebration of Corpus Christi. We know Thomas as a theologian and scholar, and yet his devotion to the Eucharist was profoundly heartfelt and unitive. The invitation for reflection today: sit with the text, and -- if you are able -- the

music, of the Lauda Sion. If a word or stanza catches your attention, rest with it. Happy Feast Day!



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For Prayer

*Laud, O Zion, your salvation,
Laud with hymns of exultation,
Christ, your king and shepherd true:*

*Bring him all the praise you know,
He is more than you bestow.
Never can you reach his due.*

*Special theme for glad thanksgiving
Is the quick'ning and the living
Bread today before you set:*

*From his hands of old partaken,
As we know, by faith unshaken,
Where the Twelve at supper met.*

*Full and clear ring out your chanting,
Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting,
From your heart let praises burst:*

*For today the feast is holden,
When the institution olden
Of that supper was rehearsed.*

*Here the new law's new oblation,
By the new king's revelation,
Ends the form of ancient rite:*

*Now the new the old effaces,
Truth away the shadow chases,
Light dispels the gloom of night.*

*What he did at supper seated,
Christ ordained to be repeated,
His memorial ne'er to cease:*

*And his rule for guidance taking,
Bread and wine we hallow, making
Thus our sacrifice of peace.*

*This the truth each Christian learns,
Bread into his flesh he turns,
To his precious blood the wine:*

*Sight has fail'd, nor thought conceives,
But a dauntless faith believes,
Resting on a pow'r divine.*

*Here beneath these signs are hidden
Priceless things to sense forbidden;
Signs, not things are all we see:*

*Blood is poured and flesh is broken,
Yet in either wondrous token
Christ entire we know to be.*

*Whoso of this food partakes,
Does not rend the Lord nor breaks;
Christ is whole to all that taste:*

*Thousands are, as one, receivers,
One, as thousands of believers,
Eats of him who cannot waste.*

*Bad and good the feast are sharing,
Of what divers dooms preparing,
Endless death, or endless life.*

*Life to these, to those damnation,
See how like participation
Is with unlike issues rife.*

*When the sacrament is broken,
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,
That each sever'd outward token
doth the very whole contain.*

*Nought the precious gift divides,
Breaking but the sign betides
Jesus still the same abides,
still unbroken does remain.*

*Lo! the angel's food is given
To the pilgrim who has striven;
see the children's bread from heaven,
which on dogs may not be spent.*

*Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,
manna to the fathers sent.*

*Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,
Jesu, of your love befriend us,*

*You refresh us, you defend us,
Your eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.*

*You who all things can and know,
Who on earth such food bestow,
Grant us with your saints, though lowest,
Where the heav'nly feast you show,
Fellow heirs and guests to be.
Amen. Alleluia.*

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, LAUDA SION SEQUENCE

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