

The Eucharist

I.) **The Term “Eucharist:”** Gk. “*Eucharistein*” -- to give thanks
-the gift and the response

II.) **Historical Institution of the Eucharist:**

Biblical accounts: 1 Cor: 11: 22ff.
Lk. 22: 14-20
Mark 14: 22-26
Matt. 26: 26-30

III.) **Elements in Institution:**

Proximity to his death.
Symbolism as it relates to his death.
Change of the elements into Jesus’ person
The charge “Do this in memory of me.”
Context of the Passover meal.

IV.) **Theological Perspectives:**

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|-------------|----------------|
| Sacrament | Real Presence |
| Sacrifice | Communion |
| Sacred Meal | Body of Christ |
| Memorial | |

V.) **Other Considerations:**

Role of the Faithful – Role of the Priest
Eucharist as Sacrament of Initiation

The Eucharistic Liturgy – The Mass

Introductory Rites

The section of the Mass preceding the Liturgy of the Word that confers a quality of preparation and introduction on the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The intent is that the assembled group unites as a community properly prepared to hear God's Word and celebrate the Eucharist. Includes the following:

- Entrance Antiphon (Hymn)
- Greeting
- Penitential Rite (or Rite of Blessing & Sprinkling)
- Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)
- Gloria (Glory to God)
(on Sundays and Solemnities, but omitted at penitential times)
- Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Word - The major part of the Mass between the Opening Prayer and the preparation of the Gifts during which the Word of God is proclaimed, responded to, authoritatively explained, accepted and held fast, and appealed to. Includes the following:

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel
- Acclamation (Alleluia)
- Gospel Reading
- Homily
- Silence
- Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed) or (Apostles' Creed - Children Only)
- General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)
 - Church
 - Public Authorities
 - Salvation of the World (Oppressed)
 - Local Community

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The major part of the Mass after the Liturgy of the Word and ending before the Concluding Rite. This part corresponds to the words and actions of Christ at the Last Supper. Christ took bread and the cup, gave thanks, broke, and gave them to His disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is My Body. Take and drink; This is the cup of My Blood. Do this in memory of Me."

Preparation of the Gifts (Presentation)

The priest prepares the altar and the gifts, prays over the bread and wine, and helps the assembly get ready for the tremendous Sacrifice that will take place in an unbloody manner. Includes the following:

Offertory Song
Preparation of the Altar
Preparation of the Bread
Preparation of the Wine
Washing of Hands
Invitation to Prayer
Prayer over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

The center and high point of the Mass that makes Christ present for us in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. During it, the entire assembly joins Christ in acknowledging the works of God and in offering the Sacrifice. Includes the following:

Introductory Dialogue

Preface

Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer

Thanksgiving

Acclamation

Epiciclesis - Ask God to consecrate the Host & Wine

Institution - Narrative and Consecration

Anamnesis - Command of Christ through the Apostles

Offering

Intercessions

Final Doxology

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Communion Rite

It is part when God gives a gift to Him. In both cases the gift is the same Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world. Includes the following:

The Lord's Prayer

Rite of Peace (Sign of Peace)

Fraction Rite

Breaking of the Bread

Commingling

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Personal Prayer

Communion

Silent Prayer

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rite

Just as the people were greeted at the beginning of the Mass, so now the president greets the people again and blesses them in one of three forms, the simple one, or at his discretion a more solemn Blessing, particularly at various seasons or on specific feast days, or a Prayer over the people. Includes the following:

Blessing and Dismissal