

Unit Three: The Eucharist

At the Last Supper Christ instituted the sacrifice and paschal meal that make the sacrifice of the cross to be continually present in the Church when the priest, representing Christ the Lord, carried out what the Lord did and handed over to his disciples to do in his memory.

Christ took the bread and the cup and gave thanks; he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat, this is my body.' Giving the cup, he said, 'Take and drink, this is the cup of my blood. Do this in memory of me.' (GIRM 48)

Since Jesus was a Jew it is important to take into account:

What does it mean 'to bless', 'to give thanks'?

What did Jesus ask his disciples to do?

What does it mean to do something 'in memory of'?

1. Jewish Background

Pattern of worship: temple, synagogue, home

Passover: —structure
—concept of memorial

Forms of prayer: blessing, praise

2. New Testament

The Last Supper:

What happened? Was it Passover? Does it matter?

Compare shape: Passover, Last Supper, Eucharist

New Testament development:

Eucharist is not simply re-enactment of Last Supper (NT does not look to Last Supper for its model of eucharist)

Eucharist as fellowship with the Risen Christ

[Optional: The Eucharist in Justin (AD 150) compared with the Last Supper:

Last Supper

Thursday (probably)
evening
within a meal
unrelated to synagogue
annual feast
7 -action shape

7-action shape:

Taking bread, taking wine
Blessing bread, ditto wine
breaking
Distribution of b, then w.

Justin

Sunday
daybreak
no meal
service of the word
weekly feast
4-action shape

4-action shape:

taking both together
blessing both together
(breaking)
distribution of both together]

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPING SHAPE:

bread & MEAL & cup

c. 40: MEAL & bread & cup

c.50: MEAL & eucharist

Word & eucharist

[3. Development of Shape

(This section may be left for more advanced study.)

The development of the Mass is a development of Shape. Two examples can illustrate this:

3a. Papal Stational Mass (AD700)

*Characteristics of Roman rite developing - filling out primitive shape
Model liturgy for the Roman church*

3b. Medieval Mass

*Decline in: participation, especially communion
eucharist as action of the assembly; influence on and from architecture
Introduction of private prayers
The use of allegory (as a means of explaining the form of the Mass} The
private mass
Forms of eucharistic piety]*

4. The Council of Trent and Liturgical Reform

The council's concerns
What it did and what it did not do

Liturgical revision after Trent

Pius IV and V - return to the sources

Missal of 1570 (based on 1474) and response to issues of reform

Changes within thirty years of new Missal

The Liturgical Movement - see Unit 1

5. Vatican II

SC: general norms for revision (see Unit 1)

SC 47-58: norms relating to Eucharist

6. 1970 Roman Missal

Paul VI's Apostolic Constitution and the Introduction to GIRM

Ongoing renewal: Vatican II as fulfilling aims of Trent

7. Order of Mass

Chapters 1 and 3 of GIRM

Ordo Missae:

- *especially the shape of the rite: 'Two Tables'.*
- *emphasise the place of Music and of Environment/Art throughout unit*

Introductory Rites

Purpose

Celebration

adaptation

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Lectionary: 'Opening up treasures of scripture'

- Principles:

1. Cycles: *Sunday and feastday 3-year cycle*

Weekday cycle

2. Primacy of Gospels

Year of Matthew, Mark, Luke; place of John in cycle

3. Distinguish Seasons and Ordinary Time

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

4-action shape

1. Preparation of gifts
2. Eucharistic Prayer - structure
3. Breaking - its importance
4. Communion - both kinds; same sacrifice

Concluding rites

Link: Consecration → communion → mission

8. Supplementary Rites and Directives

1. Worship of Eucharist outside Mass
2. Adaptations
3. Directory on Masses with Children

Documentation and Bibliography

Constitution on the Liturgy ch. 2

General Instruction on the Roman Missal 1-5, 7,8,48-56

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Alan Griffiths, **Focus on the Eucharistic Prayer**, Kevin Mayhew 1988.

Geoffrey Cuming, **He Gave Thanks: An Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer.**

Grove Liturgical Study no 28, Grove Books 1981.

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Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1978,

Ralph Keifer. **To Give Thanks and Praise: General Instruction on the Roman Missal with Commentary for Musicians and Pastors**, Washington: National Association of Pastoral Musicians, 1980.