

Discussion Questions

Share the story of your First Communion. (Or, if you would rather, some other memorable experience of the Eucharist: a moment in adoration, receiving communion with a loved one on their deathbed, etc.) Were you especially aware of dignity, or beauty, or being loved? How has that moment shaped, or changed your self-image?

St. Paul encourages us to “continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise” (Heb 13:15). How do you picture this playing out in real life? Have you known anyone whose life reflected to you joy, thanksgiving or praise?

How does (or does?) the Eucharist inform your daily life? Your relationships? Your work? How do you praise God in your life?

Series 4 Upcoming Dates

Monday May 6, 7pm, Brownstein Hall
Saturday retreat, May 11, 9am-3:30pm, Brownstein Hall
Monday May 20, 7pm, Brownstein Hall

For Further Reading

Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter *Desiderio desideravi* on the liturgical formation of the People of God

God Is Here Series 4, Part 2



Christ the Priest Invites Us to LOVE God in Him

The Word of God

The thanksgiving sacrifice: John 19:25-35

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe.

Series 4 Prayer

"O God, almighty Father, as you look upon your Christ, who is both Priest and Victim, grant that I, who share in his priesthood, may always offer myself as a spiritual sacrifice pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord."

Voices of the Church

"'There came forth blood and water': that is, His Church, which is built from his 'side.' Just as in the case of Adam, his wife was taken from his side. Adam's wife is his 'rib,' so our Lord's 'blood' is His Church. From Adam's rib issued death, from our Lord's rib, life."
(St. Ephrem the Syrian, 4th century)

"As from the side of the first Adam, after casting him into a deep sleep, God draws forth Eve, so also from the side of the new Adam, sleeping the sleep of death on the cross, there is born the new Eve, the Church. The astonishment for us lies in the words that we can imagine the new Adam made his own in gazing at the Church: 'Here at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.' For our having believed in His Word and descended into the waters of Baptism, we have become bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. Without this incorporation there is no possibility of living the fullness of the worship of God. In fact, there is only one act of worship perfect and pleasing to the Father; namely the obedience of the Son...."

(Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter *Desiderio desideravi* 14-15)