

Mass Parts 30/52: *Last Supper*



As discussed last week with the Jewish Passover, the Mass is not a reenactment of the Last Supper. Sacramentally, we are making the past present. At the Last Supper, Jesus established the Eucharist, but the Eucharistic feast itself is a foreshadowing of the eternal banquet in heaven.

The priest that offered the Body at the Last Supper is the priest that offered His own Body on the Cross. The priest and the Body are the same: Jesus. (Hebrews 7:27). The Body that suffered on the Cross, died and was buried, has been resurrected, and now sits at the right hand of God. This is the Body that we celebrate in the Eucharist. It is not *just* the Last Supper that we recall at the Mass, though we do use the words as revealed at that meal. Even more, it is the eternal Supper we celebrate. Because the Offeror and the Offering have ascended, we are joined to Christ in heaven with all the others in heaven feasting on the Lamb. The Mass is a joining with the eternal banquet in heaven. It is not a mere recalling of the past; it is bringing the past, the present moment, and the future of salvation into our present reality.

It is also our preparation for eternity. If we can somehow push through the thin veil that separates heaven and earth during the Mass, if we can enter the Body of Christ present sacramentally on the altar, on the other side we fall into heaven. On the other side of the Host, we would be present at the Banquet of the Lamb, with all the angels and saints surrounding us. (Rev 21:1 – 22:5). The Mass is not a reenactment, it is a participation.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Moment of Consecration