

The Eucharist as Healing

Philadelphia OVBS 2008



Where did we get this stuff??

- Imagine our impressions of Eucharistic worship if we were seeing it for the first time in our adult lives
- Would it seem strange? Would it also feel natural?
- The Liturgy was not the effort of some Bible scholars years after the fact...It is in direct continuity with 2000 years of Christian Traditions

In fact...



Christ Himself established the Eucharist and perfected It...

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

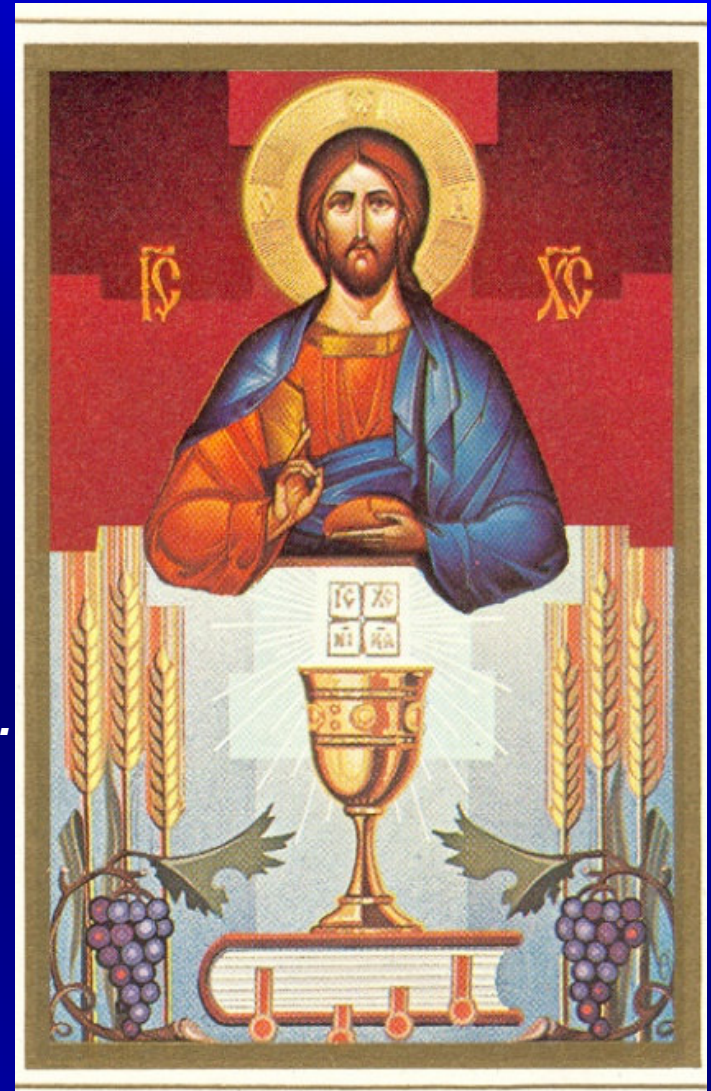
- Luke 22: 19-20

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

– John 6: 51

“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.”

- 1 Corinthians 11: 24



The Body and Blood of Christ

- In a very real sense, albeit a *mysterious* one, we are partaking in the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
- When we approach the Chalice and Paten, we are approaching Christ in His real presence, because Christ has made His presence abide completely in the elements of bread and wine
- It is best not to speculate on hows and whys

'Types' of Eucharist in the O.T.



- Abel's offering of meat
- Melchizedek & Abraham
- Abraham & Isaac
- The Passover
- God feeds the Hebrews
Mana
- Elijah
- The Temple Sacrifice

- *1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.*
- *2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.*
- *3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;*
- *4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*
- *5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.*
- *6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.*
- *7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:*
- *8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:*
- *9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;*
- *10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.*

-Hebrews 9: 1-10

Temple Worship

- The offering of the blood of the lamb was mediated by the High Priest on behalf of all
- Only One Temple vs. The Synagogue
- Atonement/Sacrifice Incomplete
- “God does not delight in burnt offerings...”

The Old Covenant Meets the New

- Christ is the True Lamb
 - “Behold the Lamb of God”- John 1:36
- Christ’s Sacrifice completes the Sacrifice in the Temple
 - The Curtain tears
- Christ suffers, dies, and Resurrects

The Sacraments Bind Us to Christ

- In Chrismation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit
 - The personal Pentecost
- In Baptism we die and resurrect with Christ
 - Yet we still sin
- In Eucharist, we renew the Baptismal Covenant, and participate in Christ's offering of Himself
 - So that He may be able to dwell in us

Concluding Thoughts

- In Eden, Adam was forbidden from partaking in the fruit of the Tree of Life
- Whereas in the Fall we did not consume, in the Eucharist, the “medicine of immortality” is given to us
- We live our lives from Eucharist to Eucharist