

# The Luminous Mysteries of the Mass

## Baptism of Jesus

*And Jesus being baptized, forthwith came out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened to him: and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon him. And behold a voice from heaven, saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

*They shall no more hunger nor thirst, neither shall the sun fall on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall rule them, and shall lead them to the fountains of the waters of life, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

*-Matt 3:16-17, Revelation 7:16-17*

Jesus sanctified the waters of baptism by being baptized in the Jordan by John. I am reminded of my baptismal promises before the Mass begins as I enter the church. The water in the holy water fount serves as a reminder that I have renounced sin, died with Christ and will one day come out of the waters of death to eternal life. I, as a baptized Catholic, believe that the Mass is truly heaven on earth and since Scripture tells me that nothing unclean can enter heaven I wash myself before entering the heavenly banquet.

Water is an integral part of the Mass from the crossing of myself with holy water and washing of the priest's hands to the water mixed with wine before the consecration. This water should always remind me of my baptism in Christ who is the Living Water. It should also remind me of the water and blood that flowed forth from the Savior's side giving birth to the Church.

Lord, help me to remember my promise to renounce Satan and all his works as I wash myself in preparation for the Holy Banquet. Help me also to remember that in receiving the cup I not only drink the Blood of Our Lord but the blood and water that gushed forth at the birth of the Church. "Except you... drink his [Jesus] blood, you shall not have life in you. "...unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." *Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who washes me clean at Mass.

# Wedding at Cana

*And when the chief steward had tasted the water made wine, and knew not whence it was, but the waiters knew who had drawn the water; the chief steward calleth the bridegroom, And saith to him: Every man at first setteth forth good wine, and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse. But thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee; and manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him.*

*And he took the blood and sprinkled it upon the people, and he said: This is the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.*  
-John 2:9-11, Exodus 24:8

The Wedding at Cana offers so much for meditation on the Mass. Jesus worked His first miracle here at this wedding feast. Many times throughout the Gospel Jesus refers to heaven as a wedding feast or a wedding banquet. The book of Revelation ends triumphantly with the wedding feast of the Lamb. The holy sacrifice of the Mass is in fact this wedding feast described in the book of Revelation. It is the celebration and consummation of the marriage of Christ and His Church. At Mass we recite our vows with the Creed there by proclaiming our undying love for our spouse, Jesus. He consummates the marriage by giving us, His bride, the Church, His very flesh for the life of the world.

At the Wedding at Cana Jesus changed ordinary water into exceptional wine. At the holy sacrifice of the Mass Jesus, acting through the person of the priest, changes ordinary wine into His precious blood, the blood of the Lamb.

Lord, help me to celebrate this mystical marriage to Christ more reverently and more fervently at every Mass. Help me to put on my wedding garment and wash it in the blood of the Lamb poured out for me at every Mass. Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine which I have mingled for you.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who is our spouse.

# Proclamation of the Kingdom

*The time is accomplished, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe the gospel.*

*And the seventh angel sounded the trumpet: and there were great voices in heaven, saying: The kingdom of this world is become our Lord's and his Christ's, and he shall reign for ever and ever. Amen.*

*-Mark 1:15, Revelation 11:15*

Every Mass is an apocalypse which in Greek means an "unveiling." It is an unveiling of the great mystery of the Kingdom. For those who have eyes to see and those who have ears to hear heaven is unveiled and the Kingdom is revealed in the Mass.

When Jesus began His ministry he began with these words, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." These words should echo loudly as I prepare to participate at Mass.

The Kingdom of God is at hand but most especially and most fully in the Mass.

Lord, help me to prepare to fully enter into this mysterious unveiling of the Kingdom by frequenting the sacrament of reconciliation. I must repent, as Jesus says, before I enter into the Kingdom and for this reason the Church places the penitential rite at the beginning of the Mass. Otherwise I am, as Saint Paul says, "guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." This means that I am guilty of causing His death because of my unwillingness to repent. Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand at Mass.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who calls me to repentance.

# Transfiguration

*And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter and James and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves, and was transfigured before them. And his garments became shining and exceeding white as snow, so as no fuller upon earth can make white. And there appeared to them Elias with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.*

*Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.*

*Mark 9:1-3, Exodus 34:29b(RSV)*

The Transfiguration is revelation of God's glory physically manifested in Jesus. In this event I see Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah. These two men represent the Old Testament Law and Prophets respectively. "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New."

In the Mass I receive Christ in two concrete ways. I receive Him physically body, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist. I also receive Him just as concretely in the Liturgy of the Word. The reading of Scripture is not just an old tradition of the Church. Nor is the reading of scripture a lead in for the priest's homily. The reading of scripture is an integral part for the complete liturgy. In it I receive the very words of God written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the light of Scripture I see that all revelation points to and finds its source in Jesus Christ. When I begin to see Jesus in both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist I, like Peter, will say, "It is good for us to be here." It is good for me to be here, at Mass.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who is truly present at Mass.

# Institution of the Eucharist

*And taking bread, he gave thanks, and brake; and gave to them, saying: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for a commemoration of me. In like manner the chalice also, after he had supped, saying: This is the chalice, the new testament in my blood, which shall be shed for you.*

*And it shall be a lamb without blemish, a male, of one year; according to which rite also you shall take a kid. And thus you shall eat it: you shall gird your reins, and you shall have shoes on your feet, holding staves in your hands, and you shall eat in haste; for it is the Phase (that is the Passage) of the Lord. And this day shall be for a memorial to you; and you shall keep it a feast to the Lord in your generations, with an everlasting observance.*

*-Luke 22:19-20, Exodus 12:5, 11,14*

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. In the Eucharist I find my strength. At the Last Supper Jesus gave Himself to His apostles in a real physical way under the appearance of bread and wine. It was not merely a symbolic act but a real event intended to replace the very event they were commemorating. I often confuse my understanding of the word remember and commemorate with the understanding of those words in the time of Christ. To "remember" did not mean to simply look back fondly on an event somewhere in history. It meant to make that event present again in the here and now. The Mass is not a fond, feel-good-pretend-time re-enactment of the Last Supper. It is a re-presentation of the same events that took place over two thousand years ago in an un-bloody manner. I could not be there in the Upper Room or on Calvary so God, who is beyond time, makes this one sacrifice present to me. The Mass is the new Passover. It is the New Covenant in which the spotless Lamb is offered as a sacrifice for the sins of God's family thus protecting them from eternal death. At every Mass it is the same Lamb, Jesus. It is the same sacrifice, Calvary. "From the rising of the sun even to the going down... and in every place there is sacrifice, and there is offered to my name a clean oblation."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.

Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who gives us Himself in the Eucharist.

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