



# FEEDING THE MULTITUDE AND THE EUCHARIST

“Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.” – John 6:4

# Introduction



“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.” (Jn. 6:53-56)

# 1. Participation

- The Lord wanted to include the disciples in His miraculous work
- The Church wants all the believers to participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Through the hands of man are the mysteries distributed



## 2. It's a Celebration

- Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” (Jn. 6:14)
- “Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.” (Jn. 6:15)
- The Eucharist is a celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
- It is a celebration of our participation in His death, life, and resurrection.



## 2. It's a Celebration



- The Eucharistic meal and the Old Testament Passover
- And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.” (Mk. 14:22-24)

# 3. Being in God's Presence

- The people who were fed by the Lord were in heaven.
  - *“Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.” (Lk. 12:37)*
- The Church at the Liturgy is the living expression of the presence of God in this world.
  - *“Therefore, as we also commemorate His holy Passion, His Resurrection from the dead, His Ascension into the heavens, His sitting at Your right hand, O Father, and His Second Coming from the heavens, awesome and full of glory...” (Liturgy of St. Basil)*





## 4. Our Offering

- The disciples offered their service and the five loaves and two fish
- We offer what is imperfect and place it in His hands, and by the time it is accepted and returned (communion) it has been made perfect.
- The offering community is itself transformed and transfigured like the bread and wine.

## Body of Christ Parallels

- *“We ask You, O Lord our God – we Your sinful and unworthy servants worship You by the pleasure of Your goodness – that Your Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts set forth, and purify them, change them, and manifest them as a sanctification of Your saints.”* (Institution Narrative, Liturgy of St. Basil)
- *“O God, You have sanctified these gifts which are set forth through the coming down upon them of your Holy Spirit; You have purified them. Purify us also, our Master, from our sins, the hidden and manifest. And every thought not pleasing to your goodness, O God, the Lover of Mankind, may it be far from us.”* (Fraction, Liturgy of St. Basil)

## Body of Christ Parallels

- *“...we ask and entreat Your Goodness, O Lover of Mankind, show Your face upon this bread, and upon this cup, which we have set upon this Your priestly table. Bless them, sanctify them, purify them and change them, in order that, on the one hand this bread may indeed become Your holy Body, and, on the other hand, the mixture which is in this cup indeed Your precious blood...”* (Offering of the Lamb, Liturgy of St. Basil)

# 5. Sacrifice

## ■ Feeding the Multitude

- The boy sacrificed his food
- The disciples sacrificed their reasoning and their service

## ■ Eucharist

- The initial offering of the bread and wine generally begins before the people arrive for liturgy.
- EX: Christians in Communist Romania
- The Deal: *“we preached, and they beat us. We were happy preaching; they were happy beating us so everyone was happy.”*  
(Wurmbrand, Richard. Tortured for Christ (pp. 67-68).

## 6. Dismissal



- *“It is a good thing to spend a great deal of time and effort preparing for a meal, then to spend as little time and effort to consume it.”* (Monastic tradition)
- We go out to proclaim the kingdom
- The dismissal of the Divine Liturgy is not the beginning of the end, but rather the end of the beginning.

# Summary

- The Feeding the Multitude and the Eucharist meal
  1. *Participation in the Offering*
  2. *It's a Celebration*
  3. *Being in God's presence*
  4. *Our Offering*
  5. *Sacrifice*
  6. *Dismissal*