



Session Two

The Eucharist and Jesus

THE EUCHARIST AND JESUS

Opening Prayer

In the beginning, O God,
your word subdued the chaos;
in the fullness of time
you sent Jesus, your Son,
to rebuke the forces of evil
and bring forth a new creation.
By that same power,
transform all our fear
into faith and awe in your saving presence.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**

Scripture *John 1:1-5,9-14*

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh

or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Words of Pope Francis

In the Eucharistic Prayer.... The action of the Holy Spirit and the efficacy of the very words of Christ uttered by the priest make truly present, under the form of bread and wine, his Body and his Blood, his sacrifice offered on the Cross once and for all (cf. CCC, 1375). Jesus was most clear about this. We have heard how Saint Paul, in the beginning, repeated Jesus' words: "This is my body; this is my blood". "This is my blood; this is my body". It was Jesus himself who said this. ... It is the Body of Jesus; it ends there! Faith: faith comes to our aid; by an act of faith we believe that it is the Body and Blood of Jesus. It is the "mystery of faith", as we say after the consecration. ... The Church wishes to be joined to Christ and become one body and one spirit with the Lord. This is the grace and the fruit of sacramental Communion: we are nourished of the Body of Christ to become, we who eat of it, his Body living today in the world.

General Audience, 7 March 2018

Reflection

Fr James Hanvey SJ

The reflection from Fr James is available to download from cliftondiocese.com. Play the video clip [here](#).

Questions for conversation

Take time to read and pray the accounts of the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist in Mark, Matthew, Luke. What are the things you notice most about them?

Take one of the Eucharistic Prayers of the Mass: what do you notice about the movement of the prayers before and after the words of consecration? How closely do you think they capture the narrative of the gospels at this point?

Look at the following passages from John's gospel: *John 6. 22 -58. John 15.1-17*. In what ways do you think they help us understand and live the sacrament of the Eucharist?

Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the **OUR FATHER**.

Final Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this most wonderful sacrament
you have left us the memorial of your passion;
deepen our reverence for the mystery of your body and blood,
that we may experience within us the fruit of your redemption.
You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**