

# The Sacrament of Eucharist

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Servants Prep Class



- Review of the basics
- Theology and reference to the True Biblical Eucharist
- Response to common questions

# The Basics: Meaning of a Sacrament

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- What is a Sacrament?
- A Sacrament is the attaining of a Divine gift (not visible) given to us through visible means.
  - Baptism- Gift: new birth – Through: water
  - Communion- Gift: True Body and Blood – Through: bread and wine
- 7 Church sacraments (some mandatory and some not)

# The Basics: Institution of the Eucharist

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- It was instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ on Covenant Thursday.
- **(Mt 26:26-28)**
  - ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins’”

# The Basics: The visible component

- The bread :
  - the Body of Jesus Christ
- Leavened Bread
  - Yeast = sin. Yeast dies when the Orbana is baked
- The bread is circular in shape:
  - No beginning and no end - everlasting
- The 5 holes:
  - 2 hand holes, 2 feet holes, 1 hole on the side



# The Basics: The visible component

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- The writing: Coptic meaning...
  - “Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy immortal”.
- The Big cross:
  - Jesus Christ in the middle of His Church/people
- and the twelve crosses
  - The 12 disciples.. Which also represent priesthood



# The Basics: The visible component

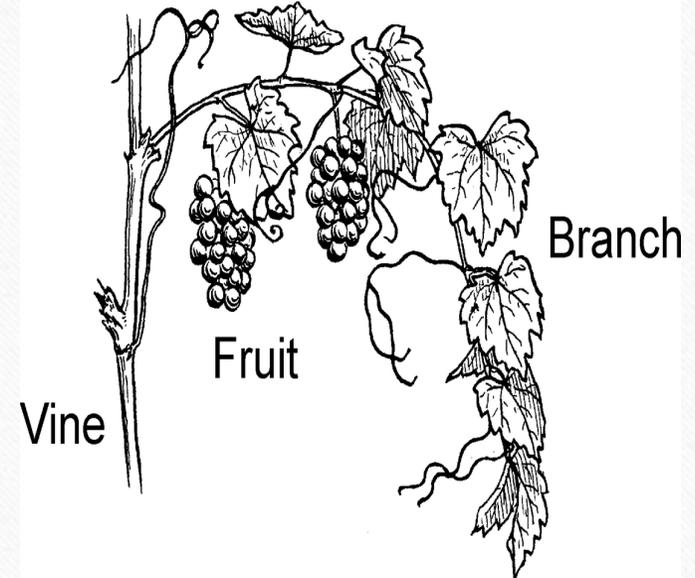
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- The wine :
  - the Blood of Jesus Christ
- The addition of water
  - “But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.”



# Simple spiritual meanings

- Why the grapes?
  - The shape of the grape vines. It's coming from **one** branch and dividing to many.
  - Just like the Blood of Christ is the True Vine , branching to provide us his people
- Why is the Orbana made of Wheat grains?
  - Multiple small grains of wheat forming ONE Obrana.
  - We're multiple organs in the ONE body of Christ



# Now let's discuss: Theology



- It's always important to have faith in the word of God and to Believe despite concepts may seem above our humanly limited understanding.
  - A miracle occurs every liturgy that changes the bread and wine to True Body and True Blood- no symbols or representations or memorials- but True mystical transformation.
- But the beauty of our church is my faith and beliefs **ALWAYS** comes through Biblical support and proof
- Which is important for us as servants to be able to educate our children and respond to those who attack our True faith

# Where's the Eucharist in the Bible?

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- All four Gospels spoke about the Eucharist
  - **(Mt 26:26-28)**-- “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; **this is My body**.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For **this is My blood** of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”
  - **(Mk 14:22-24)** -- “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it 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”
  - **(Lk 22:29-20)**-- “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying ‘**This is My body** which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in **My blood**, which is shed for you”
  - **John**-- its a whole chapter- John 6. St. John even further and thoroughly explained this sacrament

# Where's the Eucharist in the Bible?

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- It was said in all 4 gospels in these literal words “This is My Body and this is My blood.”
  - Never- this is a symbol of My Body or this is a representation of My Blood.
  - Never explained by any of the disciples in their own gospels as this is a representation
  - Never explained by any of the 70 apostles or their written letters any hint that this was meant as a symbol or memorial
  - Never interpreted or translated into “this is **like** My Body or this is a **remembrance** of My Blood” ”Remembrance of ME is not the same as Remembrance of My Body/Blood” We will discuss this point later.

# Biblical Reasons

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- Let's further discuss this point...
- How do we truly know if this was Symbolism vs literal meaning
- When our Lord Jesus Christ would speak in symbolism and the Jews either do not understand the symbolism or take it literally, there'd always be a follow-up explanation.



# Examples for your reference

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- “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ So the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’
  - **But He was speaking of the temple of His body.” (Jn 2:19-21)**
- “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’
  - **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive.” (Jn 7:37-39)**
- “Then they said to Him, ‘Who are you?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Just as I have been saying to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.’
  - **They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.” (Jn 8:25-27)**

# Examples for your reference

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- Parables- Matthew Chapter 13- The Parable of the Sower- It wasn't literal sower who had this happen to him one day. The story was for symbolism
  - Was explained by Jesus Christ "Matthew 13:18
- The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares
  - <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."
- <sup>11</sup>After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."
  - <sup>13</sup>Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

# John Chapter 6- Eucharist chapter

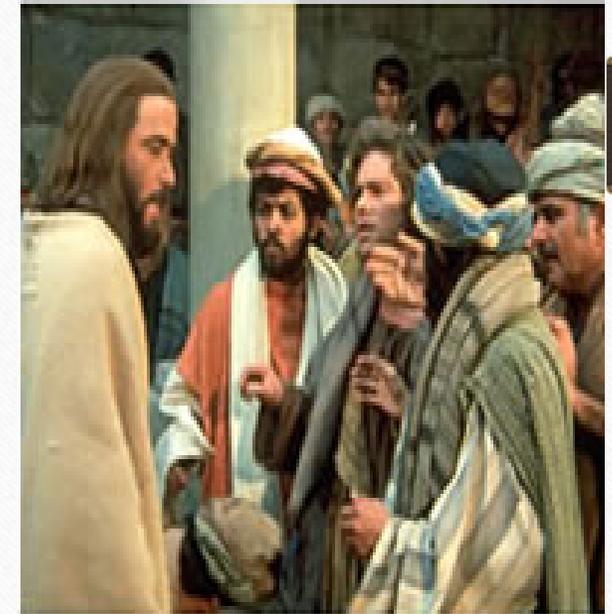
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- Lord Jesus Christ said, “If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is **My flesh**, which I shall give for the life of the world” (Jn 6:51) but..
  - “The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, ‘How can this Man give us **His flesh** to eat?’” (Jn 6:52)
- If Lord Jesus Christ was speaking symbolically and the Jews misunderstood Him, Either He would explain further or St. John would explain when he’s writing his gospel like he always did.
- But Jesus further response emphasis the **literal** meaning. He said...
  - “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 ...

# John Chapter 6- Eucharist chapter

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- Then Jesus continues speaking and says again:
  - Whoever eats **My flesh** and drinks **My blood** has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
- Then **AGAIN**:
  - For **My flesh** is food **indeed**, and **My blood** is **drink indeed**. (Jn 6:53,55)
- The amount of repetition of the **literal** saying is troubling to the Jews.
- So Jesus says it **AGAIN** in clear terms:
  - so he who **feeds on Me** will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the **bread** which came down from heaven



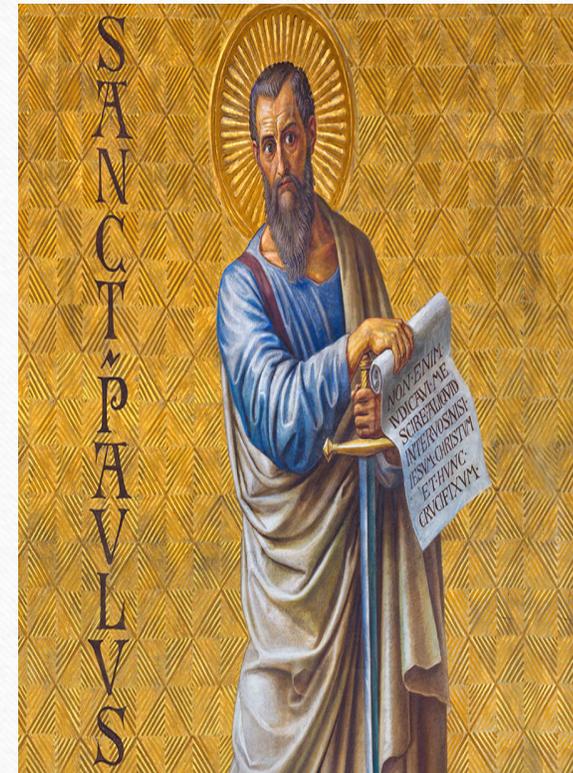
# John Chapter 6- Eucharist Chapter

- As this point EVEN His disciples knew he meant everything literally and said, **“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”** (Jn 6:60)
  - Jesus knew that the Jews and His disciples started to take His words literally and did not agree with it. Many walked away from Him. He was losing them. so He said...
    - **“Does this offend you?” (Jn 6:61) “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” (Jn 6:66)**
  - **If the Lord had meant any of it (even part) symbiotically, He would have explained Himself or explained to His disciples after but instead He said:**
    - Then Jesus said to the twelve, **“Do you also want to go away?”**
    - Because He meant His words literally and there’s no window for compromise here.



# St. Paul's interpretation

- Despite NOT being physically present when this sacrament was initiated,
- Despite NOT being physically present when Jesus spoke about this mystery to the Jews and His disciples in John 6
- This is what St. Paul understood about the Eucharist..
  - The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the **Blood of Christ**? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the **Body of Christ**? (1 Cor 10:15-16)



# St. Paul's interpretation

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- “and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “**Take, eat; this is My body** which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood.** This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” (1 Cor 11: 23-24)
- **EXAMINE YOURSELF!**
- “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be **guilty** of the **Body** and **Blood** of the Lord.
- **AND AGAIN:** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and **drinks judgment** to himself, not discerning the **Lord's body** (1 Cor 11: 29) For **this reason** many *are* **weak** and **sick** among you, and many <sup>¶</sup>sleep
- **Really? You'd be eternally condemned and a considered a criminal over eating bread meant for symbolism?**

# Priesthood today and their interpretation

- “He broke it and .... **For this is My Body**, which is broken for you...”
  - Deacons and people say: **This is true, Amen.**
- Likewise the cup... **For this is My Blood** of the New Covenant...”
  - Deacons and people say: **This is also True, Amen.**
- “For every time you eat of this bread and this cup”
  - Deacons and people say: **Amen, Amen, Amen...**
- **“I believe I believe I believe and confess to the last breath that...”**
- **You’d give up your last breath defending bread and wine meant for symbolism?**



# Analogy of How...

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- Analogy of the mouse and the poison



# What I benefit?

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- Remission of sins and salvation
- It is a requirement to obtain Eternal Life
- Abiding in Lord Jesus Christ
- Growth and Maintenance of our Spiritual Life.

# Key Orthodox Points #1

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- **If this is the True Body and Blood of Christ? Why don't I taste flesh and blood?**
  - Jesus is giving us the True Body and True Blood in the true unchanged form of bread and wine.
  - Therefore, We believe in the mysterious transformation of the bread and wine to the True Body & Blood. We do not believe in the change of the object and chemical characteristics of the bread and wine.

# Key Orthodox Points #2

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- **How can Jesus give His disciples His body to eat during Holy Thursday while He was actually sitting among them before His Crucifixion?**
  - The gift of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to eliminate our sins is beyond the laws of time
    - It's meant to eliminate the sins of mankind from the beginning of time and to the end of time.
    - This is why in liturgy we say: "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"
    - God is able to mysteriously make the bread and wine during Covenant Thursday into His True Blood which will be shed and His True Body.

# Key Orthodox Points #3

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- **How come we can not take communion at non-Orthodox churches or vice versa?**
  - Because the Holy Communion- requires a common or a unity in the doctrine and the theology of the sacrament and of all the faith as a whole. If the faith is not agreed upon then we can not partake of each other's Eucharist.
  - Protestants: do not believe that the bread and wine are the True Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore their communion is symbolism vs our communion is literal.
  - Catholic: this dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century when both church had discrepancies over the nature of Jesus Christ. Since then there has been a "prohibition" of co- partaking of Communion.

QUESTIONS?

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