

The Mystical Supper: The Holy Eucharist

Theme

We receive Christ himself in the Holy Eucharist and give thanks for his great salvation.

Outline

The Holy for the holy: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ

The Fraction

The Precommunion Prayers

The Communion of the Clergy & the Laity

Thanksgiving Prayers

Scripture References¹

Isaiah 6.1–9

Luke 24.13–35

John 10.3

John 19.36

1 Timothy 1.15

2 Peter 1.3–4

Quotes

In truth, [in the Eucharist] we are not partaking of one of His gifts, but of His very Self.

— Nicholas Cabasilas *On the Life of Christ*

The faithful are called holy on account of the Holy One in whose they participate and in whose holy Body and Blood they commune.

— Nicholas Cabasilas *Commentary on the Divine Liturgy*

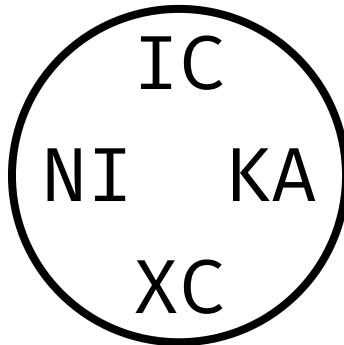
If you take into account that the Holy Things set for here are so precious that even the Seraphim are far from being worthy to touch them, and then reflect on your Lord's love for humanity, you will be amazed that the grace of the holy Body and Blood does not spurn descending even to our worthlessness. Bearing in mind, O human, and considering the magnitude of the gift, raise yourself up once and for all, abandon the earth and ascend to heaven.

— St John Chrysostom *Homily on Isaiah 6*

¹ References from the Greek Bible; differing Hebrew Bible references are noted in parentheses.

The Fracture

The placement of the fractured Lamb on the paten:



IC (Jesus) placed in the chalice.

XC (Christ): the clergy's portion.

NIKA (conquers): the laity's portion.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

St John Chrysostom

We give thanks unto thee, O Master who loves mankind, Benefactor of our souls, for that thou hast vouchsafed this day to feed us with thy heavenly and immortal mysteries. Make straight our path; establish us all in thy fear; guard our life; make firm steps; through the prayers and intercessions of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all thy saints.

St Basil

We give thanks unto thee, O Lord our God, for the participation in thy holy, immaculate, immortal, and heavenly mysteries, which thou hast given unto us for the welfare and sanctification of our souls and bodies. Do thou, the same Master of all grant that the communion of the holy Body and Blood of thy Christ may be for us unto faith unashamed, unto love unfeigned unto increase of wisdom, unto healing of soul and body, unto the turning aside of every adversary, unto the fulfillment of thy commandments, and unto an acceptable defense at the fearful judgement seat of thy Christ:

For thou art our Sanctification, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.