

The Biblical Roots of the Mass

The Eucharist Foretold in Isaiah

Isaiah 62: 8-9: “The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: “I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.”

The Sacrifice of the Mass foretold in Malachi

Malachi 1:11: “For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and **a pure offering**; for my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.”

Standing at the beginning of Mass

Exodus 33: 7-10: “Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door.”

The Communion of Saints at the Altar during Mass

Hebrews 12:22-24: “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and **to the spirits of just men made perfect** (*purgatory!*), and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel.”

The Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3: “**Holy, holy, holy** is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Revelation 4: 8: “**Holy, holy, holy**, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

The Sign of the Cross Prefigured in Ezekiel

Ezekiel 9:4-6: And the Lord said to him, “Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a “mark” (a **Tau**, or “t” shape) upon the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.” And to the others he said in my hearing, “Pass through the city after him, and smite; your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity; slay old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, **but touch no one upon whom is the mark.**”

The Holy Spirit descending from Heaven during Worship to Transform the Sacrificial Offering

2 Chronicles 7: 1-4: “When Solomon had ended his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord’s house. When all the children of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the earth on the pavement, and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.” Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord.”

The “Lord Have Mercy”

Matthew 20:30-31: “And behold, two blind men sitting by the roadside, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, “**Have mercy on us**, Son of David!” The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent; but they cried out the more, “**Lord, have mercy on us**, Son of David!”

The “Lord, I am not worthy,” and the Eucharist foretold as a Spiritual Banquet

Matthew 8: 8-12: But the centurion answered him, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say

to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, **many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven**, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19: 9: "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

The Gloria

Luke 2: 14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

The Eucharist and the Real Presence of Jesus

Matthew 26:26-29: "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

John 6:48-58: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who 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. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever." This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Caper'na-um."

Standing for the Readings and Explanations of Them

Nehemiah 8:5-8: "And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebi'ah, Jamin, Akkub, Shab'bethai, Hodi'ah, Ma-asei'ah, Keli'ta, Azari'ah, Jo'zabad, Hanan, Pelai'ah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. And they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading."

Reading from Scripture during Mass

Luke 4:16-19: "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

The Liturgy of the Word, a Sermon, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist

Luke 24:25-31: "And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, **he interpreted to them in all the scriptures** the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he **took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them**. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight (*His Real Presence in the Eucharist is unseen*).