

Chapter 17 – The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Christian Life

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist he gave a final meaning to the blessing of the bread and wine and the sacrifice of the lamb.

With the institution of the Eucharist, Jesus gave the Passover its new and definitive meaning. He showed himself to be the High Priest of the New Covenant, offering himself as a perfect sacrifice to the Father.

Since the second century, the Mass has had a structure that is common to all Catholics.

1. Introductory Rites – The Christian community, united by the Holy Spirit, gathers for worship in response to God’s call.
2. Liturgy of the Word – The proclamation of God’s Word are meant to arouse our faith and prepare us for an ever deeper participation in the mystery of the Eucharist.
3. Liturgy of the Eucharist –
 - Preparation of Gifts
 - The Eucharistic Prayer
 - Thanksgiving
 - Acclamation
 - Epiclesis
 - Institution Narrative and Consecration
 - Anamnesis (Remembrance)
 - Second Epiclesis
 - Intercessions
 - Doxology and Great Amen
4. Communion Rite
5. Concluding Rite