

The Mass of the Lord's Supper – 04/01/21

On Holy Thursday we commemorate the day our Lord instituted the priesthood, the Mass and consequently his real and perpetual Eucharistic presence in the world.

We heard about it in shadow form in the Old Testament reading.

The Lord God commanded the Hebrew people, through Moses and Aaron, to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, eat it, and apply some of its blood to the doorposts of every home in which they partook of the lamb in order that they may escape death and be freed from slavery to Pharaoh.

Then in the second reading to the Corinthians, St. Paul gave us the basic structure of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that we celebrate every day in the Church – the bloodless sacrifice of Jesus Christ the unblemished Lamb of God.

The Passover pointed to the crucifixion but the crucifixion doesn't just point to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, they are mysteriously one.

At Holy Communion we're not just sharing a piece of lamb in our homes and sprinkling some of its blood on our doorposts in order to be freed from slavery to a tyrant.

We are receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ – the unblemished Lamb of God – in the temple of our own bodies. When the Blood of Christ is touched to our lips, the doorposts to this temple, we are potentially freed from slavery to the devil and given the promise of eternal life.

So today we celebrate the gift of the priesthood, the Mass and the institution of the Eucharist – Jesus’ real and perpetual presence in the world around us.

And it is from His Eucharistic sacrifice, his self-emptying gift to us, that we too must take our service into the world and become a gift to others so that they may experience not just a helping hand but ultimately Jesus’ saving sacrifice in their lives.

At the Chrism Mass Bishop Gruss reminded us that we are to imitate Jesus and empty ourselves in the service of others.

This is a huge undertaking but it is one that we have been equipped for because Jesus feeds us with his very self here at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The master and teacher, Jesus Christ, has given us a model to follow so that as he has done for us, we should also do.