

The Eucharist in the Gospel of John

Dr. Brant Pitre

Session 1 (Friday Evening)

Introduction

1. Catholic Doctrine of Scripture ([CCC 101-108](#))
2. Author: St. John the Apostle, the “Beloved Disciple” (John 19:26, 35; [Luke 9:51-56](#))
3. Date: either 60s or 90s of the first-century A.D.
4. Audience: Jewish Christians
5. Purpose: to inspire faith (John 20:31) and to supplement Synoptic Gospels
6. Distinctive Characteristics:

The Prologue: Major Themes in John’s Gospel (John 1)

1. The New Creation (John 1:1)
2. The Divinity of Jesus (John 1:1)
3. The Family of God (John 1:12)
4. The Incarnation (John 1:14)
5. The Trinity (John 1:18)
6. The New Exodus (John 1:23; Isaiah 40)
7. The New Passover (John 1:29, 35)
8. The Coming of the Spirit (John 1:33)
9. The Messiah (John 1:41, 49)
10. The New Temple (John 1:51; Gen 28)

Session 2 (Saturday Morning)

The New Wine: The Wedding at Cana (John 2)

1. The New Adam (Jesus) and New Eve (Mary) (cf. [CCC 495](#))
2. The “Hour” of Jesus: His Cross and the Eucharist (John 12:22-23; 4:21-23)
3. The Water into Wine (Num 19:11-22; Exod 7:19; cf. Deut 32:14)
4. Jesus the True Bridegroom (John 3:28-29; see [Mark 2:18-22](#))
5. The Eucharist “Marriage supper of the Lamb” ([Rev 19:7-9](#))

The New Temple: Jesus in the Temple (John 2)

1. The Old Temple will Be Destroyed: the End of Animal Sacrifice
2. The New Temple: Jesus’ Body (cf. John 1:51; Gen 28)
3. The True Temple of Jesus’ Body is Destroyed on the Cross (cf. Matt 27:51)

Old Creation

1. Jesus’ Body (Incarnation)
2. Old Temple (Jerusalem Temple)
3. Old Creation (“Heaven and Earth”)

New Creation

1. Jesus’ Glorified Body (Resurrection)
2. New Temple (Heavenly Temple)
3. New Creation (“New Heaven and Earth”)

The New Creation: Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3)

1. Necessity of Baptism: Being born of “Water and Spirit” (John 3:5; [CCC 1257-61](#))
2. “Flesh” (Old Creation) and “Spirit” (New Creation)
3. Jesus Will Be “Lifted Up” like the Serpent in the Desert (Numbers 21:9; John 8:28)

The New Temple: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4)

1. A Samaritan Woman: the Samaritans were of mixed descent (2 Kings 17)
2. The “Living Water”: flowing from the New Temple ([Zech 14:8](#); Rev 22:1-4)
3. The New Worship in the New Temple (John 4:23; [CCC 1090, 1137-39](#))

The Eucharist in the Gospel of John

Dr. Brant Pitre

The New Creation: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath (John 5)

1. Healing on the Sabbath: How did Jesus make himself “equal to God” (John 5:18)?
2. The New Creation: The Resurrection of the Dead (John 5:21, 25-29; Ezekiel 37)
3. Why do Christians not have to keep the Sabbath? (Exod 20:4; CCC 2175-76)

The New Manna: the Bread of Life Discourse (John 6)

1. The Context: Passover (John 6:1; see Exodus 12)
2. The Multiplied Loaves: the New Moses (Deut 18:15-19; cf. 2 Kings 4:42-44)
3. Jesus Walks on Water: “I AM, do not be afraid” (John 6:20; Exod 3:14)
4. The Demand for a Sign: Moses and the Manna (John 6:30-33; Exodus 12)
5. The Bread of Life Discourse (John 6:35-59): Two Interpretations
 - a. Metaphorical Interpretation: Eating Bread of Life a metaphor for believing
 - b. Sacramental Interpretation: Eating Bread of Life refers to the Eucharist
6. The Bread of Life Discourse, Part One: The Invitation to Faith (John 6:35-47)
 - a. Importance of Belief in the Son (John 6:39-40, 47)
 - b. Faith is a Gift from the Father (John 6:44, 65)
7. The Bread of Life Discourse, Part Two: The Invitation to the Eucharist (John 6:48-58)
 - a. The New Manna: “comes down from heaven,” gives “eternal life”
 - b. The New Bread “*is* my flesh” (John 6:51)
 - c. The Jews recognize that he is speaking *literally*: Jesus does not correct them
 - d. The Necessity of Eating His Flesh and Drinking His Blood (cf. Deut 32:42)
 - e. “My flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink” (John 6:55; cf. NIV!)
 - f. The Disciples’ Response: a “hard saying,” all leave except the 12 (John 6:66)
 - g. The Key: The Resurrection and Ascension—Jesus’ *risen* body and blood
 1. Jesus repeatedly speaks of the *bodily resurrection* (John 6:39, 44, 54)
 2. The Eucharist is the Risen Flesh of Christ (JP2, EE 18; CCC 1392)
 - h. “Flesh” and “Spirit”: Old Creation (Flesh) and New Creation (Spirit) (6:63)

Jesus and Abraham: “Abraham rejoiced to see my day” (John 8)

1. Setting: Jesus’ Conflict with the Pharisees (John 8:13)
2. Jesus Foretells His Death (John 8:21-30)
 - a. Rejection of Jesus: “You will die in your sin” (John 8:21)
 - b. The Divinity of Jesus:
 1. “I am not of this world” (John 8:23)
 2. “Unless you believe that I AM” (John 8:24; cf. Exod 3:14)
 3. The Mystery of the Incarnation (CCC 464-478)
 4. “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know I AM”
3. Knowledge of the Truth: “Will make you free” (John 8:31-32)
4. Continued Dispute over who the Children of Abraham are (John 8:39-47)
5. Jesus and Abraham (John 8:48-59)
 - a. “Are you greater than our father Abraham?”
 - b. “You father Abraham rejoiced to see my day” (John 8:56)
 - c. “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58)
6. When did Abraham See Jesus’ “Day”? The Sacrifice of Isaac (see Genesis 22:1-18)

The Eucharist in the Gospel of John

Dr. Brant Pitre

- a. Father Abraham takes his only beloved Son
- b. Father Abraham offers him in sacrifice on a mountain
- c. Isaac carries the wood of his own sacrifice up the mountain
- d. Isaac asks: “Where is the Lamb?”
- e. Abraham responds: “*God will provide himself the Lamb*” (Gen 22:8)
- f. Isaac the Beloved Son goes willingly to his death
- g. God stops Abraham from sacrificing his Son
- h. Where did the Sacrifice of Isaac take place?
 1. Mt. Moriah (cf. 2 Chron 3:1)
 2. “The Lord will provide” (*YHWH yireh*; cf. Psa 76:1 for *salem*)

Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10)

1. Background: Ezekiel’s Prophecy of the Coming Shepherd Messiah (Ezekiel 34)
2. Jesus is “the Good Shepherd”: he lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11)
3. “There shall be *one* flock, *one* shepherd” (John 10:16)
 - a. Who is the one shepherd? Jesus
 - b. But what about Peter? “Shepherd (*poimaino*) my sheep” (see John 21:15-19)
4. My Sheep Know My Voice: “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30)

The “Hour” of Jesus: the Son of Man is Lifted Up (John 12)

1. Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into the Temple (John 12:12-19)
2. Some Greeks come to See Jesus (John 12:20-26)
3. “The *Hour* Has Come” (John 12:23)
 - a. Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies (John 12:24)
 - b. “For this purpose I have come to this hour” (John 12:27)
 - c. “When I am lifted up... I will draw all men to myself” (John 12:32)
4. The “Hour” Jesus is “Lifted Up” from the Earth
 - a. His Crucifixion (cf. John 12:33; 3:12 and Num 21:4-9)
 - b. His Ascension into Heaven (CCC 662-663)
 - c. The Elevation of the Eucharist
5. The Old Testament Background: the Suffering Lamb of Isaiah 53 (John 12:38)
6. The Final Words of Jesus’ Public Ministry (John 12:44-50)

The Last Supper and Jesus’ Final Discourse (John 13-17)

1. Differences between the Synoptics and John
2. Was the Last Supper a Passover Meal? When did Jesus die?
3. Jesus the Bridegroom: “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:1-3)
4. Jesus the True Vine (John 15:1-11)
5. The Promise of the Paraclete: “He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:1-15)
6. Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer (John 17)

The Eucharist in the Gospel of John

Dr. Brant Pitre

The Passion and Death of Jesus (John 18-19)

1. The Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1-11)
 - a. Eyewitness Detail: “The Slaves Name was Malchus” (John 18:10)
 - b. “Shall I not drink the Cup?” (John 18:11; compare Mark 10:35-45)
2. The Beloved Disciple and Peter in the Court of the High Priest (John 18:15-24)
 - a. The Beloved Disciple: Known to the High Priest (John 18:15, cf. 18:10, 26)
 - b. Eyewitness Detail: “it was cold” that night (John 18:18)
 - c. Jesus before Annas
 - c. Peter’s Denial of Jesus (John 18:25-27)
3. Jesus Before Pilate in the Praetorium (John 18:28-19:16)
 - a. The Setting: Passover Morning (John 18:28)
 - b. Pilate’s First Question: “Are you the King of the Jews?” (John 18:33)
 - c. Jesus: “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36; cf. Heb 12:18-24)
 - d. Pilate’s Second Question: “What is truth?” (John 18:8)
4. Jesus Scourged and Handed Over to Be Crucified (John 19:1-16)
 - a. Jesus, the New Adam: “Behold, the Man!” (John 19:5)
 - b. Law against Blasphemy (John 19:7; cf. Lev 24:16 and 10 Comm.)
 - c. Jesus Sentenced to Die: day of Preparation for Passover (John 19:14)
5. The Crucifixion (John 19:17-24)
 - a. The Titulus: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” (John 19:19)
(“INRI” *Iesus Nazareth Rex Judaeos*)
 - b. Jesus the High Priest: Seamless garment (John 19:23; Psa 22:18; Heb 9:11-14)
6. The Death of Jesus (John 19:25-37)
 - a. Jesus the Messiah: He is Pierced (Zech 12:10)
 - b. Jesus the New Adam:
 1. Mary, the New Eve: “Woman” (cf. Gen 3:15)
 2. He Falls Asleep: Blood from His Side (John 19:34; Gen 2:21-25)
 3. Jesus the Bridegroom dies for His Bride (Eph 5:21-33)
 - c. Jesus the New Passover Lamb:
 1. “It is finished”: What is the “it”? (John 19:30)
 2. Review Passover Rite (Exodus 12)
 4. Compare Last Supper: “I will not drink” (Matt 26:26-30)
 5. Compare Gethsemane: “Take this Cup” (Matt 26:36-46)
 6. On the Road to the Cross: Spits out the Wine (Matt 27:34)
 7. Moment of Death: “I thirst” (John 19:28)
 8. He Drinks: Vinegar Dipped in Hyssop: “It is finished”
 9. His Legs are Not Broken (John 19:36; Exod 12:46)
7. Jesus is Buried by Joseph of Arimathea (John 19:38-42)

The Eucharist in the Gospel of John

Dr. Brant Pitre

The Resurrection (John 20-21)

1. The Empty Tomb (John 20:1-10)
2. Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)
 - a. “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended”
3. The Appearance to the Disciples: They Are Commissioned Priests (John 20:19-22)
 - a. “Peace be with you”
 - b. Jesus’ Hands and Sides are Pierced: Why?
 - c. The Apostles: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you”
 - d. He Breathes the Holy Spirit on Them: Power to Forgive *and Retain* Sins
4. Doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29)
 - a. Thomas touches Jesus’ wounds
 - b. “My Lord and My God!” (John 20:28)
5. Purpose of John’s Gospel (John 20:30-31)
6. Jesus appears to the Disciples while Fishing (John 21:1-14)
 - a. John is the first to recognize Jesus
 - b. The Disciples Will Catch Every Kind of Fish (153 Fish)
7. The Restoration and Future Death of Peter (John 21:15-23)
 - a. Three Times: “Do you love me?”
 - b. Jesus Makes Peter Shepherd: “Feed” and “Shepherd” my “Sheep”
 - c. Peter Will Follow the Lord to Death
 - d. The Rumor about the Beloved Disciple
8. Epilogue (John 21:24-25)