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) 6. The New Exodus (John 1:23; Isaiah 40)
2. The Divinity of Jesus (John 1:1) 7. The New Passover (John 1:29, 35)
3. The Family of God (John 1:12) 8. The Coming of the Spirit (John 1:33)
4. The Incarnation (John 1:14) 9. The Messiah (John 1:41, 49)
5. The Trinity (John 1:18) 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
3. The True Temple of Jesus’ Body is Destroyed on the Cross (cf. Matt 27:51)

Old Creation New Creation
1. Jesus’ Body (Incarnation) 1. Jesus’ Glorified Body (Resurrection)
2. Old Temple (Jerusalem Temple) 2. New Temple (Heavenly Temple)

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)
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 (JPII, 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”
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 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)

   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” Iesous Nazareth Rex Judaeos)

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)
      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 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)