

The Jewish Roots of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

The Catholic Feasts

1. Regular Feasts:
 - a. Daily Mass
 - b. Sunday Mass
2. Annual Feasts:
 - a. Feast of Nativity (Christmas)
 - b. Feast of All Saints
 - c. Feast of Immaculate Conception
 - d. Feast of Easter (“the feast of feasts”)
3. Liturgical Season:
 - a. Advent
 - b. Christmas
 - d. Lent
 - e. Easter

The Jewish Feasts

1. Regular Feasts:
 - a. The Daily Sacrifice (*Tamid*)
 - b. The Sabbath (*Shabbath*)
2. The Spring Feasts:
 - a. Passover
 - b. First Fruits
 - c. Unleavened Bread
 - d. Feast of Weeks (“Pentecost”)
3. The Fall Feasts:
 - a. Trumpets
 - b. Day of Atonement
 - c. Tabernacles (“Booths”)
 - d. Feast of Dedication (*Hannukah*)

1. The *Tamid* in the Old Testament

Now this is what you shall offer upon the altar: two lambs a year old day by day continually. *One lamb you shall offer in the morning*, and the other lamb you shall offer in the evening; and with the first lamb a tenth measure of *fine flour* mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of *wine* for a libation. And *the other lamb you shall offer in the evening*, and shall offer with it a *bread-offering and its libation*, as in the morning, for a pleasing odor, and offering by fire to the LORD. It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tent of meeting [=the Tabernacle] before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak there to you. (Exodus 29:38-43).

The LORD said to Moses: “...And you shall say to them, This is the offering by fire which you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs a year old without blemish, day by day, as a continual offering (Hebrew *tamid*). The *one lamb* you shall offer *in the morning*, and *the other lamb* you shall offer *in the evening*; also a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a *bread-offering*, mixed with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil. It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a pleasing odor, an offering by fire to the LORD. Its drink offering shall be a fourth of a hin for each lamb; in the holy place you shall pour out a *drink offering of strong drink* to the LORD. The other lamb you shall offer in the evening; like the bread-offering of the morning, and like its drink offering, you shall offer it as an offering by fire, a pleasing odor to the LORD. (Exodus 28:1-8)

The *Tamid* in Jewish Tradition

1. Praying of *Shema*' (Deut 6:4-9) and Eighteen Benedictions (Edersheim, *Temple*, 126)
2. Times: 3rd Hour (9am) and 9th Hour (3pm) (Acts 2:15; 3:1; Edersheim, *Temple*, 139)

The Death of Jesus and the *Tamid* Sacrifice

And they brought him to the place called Golgotha... And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And *it was the third hour [9a.m.] when they crucified him...* (Mark 15:22-27)

And when the sixth hour had come, *there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour [3p.m.]*. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabacthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ...And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mark 15:33-38)

What the Jews Were Praying for When Jesus Was Crucified?

1. Blessed are You, Lord our God and God of our fathers... who bestows abundant grace and creates all things and remembers the promises of grace to the fathers *and brings a Redeemer to their childrens' children for your Name's sake out of love.*

2. Lord, you are almighty forever, who makes the dead alive... who *supports those who fall, heals the sick, frees the captive, and keeps your word faithfully to those who sleep in the dust...* Blessed are You, Lord, who *makes the dead alive.*

6. *Forgive us, our Father, for we have sinned; pardon us, our King, for we have transgressed.* For you forgive and pardon. Blessed are You, Lord, gracious, rich in forgiveness.

7. *Heal us, O Lord, and we shall all be healed, save us, and we shall be saved...* Blessed are you, Lord, who heals the sick of your people Israel.

10. Proclaim our liberation with the great trumpet, and raise a banner *to gather together our dispersed, and assemble us from the four corners of the earth.* Blessed are you, Lord, who gathers the banished of your people Israel.

11. *Restore our judges* as in former times and our counsellors as in the beginning... and reign over us, you Lord alone, in grace and mercy; and justify us in judgment. Blessed are you, Lord, King, who loves justice and judgment.

14. *And to Jerusalem, your city, return with mercy and dwell in its midst as you have spoken; and build it soon in our days to be an everlasting building; and raise up quickly in its midst the throne of David.* Blessed are you, Lord, who builds Jerusalem.

15. *Cause the shoot of David to shoot forth quickly,* and raise up his horn by your salvation (Hebrew *yeshu'a*). *For we wait on your salvation (Hebrew yeshu'a) all the day.* Blessed are you, Lord, who causes the horn of salvation to shoot forth.

16. *Bring back the worship into the Holy of Holies of your house* and accept in love and pleasure the sacrifices of Israel and her prayer. And may the worship offered by Israel your people be pleasing to you always... *Blessed are you, Lord, who causes your presence (Hebrew *shekinah*) to return to Zion.*¹

¹ Emil Schürer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ* (eds. Geza Vermes et al.; Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1979), vol. 2, 456-59.

The Sabbath in the Old Testament

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light... God called the light Day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening and there was morning, *one day*... (Genesis 1:1-4)*

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And *on the seventh day* God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. *So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.* (Genesis 2:1)

Remember *the Sabbath day*, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work... *for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.* (Exodus 20:8-11)

And you shall take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes of it... And you shall set them in two rows, six in a row, upon the table of pure gold... *Every Sabbath day Aaron shall set it in order before the LORD continually* on behalf of the sons of Israel as *an everlasting covenant*. And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place. (Leviticus 24:5-8)

Jesus and the Fulfillment of the Sabbath

1. Jesus Heals on Sabbath (John 5)
2. Jesus offers the new Bread and Wine of the Presence at the Last Supper (Matt 26)
3. Jesus “Rests” in the Tomb on the Sabbath (Luke 24)

Then [Joseph of Arimathea] took [Jesus’ body] down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning... *On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.* But *on the first day* of the week, at early dawn... (Luke 23:53-56, 24:1)

The Catechism on Sunday and the Sabbath

Jesus rose from the dead “on the first day of the week.” *Because it is the “first day,” the day of Christ’s Resurrection recalls the first creation. Because it is the “eighth day” following the Sabbath, it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by Christ’s Resurrection.* For Christians it has become the first of all days, the first of all feasts, the Lord’s Day—Sunday: “We all gather on the day of the sun, for it is the first day, when God, separating matter from darkness made the world; and on this same day Jesus Christ our Savior rose from the dead.” (CCC 2174, citing Justin Martyr, *1 Apology* 67)

Sunday—fulfillment of the Sabbath. Sunday is expressly distinguished from the Sabbath which it follows chronologically every week; for Christians its ceremonial observance replaces that of the Sabbath. In Christ’s Passover, *Sunday fulfills the spiritual truth of the Jewish Sabbath and announces man’s eternal rest in God...* “Those who lived according to the old order of things have come to a new hope, no longer keeping the Sabbath, but the Lord’s Day, in which our life is blessed by him and his death.” (CCC 2175, citing St. Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Magnesians* 9:1)