

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, Year C



First Reading † Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek brought bread and wine.

A reading from the book of Genesis

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High, and he blessed him, saying:

‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.
And blessed be God Most High
who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 109:1-4

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord’s revelation to my lord,
‘Sit at my right hand,
until I make your foes your footstool.’

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord will send from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of your foes.

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

With you is princely rule
on the day of your power.
In holy splendour from the womb
before dawn I begot you.

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change,
‘You are a priest for ever,
in the line of Melchizedek.’

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Second Reading # 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

For the tradition received from the Lord and also handed on to you is that on the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and after he had given thanks, he broke it, and he said,

‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’

And in the same way with the cup after supper, saying,

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.’

As often as you eat this bread, then, and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord’s death until he comes

The word of the Lord.

Sequence

Sing forth, O Zion, sweetly sing
The praises of thy Shepherd-King,
In hymns and canticles divine;

Dare all thou canst, thou hast no song
Worthy his praises to prolong,
So far surpassing powers like thine.

Today no theme of common praise
Forms the sweet burden of thy lays –
The living, life-dispensing food –

That food which at the sacred board
Unto the brethren twelve our Lord
His parting legacy bestowed.

Then be the anthem clear and strong,
Thy fullest note, thy sweetest song,
The very music of the breast:

For now shines forth the day sublime
That brings remembrance of the time
When Jesus first his table blessed.

Within our new King’s banquet-hall
They meet to keep the festival
That closed the ancient paschal rite:

The old is by the new replaced;
The substance hath the shadow chased;
And rising day dispels the night.

Christ willed what he himself had done
Should be renewed while time should run,
In memory of his parting hour:

Thus, tutored in his school divine,
We consecrate the bread and wine;
And lo – a Host of saving power.

This faith to Christian men is given –
Bread is made flesh by words from heaven:
Into his blood the wine is turned:

What though it baffles nature's powers
Of sense and sight? This faith of ours
Proves more than nature e'er discerned.

Concealed beneath the two-fold sign,
Meet symbols of the gifts divine,
There lie the mysteries adored:

The living body is our food;
Our drink the ever-precious blood;
In each, one undivided Lord.

Not he that eateth it divides
The sacred food, which whole abides
Unbroken still, nor knows decay;

Be one, or be a thousand fed,
They eat alike that living bread
Which, still received, ne'er wastes away.

The good, the guilty share therein,
With sure increase of grace or sin,
The ghostly life, or ghostly death:

Death to the guilty; to the good
Immortal life. See how one food
Man's joy or woe accomplisheth.

We break the Sacrament, but bold
And firm thy faith shall keep its hold,
Deem not the whole doth more enfold

Than in the fractured part resides
Deem not that Christ doth broken lie,
'Tis but the sign that meets the eye,

The hidden deep reality
In all its fullness still abides.

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,

That may not unto dogs be given:
Oft in the olden types foreshowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,

And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;

So may we see thy glories shine
In fields of immortality;
O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,

Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

Gospel Acclamation † John 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 9:11-17

They all ate and were filled.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

The day was tending towards evening when the Twelve came up to him and said,

‘Send the crowd away, so that they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a deserted place here.’

He replied,

‘Give them something to eat yourselves.’

But they said,

‘We have no more than five loaves and two fish,
unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.’

For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples,

‘Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.’

They did so and got them all to sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and raising his eyes to heaven, he blessed them and broke them and began handing them to his disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and what was left over from them was taken up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

The Gospel of the Lord.