

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew** (*Matthew 26:26-28*)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He *broke* it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My Body." Then He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is *poured out* for many for the forgiveness of sins." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection ~ Enter into the sacrificial Spirit of Jesus**

**With great joy, Jesus anticipates the Last Supper with His Apostles.** *And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer (Luke 22:15).* Jesus, as Son of God foreknew in advance of the tremendous suffering that would be required of Him in the offering of Himself as a sacrificial Lamb to God the Father for atonement for the sins of all humankind. Earlier on before the Last Supper He referred to His imminent sufferings as the baptism He has to undergo. *But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! (Luke 12:50).* It was a baptism of great pain and suffering that human nature would be greatly relieved when it is over. As the time approaches, the joy of saving humankind and fulfilling the divine will of His Father fully overtakes whatever human feelings Jesus may have in regards to the agonizing task ahead of Him.

**In advance Jesus had prepared the hearts of the disciples for His Gift of the Eucharist.** In the presence of huge crowds Jesus multiplied a few loaves of bread and some fishes in a forerunner of the gift of the Eucharist that will feed billions of souls spiritually. Shortly after that important miracle, Jesus walked on the water and calmed the sea and winds (cf. Matthew 14:22-36). His disciples recognized His divinity and responded with a confession of faith in Jesus as Son of God and their worship of Him. *After the wind died down, they worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:32-33).* This is the first time Jesus was called the Son of God by His disciples. The next day Jesus gave a teaching on the Eucharist and imparted the truth that in the Eucharist is His Real Presence (cf. John 6:25-69). Sadly, many disbelieving disciples left Him that day (cf. John 6:66).

**Jesus teaches us to worship in Spirit and in truth.** *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks (John 4:23).* In the Old Testament days imperfect sacrifices of dead animal offerings were made to God who is not satisfied with them. *"The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats." (Isaiah 1:11).*

**By grace and example, Jesus teaches us to offer ourselves to God in union with His Sacrifice, die unto ourselves and live on in Him.** Jesus eschewed His glory and died unto Himself in order that He be the sacrificial Lamb for atonement of our sins. *He emptied Himself... (Philippians 2:7).* *His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and His form marred beyond human likeness... (Isaiah 52:14).* After the death and resurrection of Jesus, an abundance of saving graces was poured forth and is still pouring forth in every present moment especially through the Sacraments in torrents. Through the graces Jesus won for us and by His example, we are empowered to walk in the footsteps of Jesus in offering true worship to God, the Father as we, during Mass, unite our lives with Jesus's divine life, and our sufferings with His divine sufferings so that our lives and sufferings are transformed by gaining a share of the infinite merits of the Passion of Jesus, contributing to the salvation of all souls.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, let us be one in our sacrifice to our Heavenly Father for the redemption and salvation of all His children whom He loves so much that He did not hesitate to send You, His only beloved Son, to die an agonizing death for our spiritual welfare. During each Mass, help me enter into Your sacrificial Spirit and unite my entire life, sufferings, my mind, my heart, my will, my joys, my sorrows, everything I own both interior and exterior to the bread and wine, symbols of our offering during the offertory. As Your Spirit transforms the bread and wine into Your Body and Blood, may I be transformed into greater faith in and love for You so that I may live a life not for myself but for the One who died and sacrificed for me. Empower me to become a more sincere witness of Your love for humankind by my daily life. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)