

Hunting the Divine Fox: Finding God in Catholic Liturgy

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Introduction

“The Prayer of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass”

John Shea: *The Hour of the Unexpected*



Framework: “O Sacrum Convivium”

- # *O sacrum convivium! in quo Christus sumitur:*
- # O holy feast! In which Christ is consumed
- # *recolitur memoria passionis eius:*
- # the memory of his passion is recalled:
- # *mens impletur gratia:*
- # the soul is filled with grace:
- # *et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*
- # and the pledge of future glory is given to us.

Three Dimensions of Catholic Worship

- # Recalling Sacred History [past]
- # Filling the Soul with Grace [present]
- # Envisioning the Future [future]



Recalling Sacred History A

- # First Reading: Who is God for the Jewish people?
 - # Whoever led them from slavery to freedom
- # Second Reading: Who is God for the Christian people?
 - # Whoever raised Jesus from the dead
- # Gospel: Who is God in the flesh?
 - # “Jesus the Christ is Lord”

Recalling Sacred History B1

Psalms: Praise, Lament

Praise = Psalm 117

“O praise (*hallelu*) the LORD (*YHWH*), all you nations (*goyim*),

Acclaim him, all you peoples (*ummim*),

For strong is his love (*hesed*) for us,

And the faithfulness (*emeth*) of the LORD (*YHWH*) endures forever.

Praise the LORD (*hallelu-YAH*)”

Recalling Sacred History B2

Lament = Psalm 137

“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept

When we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars

We hung our harps,

For there our captors asked us for songs,

Our tormentors demanded songs of joy:

They said: “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

How can we sing the songs of the LORD
While in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
May my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
If I do not remember you,
If I do not consider Jerusalem
My highest joy.



- # Remember, O LORD, what the Edomites did
- # on the day Jerusalem fell,
- # “Tear it down,” they cried,
- # “tear it down to its foundations!”



O Daughter of Babylon,
doomed to destruction,
happy is he who repays you
for what you have done to us -
he who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks!



Recalling Sacred History C

- # Fraction Rite:
- # Gesture: *kerith berith* = breaking of consecrated hosts
- # Text: “Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us / grant us peace.
- # Meaning: “The unbloody re-presentation of the bloody sacrifice of the Cross”



Recalling Sacred History: The Eucharistic Prayer

- # “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
- # always and everywhere to give you thanks,
- # Father of mercies and faithful God.
- # For you have given us Jesus Christ, your Son,
- # as our Lord and Redeemer.

- # He always showed compassion
- # for children and for the poor,
- # for the sick and for sinners,
- # and he became a neighbor
- # to the oppressed and the afflicted.
- # By word and deed he announced to the world
- # that you are our Father
- # and that you care for all your sons and daughters.



And so, with all the Angels and Saints
we exalt and bless you name
and sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:”



“We Gather Here to Worship You, O God”

- # 1. We gather here to worship you, O God.
- # We gather here to give you thanks and praise.
- # You call us from our scattered lives
- # to unify what we divide.
- # You crown with grace, you crown with grace
- # our humble deeds and days.
- # We gather here to worship you, O God.

- # 2. We gather here to feed upon your Word.
- # We gather here to learn your way of life.
- # With blessed wisdom from above
- # you fill our fragile hearts with love.
- # You guide our path, you guide our path
- # through struggle and through strife.
- # We gather here to feed upon your Word.



Filling the Soul With Grace A

- # The Sign of the Cross
- # Anthropological Foundations
- # Jewish insights
- # Christological meaning
- # Trinitarian meaning



Filling the Soul with Grace B

- # The Homily/Midrash:
- # From history
- # To our story
- # Through my story



Filling the Soul with Grace C

The Communion Rite

“Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.”

“Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

“May the Body/Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.”

Filling the Soul With Grace: The Eucharistic Prayer

- # “You are indeed Holy and to be glorified, O God,
- # who love the human race
- # and who always walk with us on the journey of life.
- # Blessed indeed is your Son,
- # present in our midst
- # when we are gathered by his love
- # and when, as once for the disciples, so now for us,
- # he opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.



- # Therefore, Father most merciful,
- # we ask that you send forth your Holy Spirit
- # to sanctify these gifts of bread and wine,
- # that they may become for us
- # the Body and Blood
- # of our Lord Jesus Christ....



Look with favor on the oblation of your Church,
in which we show forth
the paschal Sacrifice of Christ that has been handed on to us
and grant that, by the power of the Spirit of your love,
we may be counted now and until the day of eternity
among the members of your Son,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.”



“We Gather Here to Worship You, O God”

- # 3. We gather here to pray for those in need.
- # We gather here to place them in your care:
- # the hungry seeking to be fed,
- # the lonely, longing, dying, dead,
- # your wounded people, wounded people
- # here and everywhere.
- # We gather here to pray for those in need.

Envisioning the Future A

The Preparation of the Gifts

- # “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
- # for through your goodness we have received
- # the bread/wine we offer you:
- # fruit of the earth/vine and work of human hands,
- # it will become for us the bread of life/our spiritual drink.”



Envisioning the Future

The Sign of Peace

- # “Lord Jesus Christ,
- # Who said to your Apostles:
- # Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you,
- # Look not on our sins,
- # But on the faith of your Church,
- # And graciously grant her peace and unity
- # In accordant with your will.
- # Who live and reign for ever and ever.”

Envisioning the Future

The Solemn Blessing

- # “May the God of all consolation order your days in his peace and grant you the gifts of his blessing.
- # May he free you always from every distress and confirm your hearts in his love.
- # So that on this life’s journey you may be effective in good works, rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity, and may come happily to eternal life.
- # And may the blessing....”



Envisioning the Future: The Eucharistic Prayer

- # Bring your Church, O Lord,
- # to perfect faith and charity,
- # together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,
- # with all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons,
- # and the entire people you have made your own.



- # Open our eyes
- # to the needs of our brothers and sisters;
- # inspire in us words and actions
- # to comfort those who labor and are burdened.
- # Make us serve them truly,
- # after the example of Christ and at his command.
- # And may your Church stand as a living witness
- # to truth and freedom,
- # to peace and justice,
- # that all people may be raised up to a new hope.

- # Remember our brothers and sisters (N. and N.),
- # who have fallen asleep in the peace of your Christ,
- # and all the dead, whose faith you alone have known.
- # Admit them to rejoice in the light of your face,
- # and in the resurrection give them the fullness of life.



Grant also to us,
when our earthly pilgrimage is done,
that we may come to an eternal dwelling place
and live with you forever;
There in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of
God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with the Apostles and Martyrs,
and with all the Saints,
we shall praise and exalt you
through Jesus Christ your Son.”

“We Gather Here To Worship You, O God”

- # 4. We gather here to celebrate your feast.
- # we gather at the table you have spread.
- # As once he did in history,
- # so now in holy mystery,
- # Christ gives himself, Christ gives himself
- # in sacred wine and bread.
- # We gather here to celebrate your feast.

- # 5. *We gather here to worship you, O God.*
- # *We gather here to worship and adore*
- # *the Source of all in time and space,*
- # *the Son who joins the human race,*
- # *the Spirit with them both*
- # *forevermore, forevermore.*
- # *We gather here to worship you, O God.*

