

Creeds, Confessions, & Sacraments – Week 2 of 3

Scripture References

Matthew 26:26-28

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, **“Take, eat; this is my body.”** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, **“Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant,** which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to **the breaking of bread** and the prayers.

Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together **to break bread**, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 11:23-36

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, **“This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

Apostolic Fathers' Writings

The Didache – (late 1st c. / early 2nd c.) “*You, almighty Master, created all things for your name’s sake, and gave food and drink to humans to enjoy, so that they might give you thanks; but to **us you have graciously given spiritual food and drink**, and eternal life through your servant*”
(The Apostolic Fathers, Didache, p. 359).

Justin Martyr – (AD 110 - 165) “*the bread which our Christ gave us to offer **in remembrance of the Body** ... and also the cup which He taught us to offer in the Eucharist, **in commemoration of His blood***”
(Dialogue with Trypho, p. 70)

Clement of Alexandria – (AD 150 – 215) “*The Scripture, accordingly, has named wine **the symbol of the sacred blood***”
(The Instructor, Ch. 2.2)

Origen – (AD 184 – 253) “*We have **a symbol of gratitude** to God in the bread which we call the Eucharist*”
(Against Celsus, Ch. 8.57)

Cyprian – (AD 200 – 258) In condemning the practice of serving water as Eucharist: “*I marvel much whence this practice has arisen, that in some places, contrary to Evangelical and Apostolic discipline, water is offered in the Cup of the Lord, which **cannot represent the Blood of Christ***”
(Cyprian Epistle, Ch. 63.7)

Athanasius – (AD 296 - 373) “*What He says is **not fleshly but spiritual**. For how would the body suffice for eating, that it should become the food for the whole world? ...the aforesaid flesh is heavenly eating from above and **the spiritual food given by Him**.*”
(Festal Letter, Ch. 4.19)

Augustine – (AD 354 - 430) “*Understand spiritually what I said; you are not to eat this body which you see; nor to drink that blood which they who will crucify me shall pour forth ... Although it is needful that **this be visibly celebrated, yet it must be spiritually understood***”
(Exposition of the Psalms, Ch. 99.8)