

“Lift Up Thine Eyes”
Week 2
“Koinonia: Gathering in Community”

“Lift Up Thine Eyes” is a series of six talks on the Holy Eucharist using paintings by Norman Rockwell as springboards to deeper reflection, especially on how the various components of the Eucharist have counterparts in ordinary daily life—vital components which elevate and enrich our lives in Christ. *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* (John 10:10).

Session 1 (May 31) will be an introduction and overview of the series. Sessions 2-6 will each explore a component of the Holy Eucharist:

June 7	<i>koinonia</i> (κοινωνία)--community, fellowship, gathering
June 14	<i>anamnesis</i> (ἀνάμνησις)--remembering, telling the story
July 12	<i>epiclesis</i> (ἐπίκλησις)--invocation of the Holy Spirit
July 19	<i>thusia</i> (θυσία)--offering, sacrifice, dedication
July 26	<i>eucharistia</i> (εὐχαριστία)--thanksgiving, gratitude.

The series title, “Lift Up Thine Eyes” is from a painting by Rockwell of the Fifth Avenue entrance to Saint Thomas Church. Sessions will include time for questions and responses.

In Session 2, on June 7, we will explore *koinonia*, that is, community, fellowship, gathering. Norman Rockwell’s “The Golden Rule” (a painting reproduced as a mosaic for the United Nations Headquarters in New York City) will be our springboard for discussion.

Hymnal 1982 #433

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.*

The “Golden Rule”:

Matthew 7:12 *“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*

The “Summary of the Law”:

Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Anamnesis (telling the story, remembering) (Scripture readings are *anamnesis*)

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father; for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread...(BCP 334)

Epiclesis (calling down or invocation of the Holy Spirit)

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father; to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine... (BCP 335)

Thusia (offering, sacrifice)

Who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again... (BCP 334)

...we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee... (BCP 335)

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee... (BCP 336)

Eucharistia (giving thanks, gratitude)

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying... (BCP 335)

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving... (BCP 335)

John Donne 1572-1631

No man is an island,
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.

If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were:

As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were.

Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom
the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.