

Lift Up Thine Eyes

Session 5

Thusia: Sacrifice, Offering, Dedication

“**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 5, on July 19, we will explore *thusia*, that is, sacrifice, offering or dedication. A central theme of the Eucharist—indeed, of the Christian faith—is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross “for our redemption”. In the Eucharist we repeat or paraphrase the words of Christ: “this is my body given for you”, “this is my blood shed for you”.

The self-offering of Jesus on the cross is a once-and-done event and also the example he gives for our own lives in this world. We do give ourselves over to something(s), consciously or otherwise. God gives us the freedom to choose. History gives us countless examples of self-giving love and service to others. As Christians, we can offer our self-giving love in imitation of--and in union with-- Jesus Christ.

Hymn: Let thy blood in mercy poured

1 Let thy blood in mercy poured,
let thy gracious body broken,
be to me, O gracious Lord,
of thy boundless love the token.

Refrain:

Thou didst give thyself for me,
now I give myself to thee.

2 Thou didst die that I might live;
blessed Lord, thou cam'st to save me;
all that love of God could give
Jesus by his sorrows gave me. [Refrain]

The Holy Communion (Rite I; BCP 1979)

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences on pages [343-344](#), or with some other sentence of Scripture.....Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Sentences

One of the following, or some other appropriate sentence of Scripture, may be used

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy
vows unto the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings
and come into his courts. *Psalms 96:8*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an
offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present
yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Image for today: Rockwell's "Homecoming GI, 1945"

Quiz!

Excerpts from Holy Eucharist Rite II, Prayer C (BCP 1979)

- God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.
At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
- And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
- Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.
- Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

