

Today's readings taken together provide a Biblical primer of the roots of the Eucharist.

The Father's of the Church taught that the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and that the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.

In the First Reading, we hear about the first Passover which was established as a "*a memorial feast*" and "*a perpetual institution*". In the liturgy of Holy Saturday, we hear the words:

*This is our passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.*

In the Psalm, we hear prayers that for many years were daily part of the Mass.

*How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.*

And finally, in the Gospel, Jesus speaks to the Pharisees regarding the *TODAH* sacrifice in the temple – the loaves of bread that were placed in the Presence of the LORD. The word *TODAH* in Hebrew means "thanksgiving" in the same way that the Greek word "eucharist" means thanksgiving.

And finally, Jesus quotes from Hosea, saying:

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice".

And so, today as we approach this altar, let us recognize in this Mass, our Eucharist, our own Passover, a perpetual institution of the un-bloody representation of the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whose blood consecrates all believers. Let us eat the Bread of Thanksgiving, and let us drink the Cup of Salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. And remember that it is in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus that we receive mercy . . . that we receive adoption as the children of the Father, redeemed in Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.