



17 The Best Gift of All

“I made known to them your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:26

Jesus worked many miracles on earth. He taught us that He is God, and how much God loves us. But, Jesus knew that He was going to die soon. He loved us so very much that He found a way to be with us after He died.

The special supper Jesus shared with His Apostles on the night before He died is called the **Last Supper**. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and blessed it. He said, “Take this and eat of it. *This is My Body.*” Then Jesus took a cup of wine and said, “*This is the chalice of My Blood.*” Jesus changed bread and wine into His own Body and Blood. When the Apostles ate this Bread, Jesus lived inside them.

Then Jesus did something amazing. He gave His Apostles the power to change bread and wine into His

Body and Blood. The Apostles, in turn, passed on this power to all the bishops and priests who came after them, right up to today.

The **priest** at your church has received this power too. Because he has this power, when your priest offers **Mass**, he does what Jesus did at the Last Supper. When he says the words of Jesus, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. And when the people receive **Holy Communion**, Jesus comes to live in them. This is the best gift Jesus could have given us. It is the gift of Himself.

Words to Know:

Last Supper

Mass

priest

Holy Communion



Q. 35 *At the Last Supper, what did Jesus do with the bread and wine?*

At the Last Supper, Jesus changed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood (CCC 1339).

Q. 36 *Why can priests today change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus?*

Jesus gave this power to His Apostles and they gave it to the bishops and priests who came after them (CCC 1341).

Q. 37 *Why is Holy Communion a special gift from God?*

Holy Communion is a special gift from God because, in Communion, Jesus Himself comes to live in us (CCC 1384).

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.... I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

John 6:35, 51



18 Jesus Dies for Us

“Greater love has no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13

The Last Supper happened on a Thursday. That night, after the Supper was over, Jesus went out to a garden to pray. He knew that soon He would be killed, but He wanted to give His life to save us. When soldiers came and took Jesus away the Apostles were afraid, but Jesus was brave. The next day, on Friday, they beat Him with whips. They pressed a crown of thorns onto His head and made fun of Him.

Because Jesus was God He could have stopped them from hurting Him, but He did not. That is because He wanted to suffer for us, because He loves us. His suffering and dying would bring us the gift of grace, God’s life, and the ability to go to Heaven.

Later that day, bad men decided to kill Jesus. Jesus had to carry a heavy Cross through the city of Jerusalem and sometimes it made Him fall.

Mary met her Son on the way and she suffered very much when she saw the way people were hurting Jesus. Then a man named Simon helped Jesus to carry the Cross until they came to the top of a hill. That is when soldiers crucified Jesus (this means they nailed Him to a wooden cross to die). Mary and Saint John the Apostle stood by Jesus the whole time because they loved Him so much.

After three hours, Jesus died. His friends took Him down from the Cross and buried Him.



Jesus died to make up for Adam's sin and for our sins too. Jesus died to win back the gift of grace for us. Jesus died so that we could live in Heaven forever and ever. We call the day He died **Good Friday** because it is good that Jesus died and opened up the gates of Heaven.

Words to Know:

Good Friday

Q. 38 *How did Jesus suffer?*

Jesus was scourged, crowned with thorns, He carried His Cross, He was crucified, and He died (CCC 572, 596, 619).

Q. 39 *Why did Jesus suffer?*

Jesus suffered to atone for Adam's sin and our sins, and to open again the gates of Heaven (CCC 615).

We Pray:

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much.
I am sorry my sins made You suffer.
Thank You for giving Your life for me. *Amen.*