

21. WE REMEMBER HOW GOD SAVES US

The priest continues our **Prayer of Thanks** to God. We remember and thank God for sending us His Son, Jesus Christ to give us new life. The priest blesses God, saying He is the One.

Who so loved Thy world as to give Thine only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life;

Who when He had come and fulfilled all things for us, in the night in which He was given up — or rather, gave Himself up for the life of the world —

Took bread, . . . and when He had given thanks and blessed it . . . and broken it, He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying:

Take! eat! This is My Body which is broken for you, for the remission of sins. (Amen.)

And likewise, after supper, He took the cup, saying:

Drink, of it, all of you! This is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins! (Amen.)

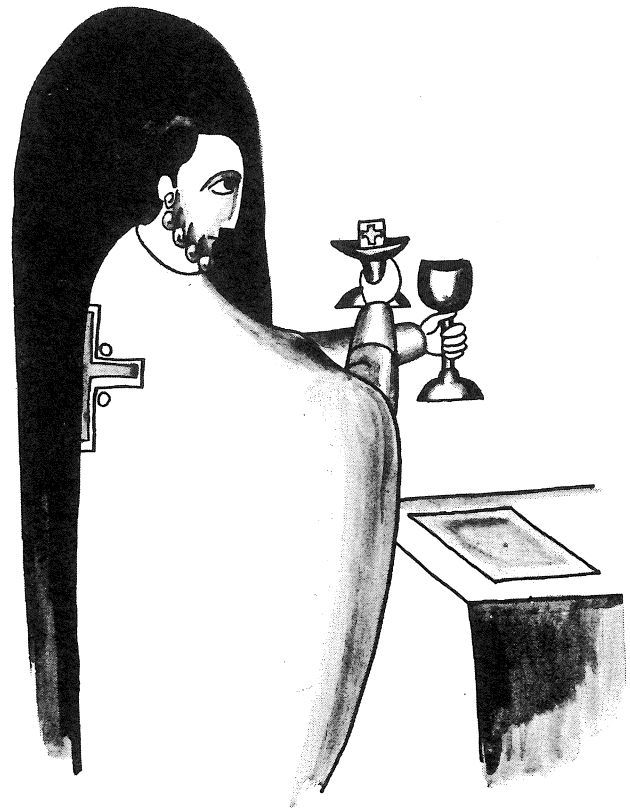
Remembering this saving commandment and all those things which have come to pass for us: the Cross, the Tomb, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand, and the second and glorious coming.

Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee, in behalf of all and for all.

As you can see, this prayer of thanks remembers all that Jesus Christ has done for us. In fact, much of the prayer is very like the Creed that we confess (see the Creed in

Lesson 19). Look up these passages in the Bible. Write the letter of the correct passage in the lines next to the words of the prayer that it speaks about:

- a. Mark 14:43-49
- b. John 3:16
- c. I Corinthians 11:23-26
- d. I Corinthians 15:3-5, 24-25



Now the priest says aloud these last words:

"Thine own of Thine own, we offer unto Thee . . ."

He raises up our gifts as our offering to God. He asks God to send the Holy Spirit to bless us and our gifts. He asks God to make them the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. He asks

God to change them into the food of new life. As he says these prayers, we sing:

"We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord. And we pray unto Thee, O our God."

The priest also prays that we will receive these gifts for "the purifying of our souls, for the remission of our sins, for the communion of the Holy Spirit, and for the fulfillment of the Kingdom of Heaven."

God now comes to us in a very special way. He sends His Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit comes to bless us and to bless our gifts. Our simple gifts of bread, wine, and water now become God's gifts of His Son. Our gifts are changed into Christ's own Body and Blood. They are now a special kind of food — a food which can make us really a part of Jesus Christ and can give us His new life.

For all of this, we praise God, we bless God and we give thanks to God for His gift of life. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is over now and we do one last thing. We **remember** to include the whole family of God in the blessing which God gives.

The priest prays for our bishops, our priests, our Church and country and **all mankind**. As we ask God to remember all of these members of His Church, we are really asking Him to keep them in His love. We ask God to keep them alive in His thoughts that they may have life everlasting in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Activity

Look carefully at the Prayer of Thanksgiving. Make a list or a chart in pictures of all the things for which we thank God.



*Our Gift -
For All Mankind*

