

THE MYSTERY OF THE DIVINE EUCHARIST

“And, as they were eating, Jesus *took* bread, and *blessed* it, and *broke* it, and *gave* it to the disciples...” (Matthew 26:26). Except for the action of breaking, Christ performed the same sequence of actions with the chalice of wine. Then He said: “Do this in remembrance of me” (I Corinthians 11:24-25). Since the time the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles on Pentecost, the Church has faithfully done what Christ had commanded her to do. The Church *takes* the bread and the chalice of wine from where they are prepared at the Prothesis, and brings them by the hands of the clergy to the holy altar at the Great Entrance. Through the ministry of the priest, the bread and chalice are *blessed* and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in the Anaphora. As we sing, “One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ,” the sanctified Lamb is *broken* into four parts. Finally, the living and life-given Body and Blood of the Risen Christ are *given* to us in Holy Communion.

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