

THE STORY OF SALVATION HISTORY FROM A EUCHARISTIC PERSPECTIVE



ANN LANKFORD, DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE, WI



THE BLESSED TRINITY

GOD IS A COMMUNION OF
PERSONS

GOD THE FATHER

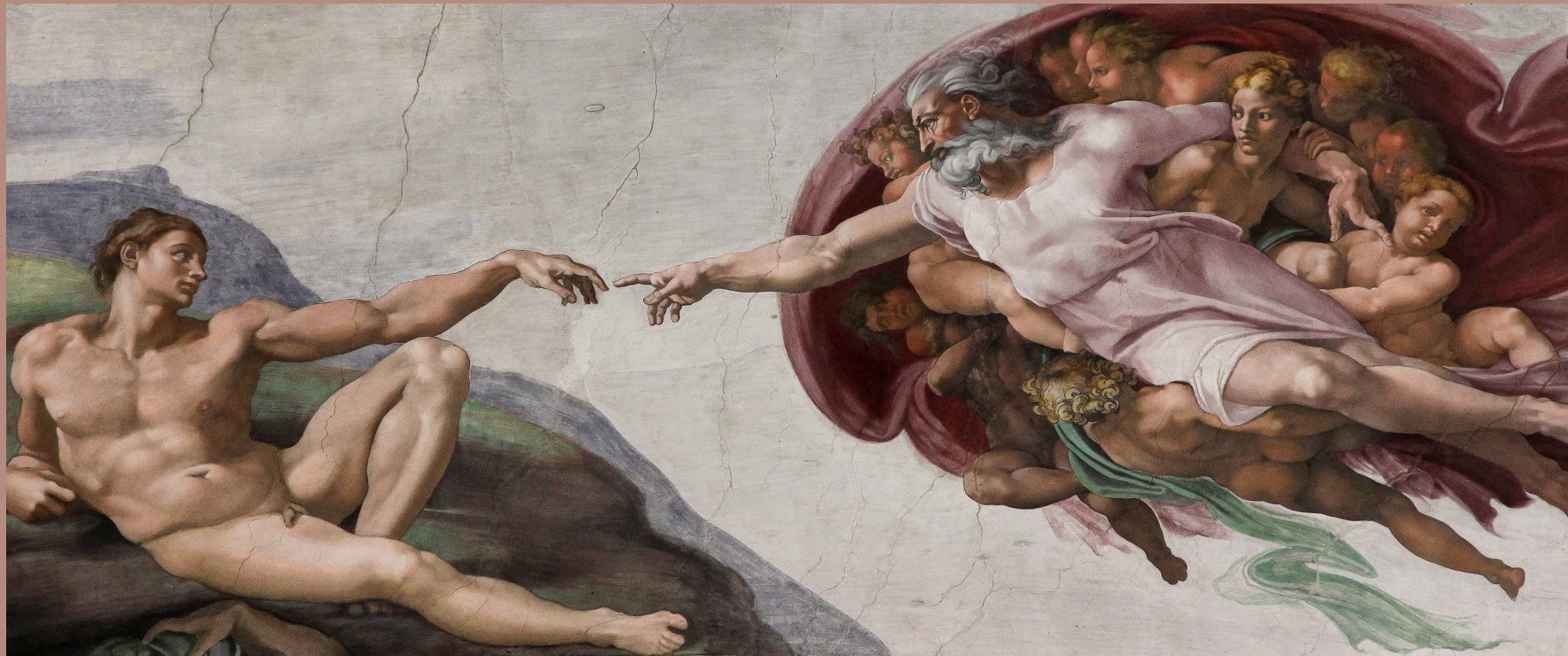
GOD THE SON

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE OLD TESTAMENT

CREATION

GOD CREATED MAN
“IN HIS IMAGE & LIKENESS”



THE ORIGINAL SIN

ADAM AND EVE DISOBEYED GOD



GOD PROMISED A REDEEMER

ABRAHAM

“FATHER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE”



PASSOVER

BLOOD ON THE DOORSTEPS





MANNA IN THE DESERT

GOD GAVE MOSES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



PROPHETS SPOKE A
MESSAGE OF HOPE

HOSEA:

PREPARE FOR THE
SAVIOR WHO WILL
REUNITE US WITH THE
BLESSED TRINITY IN A
RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE.



THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE ANNUNCIATION

JESUS' BIRTH WAS
ANNOUNCED TO MARY





JESUS WAS BORN

JESUS CHOSE THE
TWELVE APOSTLES

BY ALL HIS ACTIONS,
CHRIST PREPARED AND
ESTABLISHED HIS
CHURCH





JESUS RAISED THE DAUGHTER
OF JAIRUS FROM THE DEAD

JESUS FED A MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE



THE LAST SUPPER

JESUS GAVE US THE HOLY EUCHARIST
JESUS SAID: “THIS IS MY BODY. THIS IS MY BLOOD”



JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR ME



THE RESURRECTION

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON EASTER SUNDAY





JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN

PENTECOST

GOD THE HOLY
SPIRIT
CAME DOWN UPON THE
APOSTLES AND MARY.

THE APOSTLES WERE
EMPOWERED TO GO
FORTH TO TEACH,
PREACH, AND BAPTIZE.





THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

A RE-PRESENTATION OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE THAT JESUS MADE
OF HIMSELF ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION

THE FATHER ALWAYS INTENDED
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH,
GIVEN TO US BY JESUS

THIS IS THE STORY
OF GOD'S FAMILY.
THIS IS OUR STORY.



OUR RESPONSE:
THANKSGIVING

Union is the main thread of the Story, which means joined together as one.

The Story of Salvation History from a Eucharistic Perspective

The BLESSED TRINITY

God is one in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is total, self-giving love and He desires to share His love with us, to be united with us in a deep personal friendship.

The Old Testament: Creation

God created us in His image and likeness. We are created to be united with God in a relationship of love through His gift of grace. Grace is God's very life within us. Union means joined together as one.

The Fall of Adam and Eve

Through the Original Sin, our first parents lost union with God through the loss of grace. Even though they separated themselves from Him, God promised a Redeemer.

The Call of Abraham

God chose Abraham to begin the process of forming His Chosen People, starting out with a small number, in order to eventually reunite all people with Himself. God called Abraham to travel to the land that He would show him. Abraham believed God and so walked with his family to Israel. God made a three-fold promise – a covenant – with Abraham that would be fulfilled later through Moses, David and finally, and ultimately, in Jesus.

The First Passover

While in Egypt, God told the Israelites that they would be saved from slavery if they sacrificed a *lamb*, ate it with unleavened *bread* and used the *blood of the lamb* to mark their doorposts. This was the first Passover: the angel of death *passed over* those homes marked with the blood of the lamb. The people were then led by Moses from slavery to freedom.

Manna in the Desert

The Israelites were free, but now they were in the desert on their way back to the Promised Land. Without food, the Israelites began complaining to Moses about their hunger. God told Moses that He (God) would give them, each day, bread from Heaven called manna that would sustain them for their 40 years in the wilderness. The First Passover and the manna prefigure the Holy Eucharist.

The Ten Commandments

God gave Moses these Laws of Love, directives on how to live to stay close to the one, true God. The people were unable to be faithful to God in living out these Laws because they were spiritually weak, lacking the power of God's grace that would come from being united with Him.

The Prophets

The prophets spoke of the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Hosea challenged the people to set aside their evil way and deeds of worshipping false gods, which was idolatry against their covenant with God. The people now began to recognize their need for a Savior.

The New Testament: God's Promise fulfilled

The angel Gabriel greeted the Virgin Mary, with the words, "Hail, full of grace... You shall conceive and bear a Son... the Son of God." (Luke 1:28, 35). Nine months later the Savior was born; God became man in Jesus Christ to reunite us in a relationship of love. At the age of 30, Jesus began His public ministry. He chose twelve men, established one Church and instituted the seven Sacraments, the

Union is the main thread of the Story, which means joined together as one.

means through which we receive God's grace.

Jesus Fed a Multitude of People

Crowds from miles around gathered outside Capernaum to hear Jesus teach. When it was evening, the disciples told Jesus that the people needed to go to nearby villages to buy food for themselves, but Jesus said that the disciples should feed the people. The disciples thought this to be impossible since there were only five loaves and two fish available. Jesus instructed the disciples to have the people sit down in groups. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward Heaven in thanksgiving, and blessed and broke them. Giving them to the disciples to distribute, five thousand men plus women and children were able to eat until they were satisfied. The leftovers filled 12 baskets. This miracle points to what Jesus does by feeding the whole Church with the Eucharist – Jesus Himself.

The Last Supper – Institution of the Holy Eucharist

Jesus gathered the Apostles for the feast of Passover, to celebrate the sacred meal that recalled the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt by the blood of the sacrificed lamb. This Last Supper was now the *new Passover* in which Jesus, *the* Lamb of God, would shed His Blood for a new kind of deliverance – providing the means for us to *pass-over* from spiritual slavery to a new life of freedom in Christ and ultimately eternal life in Heaven. Jesus changed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood, instituting the Eucharist – “*the new manna*” – as God's binding promise, the New and Eternal Covenant, that we are united with Him through Christ in the Catholic Church.

Jesus' Death on the Cross

At the Last Supper, Jesus offered the First Eucharist. He gave His Body and Blood to the Apostles, which we refer to as the “*unbloody*” *sacrifice*. The Last Supper was “lived out” the next day – Good Friday – as Jesus suffered and died on the Cross out of love for us in a truly “*bloody*” *sacrifice*. Jesus gave His life for us so that our sins can be forgiven and we can be reunited with Him.

The Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven

On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, overcoming Satan, sin and death. Following the Resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. In His risen, glorified body that is *not* bound by time and space, Jesus is able to give Himself to the people of the world.

The Holy Spirit and the Church

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles to empower them to publicly manifest the one Church that He established. The Apostles went forth to teach, preach and celebrate the Sacraments so that we can be united with the Blessed Trinity.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

The Mass is a re-presentation of the sacrifice that Jesus made of Himself on the cross for our salvation. Because God is outside time and space, at Mass the same sacrifice that Jesus offered for our sins is *made present*. When we receive Holy Communion, we are receiving Jesus Himself, which is our closest union with Him on earth. As we receive His Body and Blood into our own body and soul, we are united with Him in a deep and intimate bond. Jesus feeds our soul, strengthening us to be faithful by following Him and loving and serving Him through serving others, particularly those in need.

Our Response - Thanksgiving

Eucharist means thanksgiving. When we receive Jesus, we want to receive Him sincerely and thank Him for the total gift of Himself to us – the greatest Gift possible. This Gift of union with Jesus empowers us to live our lives with thankful hearts as we follow Him with trust and commitment.