

Jim's Notes
January 10, 2007
The Acts of the Apostles 2:41-47

The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles (The Didache), c. A.D. 80

“Neither pray ye as the hypocrites, but as the Lord commanded in His Gospel, thus pray ye: Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one; for Thine is the power and the glory for ever and ever. Three times in the day pray ye so.” (Chapter 8)

“But as touching the eucharistic thanksgiving give ye thanks thus. First, as regards the cup: We give Thee thanks, O our Father, for the holy vine of Thy son David, which Thou madest known unto us through Thy Son Jesus; Thine is the glory for ever and ever. Then as regarding the broken bread: We give Thee thanks, O our Father, for the life and knowledge which Thou didst make known unto us through Thy Son Jesus; Thine is the glory for ever and ever. As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains and being gathered together became one, so may Thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Thy kingdom; for Thine is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever and ever.” (Chapter 9)

“And on the Lord's own day gather yourselves together and break bread and give thanks, first confessing your transgressions, that your sacrifice may be pure.” (Chapter 14)

St. Clement of Rome (died c. AD 98)

“Being adorned with a most virtuous and honorable life, ye performed all your duties in the **fear of Him**. The commandments and the ordinances of the Lord were written on the tablets of your hearts.” (I Clement 2:8)

For this cause righteousness and peace stand aloof, while each man hath forsaken the **fear of the Lord** and become purblind in the faith of Him, neither walketh in the ordinances of His commandments nor liveth according to that which becometh Christ, but each goeth after the lusts of his evil heart, seeing that they have conceived an unrighteous and ungodly jealousy, through which also death entered into the world.(I Clement 3:4)

“Let us **fear the Lord Jesus Christ**, whose blood was given for us.” (I Clement 21:6)

St. Justin Martyr (died AD 165)

“After we have washed in this way the one who has believed and has assented to our doctrine, we bring him to the place where those who are called brethren are assembled, in order that we may offer heartfelt prayers in common for ourselves and for the one who has been illuminated, and for all others in every place, so that, now that we have learned the truth, we may be counted worthy, doing good works and obeying the Commandments, to be saved with an everlasting salvation. Having finished the prayers, we greet one another with a kiss. There is then brought to the one who presides over the brethren bread and a cup of water and a cup of wine mixed with water; and, taking them, he gives praise and glory at great length to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, because he has considered us worthy of these things. And when he has concluded the prayers and thanksgiving, all the people present cry out saying Amen. This word Amen in the Hebrew means ‘Let it be’” (The First Apology 65).

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (died AD 202)

“Vain in every respect are they who reject the entire dispensation of God, and deny the salvation of the flesh, and spurn its regeneration, saying that it is not capable of incorruption. But if this flesh is not saved, then neither did the Lord redeem us by his Blood, nor is the cup of the Eucharist the Communion of his Blood, or the bread that we break the Communion of his Body. For blood can only come from veins and flesh, and whatever else makes the human substance.” (Book 5, 2, 2)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer (Acts 2:42).” CCC 3

“The Breaking of Bread, because Jesus used this rite, part of a Jewish meal when as master of the table he blessed and distributed the bread (Cf. Mt 14:19; 15:36; Mk 8:6, 19), above all at the Last Supper (Cf. Mt 26:26; 1 Cor 11:24). It is by this action that his disciples will recognize him after his Resurrection (Cf. Lk 24:13-35) and it is this expression that the first Christians will use to designate their Eucharistic assemblies (Acts 2:42); by doing so they signified that all who eat the one broken bread, Christ, enter into communion with him and form but one body in him (Cf. 1 Cor 10:16-17).” CCC 1329