

Jesus the Lamb of God

In the Old Testament, people would offer gifts of value to God. A shepherd and his family might offer a lamb. The shepherd placed his lamb on an altar he made and killed it. This was a sign that his gift was completely offered to God. But something else was needed to complete the act of love. The shepherd and his family sat together and ate the lamb as a sacred meal. This was an important sign of their covenant or promise with God. They wanted to be closer to Him by eating something that had been offered and God had accepted. Under the New Testament, we lift up the Lamb of God. Then we share in this sacrificial gift by receiving God's only Son in Holy Communion. The priest holds Him before us and says "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." We look at Jesus and answer, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed." Sharing this sacred banquet unites us in friendship with the Father. It also binds all of us together as one family.