

" WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE POWER AND RICHES AND WISDOM, AND STRENGTH AND HONOR AND GLORY..."

(Revelation 5:12)



"ALL THE ANGLES STOOD AROUND THE THRONE"
 (REVELATION 7:11)

OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

THE LAMB

"Holy and full of glory is this sacrifice which has been slain for the life of the whole world." (The Divine Liturgy)

The Lamb is one of the most precious titles of the Lord Jesus Christ. It exactly pictures the work accomplished by Him on the cross to redeem the human race.



The Holy Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, is full of symbols and prophecies which refer to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lamb. The following are some of these references:

In the New Testament

John the Baptist was the first to call Jesus by that title. He said: "Behold! the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

John the apostle, in the book of Revelation used this title 29 times. In his vision of heaven, St. John saw a great multitude--of all nations---standing before the throne and before The Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to The Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9,10)

In the Old Testament

a-The Passover Lamb:

When God wanted to set His people free from bondage in Egypt and Pharaoh refused to release them, God sent an angel to punish the Egyptians. At midnight the angel passed through the land, killing the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. The angel spared the Israelites when he saw the blood of the Passover lamb which God had commanded them to sprinkle on the doorposts. The blood of the slain lamb protected the Israelites from death. The slain lamb symbolizes Jesus Christ who is the only sacrifice which can redeem all humanity from the penal-

ty of death.

(Exodus 12).

St. Paul too, thought of Jesus as the Passover **Lamb** when he said: "For indeed, Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." (1Corinthians 5:7).

b- The Prophecies:

Isaiah prophesied of the Holy **Lamb** Jesus Christ saying, "He was led as a **lamb** to the slaughter ...He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7). This great prophet had the vision of One who by His suffering and His sacrifice, meekly and lovingly was borne to redeem humanity.

c- Animal Sacrifices:

God had commanded animal sacrifices from the days of Moses and up to the days Jesus came by flesh, the priests, according to the law, still offered animal sacrifices in the temple at Jerusalem. But the law, "having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices---make those who approach perfect--"(Hebrews 10:1). Therefore a greater sacrifice was needed, and a sacrifice that had a Divine nature was necessary.

✠ CONCLUSION ✠

Christ was the ultimate sacrifice, and calling Him "**The Lamb of God**" conveys the exact meaning of His sacred act on the cross as **The Lamb** slain for our salvation.

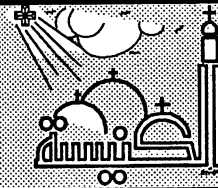
For this reason, in the Divine Liturgy service which is our most sacred act of the real sacrifice of the **Holy Lamb** on the cross, the **BREAD** (Kourbana) which abouna uses for the offering is called "**The Lamb**".



✠ بمناسبة شراء الارض الجديدة للكنيسة فإن الجميع مدعوون لنوال بركة الاشتراك في بناء بيت الرب. ولنا ملء الثقة بأن الله الغنى سوف يدبر كافة احتياجات المشروع حسب غناه في المجد، وانه يعوض أجراً سماوياً كل قلب يد المشروع بصلواته ومساهمته.



Church



١- مادة التقدمة

✠ الخبز (القربان) والخمر هما المادتين اللتين تستخدمهما كنيستنا في اتمام سر الافخارستيا، وهما يستحيلان بالصلاة الى جسد المسيح ودمه بقوة وفعل الروح القدس اثناء خدمة القداس الالهى.

أ- القربانة

✠ عبارة عن خبزة مستديرة مكونة من ثلاثة عشر قسماً، بكل قسم منها يوجد صليب. والقسم الداخلى عبارة عن مربع كبير نسبياً يسمى «الاسباديكون» وهو يشير الى السيد المسيح، ويحيط بهذا القسم اثنا عشر قسماً اخرى تمثل تلاميذه الإثنا عشر. وحول هذه الاقسام مكتوب باللغة اليونانية «قدوس الله- قدوس القوي- قدوس الحى الذى لا يموت».

✠ ويوجد بالقربانة خمس ثقوب: ثلاثة ثقوب منها جهة اليمين وهي تشير الى المسامير الثلاثة التى سمرت فى يدي المجلس ورجليه. اما الثقبين الرابع والخامس فهما جهة اليسار، ويشير احدهما الى اكليل الشوك الذى وضع على رأسه، ويشير الثانى الى الحرية التى طُن بها فى جنبه.

✠ يخبز القربان فى مكان خاص فى الكنيسة يسمى «بيت لحم» أى بيت الخبز. ويقوم بعمل القربان شخص تقى له احدى درجات المذبح، كما يجب ان تتلى المزامير اثناء عمله، وان يخبز قبل استخدامه للتقدمة بمدة قصيرة.

ب- الخمر

✠ اما الخمر فيجب ان يكون من ثمر الكرمة، غير مطبوخ بالنار- وان يكون نقياً للغاية.

٢- طقس التقدمة

سيكون موضوع حديثنا فى العدد القادم بمشيئة الرب.

بمناسبة صوم الميلاد المجيد

✠ « ان الصوم ليس تعامل مع الجسد بل هو تعامل مع الله، والصوم الذى لا يكون الله فيه ليس صوماً على الاطلاق. »
(قداسة البابا شنودة الثالث)

The purpose of this series is to familiarize the readers with the Divine Liturgy that they can participate more in it, enjoy it, and spiritually benefit of it

THE OFFERING OF THE LAMB



The substances and the ritual

1- THE SUBSTANCES OF THE OFFERING:

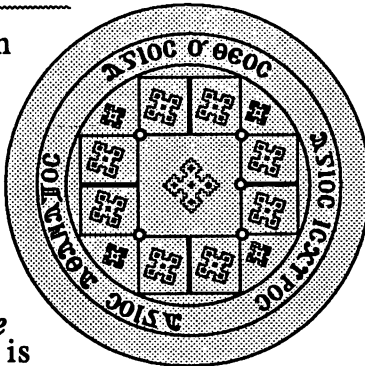
The Divine Liturgy is a continuation of the Last Supper which Christ shared with His disciples at the evening of His Crucifixion. Therefore, the church uses the same substances which Jesus has used, bread (Kourban) and wine. The Kourban and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ by the power and action of the Holy Spirit through the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.

A-THE KOURBANA:

✠ Its circular in shape and has thirteen parts, in every part there is a cross. The innermost part is a relatively big square called the «Espadicon»,

which symbolizes Jesus Christ. The Espadicon is surrounded by the other twelve parts which represent His disciples.

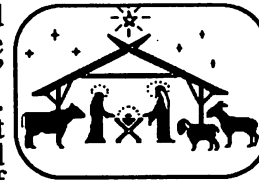
Around these parts is written in Greek « Holy God, Holy Almighty, Holy Immortal ».



The Kourbana

✠ Also, there are five holes in the Kourbana, three of which are on the right side and they represent the three nails which were driven into Jesus' hands and legs. As for the fourth and fifth holes, which are on the left side, one of them represents the crown of thorns which was put on the Savior's head, the other one represents the spear which was thrust in His side.

✠ The Kourban, is baked in a special place in the Church called «Bethlehem» or the «bread's house». The person who bakes it should be righteous and has been ordained to one of the Holy Orders of the church. Psalms are read during the baking of the Kourban and it should be used for the offering a short while after it is baked.



✠ The Kurbana that will be chosen for the offering should be perfect in every sense of the word, following the example of the chosen *Passover lamb* which had to be without blemish. (Exodus. 12:5)

B-THE WINE:

✠ As for the wine used in the offering, it should not be cooked and it has to be extremely pure and fresh.



2- THE RITUAL WILL BE OUR TOPIC IN THE NEXT ISSUE: