

Holy Eucharist

(Mathews Barnabas Metropolitan)

Holy Qurbana is the word used in our church for Holy Eucharist. It is the most touching and uplifting sacrament in Christian life. Our Lord said, “This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (St. Matt. 26:28).

In the Old Testament we read how God entered into a covenant with Israel (Ex. 24:8). Moses read the law of God and the people responded saying that they would obey the law of God. Then the blood of sacrifice was sprinkled upon them. The implied idea was that they would not break the law even if their own blood was shed. But unfortunately the Israelites broke the law by worshipping a golden calf.

Later on we find the promise of God that He would enter into a new covenant with Israel (Jer. 31:31-34) which will never be broken. This covenant was entered into, by Jesus Christ through His own blood, as He says in St. Matt. 26:28. Those who realize that our Lord shed His blood for us, will never break the covenant with Him.

The old covenant was entered into, reminding the Israelites that it was the Lord who redeemed them from the bondage in Egypt, through the blood of bulls. In the New Testament we are redeemed through the blood of God-incarnate. This urges us to make a deep-felt promise. Do we realize the manifold blessings we are receiving from God? All that we are, and all that we have, and all that we do are through God. In God we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:28). As God identifies Himself with us, our pain becomes His own pain. Therefore we must repent whole-heartedly, so that we may be freed from all kinds of sins.