

# Transubstantiation

## Jesus Christ in John 6: 48-58

“I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’ The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.”

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*By Father Paul A. Duffner, O.P. :*

Our Blessed Lord celebrated the first Mass at the Last Supper the night before He died. By His divine power He changed bread and wine into His own Body and Blood, so that He might institute a sacred rite whereby the sacrifice that He was to offer to the Father on Calvary the following day could be renewed through the centuries in a sacramental way. In order that His sacrifice on Calvary be perpetuated, during that same meal He conferred on the apostles the power to effect that same miraculous change. *“Do this in memory of Me” (Luke 22:19).*

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In the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, transubstantiation is the divine mystery of faith whereby in the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the consecration:

1. the bread becomes the real body of Jesus Christ, and
2. the wine becomes the real blood of Jesus Christ,
3. while keeping only the appearances of bread and wine.