

## How is the Eucharist Foreshadowed in Scripture?

1. Genesis 14:18-20 shows the Eucharist being foreshadowed at the beginning of God's plan for salvation. Melchizedek, a king and priest, brings bread and wine to celebrate Abram's victory over his enemies. Melchizedek's feast with bread and wine points forward to the Last Supper that Jesus celebrates with his disciples and which we continue to celebrate in the Eucharist. Melchizedek's feast is a celebration over the forces of evil just as the Eucharist celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death and brings peace.

2. The Passover is one of the most significant events for the people of the Old Testament (Exodus 12). In Exodus it is noted that a lamb without blemish must be sacrificed according to how much each man could eat. We know from the lips of John the Baptist that Jesus is, "...the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). We also know Jesus is the lamb without blemish. Pilate proclaimed, "I find no guilt in him" (John 18:38). It is also the case that we must eat the lamb. "...Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you" (John 6:53). The whole assembly was to gather together to sacrifice the lambs. We too are called to assemble for the sacrifice of the Eucharist, the new Passover celebration.

3. God supplies manna and quail for the Israelites in the desert. While the people are in the desert after the Exodus, they murmur against God, accusing him of murderous plans by means of starvation. God responds, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion..." (Exodus 16:4)

4. In describing the miracle of the multiplication of bread, Luke uses language that is contained in his account of the institution: "Then he (Jesus) took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them" (Luke 22:19). By describing the miracle with these words, Luke shows that this event foreshadows the gift of the Eucharist. Just as Jesus fed the crowds with an abundance of physical nourishment, so in the gift of his Body and Blood, Christ feeds us spiritually with an abundance of his life and love, uniting us to himself and to one another as the Body of Christ.

Sources: [www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com) and *Breaking Open the Word, LTP, 2019.*