

# LITURGY OF THE KINGDOM

## The Feast of the Blessed Sacrament

### FIRST READING

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Reader: *A reading taken from the spiritual heritage of humanity.*

Assembly: *From all time, Heaven has prepared the coming of the Kingdom.*

Reader: *Today the main verses of the sequence “Lauda Sion” composed by Saint Thomas Aquinas in honor of the Eucharist.*

*It is written:*

Laud, O Zion, your salvation,  
Laud with hymns of exultation,  
Christ, your king and shepherd true.

...

Special theme for glad thanksgiving  
is the quickening and the living  
Bread today before you set:

From his hands of old partaken,  
As we know, by faith unshaken,  
Where the Twelve at supper met.

Full and clear ring out your  
chanting,  
Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting,  
From your heart let praises burst:

For today the feast is holden,  
When the institution olden  
Of that supper was rehearsed.

Here the new law's new oblation,  
By the new king's revelation,  
Ends the form of ancient rite.

Now the new the old effaces,  
Truth away the shadow chases,  
Light dispels the gloom of night.

What he did at supper seated,  
Christ ordained to be repeated,  
His memorial never to cease.

...

This the truth each Christian learns,  
Bread into his flesh he turns,  
To his precious blood the wine.

...

Here beneath these signs are hidden  
Priceless things to sense forbidden;  
Signs, not things are all we see:

Blood is poured and flesh is broken,  
Yet in either wondrous token  
Christ entire we know to be.

Whoso of this food partakes,  
Does not rend the Lord nor breaks;  
Christ is whole to all that taste:

Thousands are, as one, receivers,  
One, as thousands of believers,  
Eats of him who cannot waste.

...

When the sacrament is broken,  
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,  
That each sever'd outward token  
doth the very whole contain.

Nought the precious gift divides,  
Breaking but the sign betides  
Jesus still the same abides,  
still unbroken does remain.

...

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,  
Jesus of your love befriend us,  
You refresh us, you defend us,  
Your eternal goodness send us  
in the land of life to see.

...

Amen.

Reader: *These were the main verses of the sequence for the feast of the Blessed Sacrament.*

Assembly: *Thanks be to God.*