



LENTEN FAITH SHARING

Week Three

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and glory and blessing. ”Revelation 5: 12

Week Three—Reading: Revelation 5: 1-14

The Leader leads the participants through Centering and stillness before God and with one another.

1. You may Begin with **Centering Prayer** or a prayer of choice.

CENTERING PRAYER

Sit comfortably and still with eyes closed.

You may want to choose a prayer word or short phrase such as Jesus, Savior, Holy Spirit Come!

To pray silently when distractions arise.

Breathe in and out with two or three deep breathes, inhaling and exhaling slowly and deliberately.

Breathe in through your nose and exhale through your mouth.

As you slowly inhale, image God breathing breath into your center.

As you exhale, let it be a moment of letting go of your anxieties, worries, anger, hatred, frustrations.

Repeat this practice several times.

As you inhale, pray ‘*create in me a clean heart.*’ as you exhale pray: ‘*renew a right spirit in me.*’ Or inhale: ‘*abide in me,*’ exhale: ‘*renew a right spirit in me.*’

Let your intention be to simply remain open to the divine presence and content with a loving and peaceful attention to God for yourself and for the gathered Share Group

2. **Lectio Divina** – Choose a Reader. The Leader leads the Lectio Divina

Read Revelation 5: 6-14 slowly, while pausing between paragraphs for silence.

- Invite participants to rest in silence for a few moments.
- Invite participants to savor a word, a phrase or a feeling that rises in them while listening to the reading. Reflect on this quietly for a few moments.
- The Leader, after a time of silence can invites participants to share aloud the word or phrase that stirred in them as they listened to the proclamation of the word.
- The Reading is slowly read a **second time** by the Reader.
- Pause for silent reflection.

- The leader invites participants to share their experience using one or more of the Reflection questions below. Participants may want to respond only to one particular question. Allow the freedom to participants to do this.

3. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What in this reading stirred your heart?
2. What does John's vision teach you about your participation in the Mass?
3. In what way were you challenged?
4. What message in this Scripture passage did you find to be most enlightening for you?

4. Commentary

The words of praise beginning with "Worthy are you, Lord our God..." are used by the Church during the Tuesday evening prayer in the Liturgy of the hours. This is coupled with another canticle. "Worthy is the Lamb," to form one hymn of praise. Many are fearful of reading the Book of Revelation for concern of misinterpreting its message. The Book of Revelation takes us beyond our earthly experience to envision the eternal encounters of heaven. In this reading, John is seeing a vision which is beyond our sight. He sees a Lamb that has been slain, standing before the throne of God. The Lamb is standing alive before God, but it is visibly evident that the lamb has been put to death. The Lamb is the crucified and resurrected Christ. He is the Lamb of God whom all the lambs of sacrifice in the Old Testament Scriptures are prefiguring. The Lamb is upright because standing is the ancient Christian position of resurrection and the posture of the Old Testament priests of the Israelite Community. The Lamb showing the Father his wounds, symbolizes that he has given his life in exchange for the life of the world.

John displays the constant worship of God in the heavenly liturgy. All the saints and angels are participating in this heavenly liturgy. The blood of the Lamb is the offering which surpasses all others. It is the one sacrifice that makes every nation "a kingdom and priests for serving our God." The Lamb represents the perfect priest offering himself in sacrifice for the atonement for sins and as the source for eternal life.

Through the Book of Revelation, we see in the Mass celebrated each day, ourselves, becoming united with all the creatures and in company with them experience the fullness of God's presence.

In the book of revelation, John receives a glimpse of the Lamb of God, which is still veiled from our eyes, yet, through every Mass uniting us with both heaven and earth to embraces all of creation into one.

5. Action – Connect with the disconnected.

How or what will you do to share your experience of Eucharist through the Scriptures and worship with someone who is not participating in the Eucharist? Can you gently and lovingly, and without judgment, ask another what prevents them from coming to experience the Eucharist?

Listen! Listen! Listen! The Holy Spirit will provide the words you should speak.

Rev 5: 1 - 14

1 I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.

2 Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it.

4 I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it.

5 One of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David,^{*} has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals.”

6 Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the [seven] spirits of God sent out into the whole world.

7 He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne.

8 When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones.

9 They sang a new hymn:

“Worthy are you to receive the scroll

and to break open its seals,

for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God

those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation.

10 You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth.”

11 I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number,

12 and they cried out in a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and blessing.”

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out:

“To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor, glory and might,
forever and ever.”

14 The four living creatures answered, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.