

good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” In the Old Testament unleavened bread was generally required for sacrifice. In Leviticus 8:26, as part of the sacrifice offered by Moses, it says: “...out of the basket of unleavened bread which was before the LORD he took one unleavened cake, and one cake of bread with oil, and one wafer.... “. (See also Exodus 29:23 and Numbers 6:15-19). Leavened bread could be brought to the Lord as an offering of first fruits, but was not allowed to be offered on the altar (Leviticus 2:11-12; 23:17). To return to the Last Supper, in Leonardo’s painting the bread on the table is shown as leavened. Also, the Passover Meal was (and still is) always taken after sunset, as referred to in Matthew 26:20 and Mark 14:17, yet through the windows in the painting can be seen blue sky and clouds. I suspect these are examples of artistic licence rather than errors.

Stephen S

Entrance antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14

Psalm 50: Response: I will leave this place and go to my father.

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 15 1-32

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C, 2022 Weekly Reflection: The unleavened host: Yeast said soonest mended! The Communion host which the priest consecrates is

unleavened bread in commemoration of the Last Supper which took place at the time of the Jewish Passover. Mark 14:1 and 14:12 says: “It was now two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread...”“And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb...” (See also Mark 14:1 and Luke 22:1 & 22:7).The requirement for the Jewish people to eat unleavened bread at the time of Passover is in Deuteronomy 16:3 ““You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction – for you came out of the land of Egypt in hurried flight” (also Exodus 12:17-20; Numbers 9:11). The Jews left Egypt left in such a hurry that the bread they were making did not have time to rise. This appears to be why the commemoration of the Passover requires unleavened bread.Following this tradition the Code of Canon Law in the Catholic Church provides at *Can 924*: “§2. *The bread must be only wheat...*”. The Sacred Congregation for Sacraments and Divine Worship (1980) states: “*Faithful to Christ's example, the Church has constantly used bread and wine mixed with water to celebrate the Lords Supper. The bread for the celebration of the Eucharist, in accordance with the tradition of the whole Church, must be made solely of wheat, and, in accordance with the tradition proper to the Latin Church, it must be unleavened...* No other ingredients are to be added to the wheaten flour and water.” The symbolism of leaven in Scripture is of interest to theologians. Here are some examples of Biblical allusions.

Jesus says, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees” (Matthew. 16:6). Yet He also says (Matthew 13:33): “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” Leaven can sometimes be seen as a metaphor for sin. St Paul (1 Corinthians 5:6-8) writes: “Your boasting is not