

Invitation to Communion

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“Behold the Lamb of God, / behold him who takes away the sins of the world. / Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” We respond: “Lord, I am not worthy / that you should enter under my roof, / but only say the word / and my soul shall be healed.” The new translation of the Invitation to Communion, which faithfully renders the Latin, is also rooted in scripture. The priest’s invitation is a combination of John 1:29, with its beautiful echo of John the Baptist’s words in pointing out Jesus to the disciples, and Revelation 19:9, the angel’s words describing “the marriage supper of the Lamb” (NRSV). The people’s response is taken from the Gospel according to Matthew, when the Roman Centurion asks Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant. Jesus offers to go and cure him, but the Centurion’s faith in Jesus’ power to heal and save is such that he asks him to heal his servant with a word. This is a holy moment, as we are invited to approach the Lord, who offers us healing and life through the sacrament of his Body and Blood.

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