

COMMUNION AND CONCLUDING RITES PART 1

THE SIGN of PEACE



The writings of the early church fathers speak of the holy kiss, which they call "a sign of peace", which was already part of the Eucharistic liturgy, occurring after the Lord's Prayer in the Roman Rite and the rites directly derived from it.

St. Augustine

'Then,

after the consecration of the Holy Sacrifice of God,
because he wished us also to be His sacrifice.....

when the Sacrifice is finished,

we say the Lord's Prayer which you have received and
recited...

After this, the 'Peace be with you' is said,
and the Christians embrace one another...

This is a sign of peace.....'

Sermon 227

Source of the greeting

- ◆ The source of the peace greeting is probably from the common Hebrew greeting *shalom*; and the greeting "Peace be with you" is similarly a translation of the Hebrew *shalom aleichem*.

שְׁלוֹמֶיכֶם

GOSPEL: RISEN CHRIST

◆ Luke 24:36

*They were still talking
about all this
when he himself
stood among them
and said:
Peace be with you*



GOSPEL: RISEN CHRIST

John 20:21, 20:26

*The doors were closed
but Jesus came in
and stood among
them.*

*'Peace be with you,'
he said.*



Jesus gives his peace

- ◆ The Peace is that peace which Jesus said the world cannot give (John 14:27)
- ◆ It is a peace lived in the love of God
- ◆ It is a peace that connects us to the presence of the Risen Christ

Christ's peace

- ◆ The exchange of peace prior to the reception of Communion is an acknowledgement that Christ whom we receive in the Sacrament is already present in our neighbour.
- ◆ Communion with God in Christ is enjoyed in communion with our brothers and sisters.

The peace comes from the altar

"It is appropriate that each one give the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner.

The Priest may give the sign of peace to the ministers but always remains within the sanctuary, so as not to disturb the celebration.

He does likewise if for a just reason he wishes to extend the sign of peace to some few of the faithful."

Lord Jesus Christ

who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;

look not on our sins,

but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will

who live and reign for ever and ever.

The peace of the Lord be with you always

And with your spirit

Reflection

- ◆ In what way has this reflection challenged how you think about the sign of peace?
- ◆ How could this be exchanged in a way that is sober and fitting?

Lamb of God

