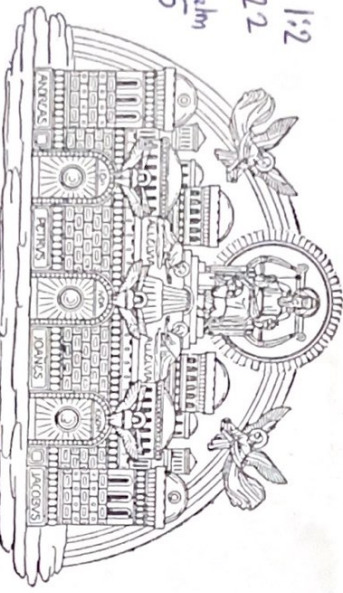


"The wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment." (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.) (Rev 19:7-8)

"Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." (Rev 21:9)

19:7-9 Christ and the Church are forever united in a covenant of marital love. In one sense, this is a present reality for the Church, who is joined to the Bridegroom by the grace of Baptism (Eph 5:22-32); but it is also a future hope, inasmuch as that union will reach perfection in the glory of heaven (Mt 25:1-13). John envisions the Church dressed in a bridal gown sewn by a life of purity and righteousness. Later, the Bride of the Lamb is described as the heavenly Jerusalem, the virgin city gilded with gold and adorned with precious stones (21:9-21) (CCC 757, 865). • The marriage of the bridal city recalls Ezek 16:8-14, where the Lord joined himself in wedlock to ancient Jerusalem, having cleansed her in water and clothed her in gold, jewelry, and fine linen. Similar images of glorified Zion appear in Is 61:10 and 62:5.

Hosea 1:2
2:16-22
also Psalm
45



757 "The Church, further, which is called 'that Jerusalem which is above' and 'our mother', is described as the spotless spouse of the spotless Lamb. It is she whom Christ 'loved and for whom he delivered himself up that he might sanctify her'. It is she whom he unites to himself by an unbreakable alliance, and whom he constantly 'nourishes and cherishes'." 199

OT *Love poem Song of Songs 1:9, 3:1-4 compared to Jn 20:11-17*

Since Ho 2, the love of Yahweh for his people has been represented by the love of husband for wife: Ex 16:23; Is 49:14-21; 50:1; 54:1-10; 62:4-5; Jr 2:1-7; 3; 31:22; 51:5. CCC 796; 1612, 1641) *Hepzibah - beloved Beulah - my delight*

The woman at the well: 5 husbands like the Samaritans 5 false gods (baals). Hosea: "I will remove from her mouth the names of the Baals. You shall call me, "My husband," and never again, "My baal." I will betroth you to me forever, with justice and judgment, loyalty, compassion, fidelity... and you shall know the Lord." Hosea 2:19, 18, 21, 22

Moses sat
down at well,
met wife
EX 2:
15-21

↓
Dinah
wife was
bride when
acted like
me &
Dinah
Gen 24:
12-14
↓
Guest
met her
with
Rachel
Gen 29:



2 Kings
17:24,
29-32

← Jn 4:
4-38

1-11 Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them; and then they will fast." (Mt 9:15)

(Jesus spoke) "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son." (Mt 22:2)

(Jesus said) "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom." (Mt 25:1)

From a sermon by blessed Isaac of Stella, abbot

when the Almighty, the Most High, wedded a bride who was weak and of low estate, he made that maid-servant a queen. He took her from her place behind him, at his feet, and enthroned her at his side. She had been born from his side, and therefore he betrothed her to himself. And as all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son because by nature they are one, so also the bridegroom gave all he had to the bride and he shared in all that was hers. He made her one both with himself and with the Father. Praying for his bride, the Son said to the Father: *I want them to be one with us, even as you and I are one.*

And so the bridegroom is one with the Father and one with the bride. Whatever he found in his bride alien to her own nature he took from her and nailed to his cross when he bore her sins and destroyed them on the tree. He received from her and clothed himself in what was hers by nature and gave her what belonged to him as God. He destroyed what was diabolical, took to himself what was human, and conferred on her what was divine. So all that belonged to the bride was shared in by the bridegroom, and he who had done no wrong and on whose lips was found no deceit could say: *Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak.*

*Son 2 Wedding at Cana, 'on the 3rd day' - see Jn 1:11:28, 29, 35, 43
"Woman" in Jn 4:12-13 15-16, and in Jn 2:4 - Mary is the*

new Eve and icon of the Church; new Creation disciples begin to
(John answered) *The one who has the bride is the bride-
groom; the best man, who stands and listens for him, be-
rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of*
mine has been made complete." (Jn 3:29)



3:29 the bridegroom: Jesus, whose bride is the Church (2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:21-32). John the Baptist is the friend or "best man" of the groom who, in Jewish custom, arranges and manages the wedding celebration.

One soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (Jn 19:34)

(St. John Chrysostom, *Baptismal Instructions* 3, 16-19): the water and blood streaming from the side of Christ are symbolic of the new life we receive in Baptism (3:5) and the nourishment we receive in the Eucharist (6:53) (CCC 1225). It indicates, moreover, that the Church constituted by these sacraments is the bride of Christ that issues from his side, just as Eve came forth from the side of Adam (Gen 2:21-23).

For "the two" it says "will become one flesh." But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. *(and again in the Eucharist)*

(1 Cor 6:16-17)

6:17 one spirit with him: The point is, not that sexual union (6:16) is a mere reflection of our spiritual union with Christ, but that even our bodies become united with Christ through the Spirit (15:45). This union with Christ's humanity—which is sacramental, not sexual—has its beginning in Baptism (12:13) and is strengthened by the Eucharist (10:16-17).

I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (2 Cor 11:2)

11:2 I betrothed you to Christ: Paul is the "father" (1 Cor 4:15) of the Corinthians and thus in charge of safeguarding their purity before marriage. He is preserving them for Christ, the husband, who is already betrothed to them by covenant but who waits to receive them into his home as a chaste bride (literally, "virgin"). (CCC 505, 796)

Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her... This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. (Eph 5:25, 32)

This icon depicts Christ being stripped by the soldiers, mocked, and clothed in a purple robe and crown of thorns. Little did the soldiers know, as the Fathers of the Church tell us, that they were actually preparing the "Bridegroom" Christ for the consummation of a great mystical wedding between God and His "Bride," humanity (or in other words, the Church), which would take place on the Cross.