



■ The Theotokos theologizes and catechizes

## The Mystery of the Divine Eucharist\*

“This Infant is the Creator of the universe”

**I**n the land of the Alamans [a Germanic tribe of the second century] there lived a very virtuous Priest by the name of Pelagios, who had special devotion to the Most Holy *Theotokos*.

The Devil, however, envied him and sowed in him thoughts of disbelief regarding Holy Communion. “How is it possible,” he would think, “for the bread to become the Body and the wine to become the Blood of Christ?”

He was overcome by great distress at these thoughts, but did not dare to seek counsel from anyone. He thus turned to the *Panagia* herself, beseeching her to instruct him in this regard.

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**One day**, then, as he was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, when he came to the words “Especially for our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, and glorious Lady, *Theotokos*, and Ever-Virgin Mary...,” the holy Bread disappeared from the *Diskarion*. Pelagios looked around, but could not find It.

“O, my *Panagia*!” he called out in terror. “I understand that, by reason of my lack of faith and my doubts, Christ has come to hold me in abomination and disappeared from before my eyes, so that I, the unworthy one, might not commune. Do Thou, however, beseech Him to forgive me!”

He then saw the most glorious Queen before the Holy Table, bearing the Divine Infant in her arms, and she said to him:

“This Infant is the Creator of the universe, the Son and Word of God, perfect





God and perfect Man. It is He Who died on the Cross for the salvation of the world and was resurrected. Even now, He daily takes on, in a wondrous manner, the form of bread and wine, out of His great love for mankind, and is offered to men and women for the sanctification of their souls. Touch Him, then, and examine Him without fear, so as to see for yourself that this is a true vision, and that this is a true Body of flesh and blood, just as I gave birth to Him. This is precisely what the bread and wine become when you liturgize. Since humans are not able to eat raw flesh and drink blood, however, the Omnipotent One, in His great wisdom, is offered in the form of bread and wine, so that everyone is able to partake of Him with longing and desire. Hence, you must also commune with piety and faith; for whoever receives Him worthily becomes a participant in His Divine Glory.”

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**With these words**, the Mother of God deposited the Infant on the Holy Table, and after humbly worshipping Him, she disappeared.

The Priest took the Divine Infant in his hands with fear and joy, reverently kissed Him, and discerned that this was indeed a living infant with true flesh. He then set Him on the Holy Table, fell to the ground, and prayed with tears:

“I believe, O my Lord, and confess that Thou art the Son of God, Who wast born of the Ever-Virgin Mary. I thank Thee for the Grace that I, the unworthy one, was vouchsafed today, and I beseech Thee to forgive me my former disbelief. And now do Thou grant me to commune of Thee not as an Infant, but as Bread.”

Having prayed this way with faith, he stood up and saw before him the Holy Bread in its previous form. He communed with great joy, and continued for the rest of his life to celebrate the Divine Mysteries with exceeding devoutness.

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(\*) Source: *Miracles and Revelations from the Divine Liturgy* [in Greek] 2nd ed. (Oropos, Attica: Hiera Mone Parakletou, 1997), pp. 46-48. Translated from the original Greek