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.
Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccata mundi. Beati qui ad cenam Agni vocati sunt.



After consecration of the bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Jesus, the celebrant begins the Communion Rite. We recognize this as we pray together the Our Father which is followed by our outreach to others in the Sign of Peace. The celebrant invites us to join in the the Breaking of the Bread, as we sing (or say) "the Lamb of God".

This is when the celebrant then raises the consecrated host and chalice so that we can gaze upon the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.



The celebrant raises the host and says, **"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."**

In these words we recall John the Baptist's words of witness to his disciples:

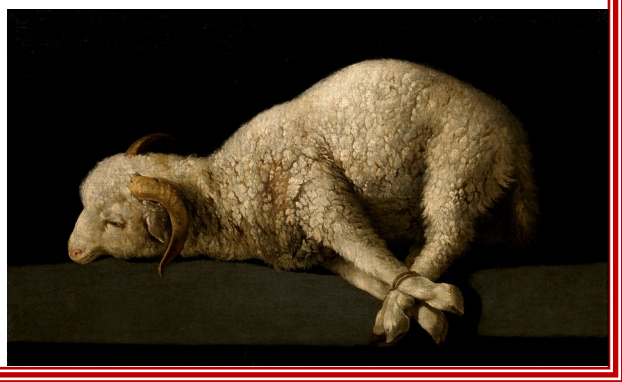
John the Baptist's Testimony to Jesus: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." (Jn 1:29–31)

To these are added the words of John the Evangelist in beholding the Lamb who was slain but forever alive in Heaven:

The Victory Song: ...Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These words are true; they come from God." (Rev 19:9)



The Lord is calling us to sup with him, not only in this celebration of the Eucharist, but forever in eternity. As we gaze upon that pristine white consecrated host we're reminded of all the perfection and purity that sacramentally lays behind it: Our Lord, offered for us.



Adapted from: https://rcspirituality.org/finding_the_plug/the-liturgy-of-the-eucharist-the-communion-rite-the-fraction-of-the-bread-5/