

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

June 3, 2018

First Reading - Exodus 24: 3-8

When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD, they all answered with one voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has told us." Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and, rising early the next day, he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar. Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do." Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words of his."

Psalm 116

*I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.*

How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.

Second Reading - Hebrews 9: 11-15

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.



For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Gospel - Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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Table of Plenty

*Come to the feast of heaven and earth
Come to the table of plenty
God will provide for all that we need,
Here at the table of plenty*

O come and sit at my table
where saints and sinners are friends
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely
to share the cup of my love!

O come to eat without money,
come to drink without price
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit
with faith and fullness of life!

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We Gather as the Body Christ

*We gather as the Body of Christ,
to receive the Body of Christ
We go forth as the Body of Christ,
to love and serve the Lord,
forever, we are the Body of Christ*

The table is set before us, The family of God is here
Through the eyes of the Spirit see the Lamb of God,
Jesus, now present in bread and wine

Humbly we come to the feast
knowing that we are not worthy
broken but healed with faith in you, O Lamb of God
Jesus, now present in bread and wine

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“Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

- Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”
- Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.
- No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.
- Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.
- Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.
- Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.
- Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.
- Be open – God is doing amazing things!

Petitions

Our response: “Jesus, Bread of Life, hear us.”

Closing Prayer

God ever-faithful, you have made a covenant with your people in the gift of your Son, who offered his body for us and poured out his blood for the many. As we celebrate this eucharistic sacrifice, build up your Church by deepening within us the life of your covenant and by opening our hearts to those in need. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.



Questions for Reflection on the Gospel

1. What word, image, or phrase struck you from the Gospel?
2. Surely the disciples hadn’t understood what Jesus was doing at the Last Supper, but they trusted him absolutely. Where do you go when you need help with trust? Friends? Books? To the Holy Spirit?
3. In the rituals described in the First Reading and the Gospel, what things are similar to your experience of the Mass? What is different? How does this compare to your family dinner table?
4. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” How can our sharing of the Body and Blood of the Lord be an act of thanksgiving, even when we gather under the most painful of circumstances?
5. How can we be “Eucharist” to one another? How can we bring the Eucharist from our church into the world?
6. In the First Reading, we hear, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.” Why was blood so significant in those ceremonies? Why was it used to seal solemn agreements? Is there a relationship between blood and life? Between blood and death?
7. Read Pope Francis’ words below. What is he saying happens in the Eucharist to our poverty?

Words from our Holy Father

And in the Eucharist, the Lord makes us travel his path, that of service, of sharing, of gift, and what little we have, what little we are, if shared, becomes wealth, because the power of God, which is that of love, descends into our poverty to transform it . . . So let us ask ourselves, in adoring Christ who is really present in the Eucharist: do I let the Lord who gives himself to me, guide me to going out ever more from behind my little enclosure, in order to give, to share, to love him and others?

- Pope Francis,
Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi
May 31, 2013