

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood

has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace, whose signs are to be seen in mystery in the offerings we here present. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. 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.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 6:57
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

THE BREAD OF LIFE

The Gospel for today's feast comes from Jesus' long discourse on 'the Bread of Life' in the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St John. At this final stage of the discourse Jesus explicitly links the gift of the Eucharist with the manna ('bread from heaven') that sustained the Israelites during their time of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai.

For most of the discourse, however, Jesus has been speaking of himself as 'the Bread of Life' in a more general sense. The people want him to emulate Moses, who arranged for 'bread from heaven' (the manna) to be given to their ancestors. But Jesus refuses to be just another figure like Moses, turning on miracles for the people. He identifies the manna with himself. He is the life-giving 'Bread' that God has sent down from heaven.

While the original manna simply sustained the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness, the new 'Bread from heaven' sustains life in a far deeper sense. Jesus describes it as 'my flesh for the life of the world' - an allusion to his death, in which he will lay down his earthly life that the world might share the eternal life of God.

As the words of consecration make clear, the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharist are always the body 'given up' for us and the cup 'poured out' for us. In this sacramental mystery believers encounter a divine communication of sacrificial love and life, foreshadowed by but far surpassing what the Israelites experienced at Sinai.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 806, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 9394 3400 Fax 02 9746 1140. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2020. No 454. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI) / A

14 JUNE 2020

FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD. When we eat the flesh of Jesus and drink his blood in Eucharistic communion, we share in his very life, a life poured out for all on the cross. As we gratefully receive this food of eternal life, we are called in turn to pour out our lives in loving service to our brothers and sisters.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 80:17
He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to reverse the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Deut 8:2-3, 14-16

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
He gave you food which you and your ancestors did not know.

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and to know your inmost heart - whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 147:12-15, 19-20. R. v. 12

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. (or Alleluia!)

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! / Zion, praise your God! / He has strengthened the bars of your gates, / he has blessed the children within you. R.

2. He established peace on your borders, / he feeds you with finest wheat. / He sends out his word to the earth / and swiftly runs his command. R.

3. He makes his word known to Jacob, / to Israel his laws and decrees. / He has not dealt thus with other nations; / he has not taught them his decrees. R.

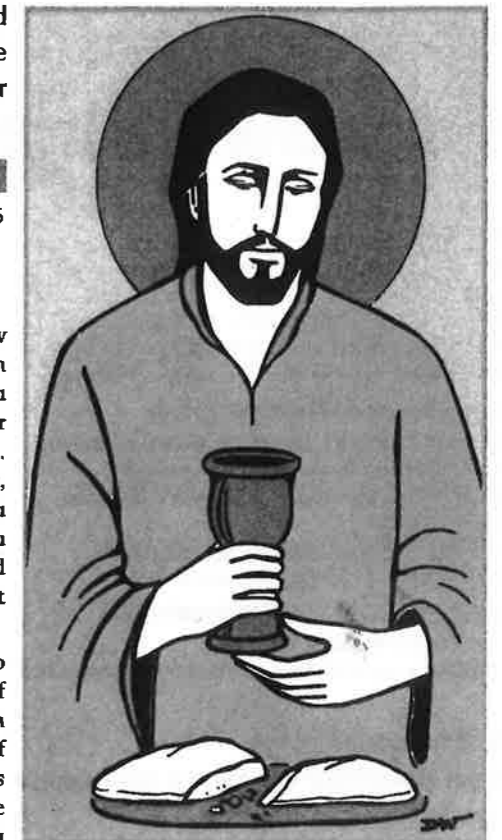
SECOND READING 1 Cor 10:16-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
Though we are many, we form a single body because we share this one loaf.

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God



SEQUENCE

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:

Oft in the olden types foreshowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine
In fields of immortality;

O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; / whoever eats this bread will live for ever. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 6:51-58

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.