

Homily. Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Year.B. 5/6 June 2021.

The night was far from being peaceful. It was full of foreboding, oozing deadly menace and fear. In the minds and hearts of the disciples it was a night of confusion that would lead to the Lord's betrayal by Judas, Peter's denials and panicked flight for most of them. As for Jesus, it would go down as the night before His suffering, sacrifice and death, the night before His ultimate surrender to God. It seems that out of all of them, it was only Jesus who could grasp that the Garden of Olives and Golgotha were looming large on the horizon.

This was the setting for His last Supper and for what we now call the institution of the Eucharist. Jesus left this sacred and sacramental meal as a memorial of His death, a commemoration of the gift of Himself for us. Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup we are proclaiming His death, says St. Paul in his 1st Letter to the Corinthians, until He comes again. This is the New Covenant sealed in the life-blood and self-giving of the Lord for all.

The Old Covenant of Israel offered forgiveness for sins, but it required constant repetition and animal sacrifices for it was unable to permanently justify us in God's sight. The New Covenant, by the total self-offering of Jesus has achieved for us, once and for all, the forgiveness of all of our sins putting us forever at rights with God. Our challenge is to receive this merciful grace and gift from God through Christ, living out its meaning. In other words, our call is that we will live in a way that is worthy of being called God's saved, redeemed and justified children, the sons and daughters of God in the world today.

It's the Eucharist that makes us the Church. It's the commemoration of the Lord's saving gift for us that unites in Him. It's His Body and Blood that feeds and grows us into Himself, the Body of Christ today, a people of faith sharing the blood of His life with others through our service and witness to the world. This is why we say that the Eucharist and our community worship is the summit to which we bring our daily lives; our successes and failures, our joys and sorrows and all that is good and bad. It's why we add that the Eucharist and our liturgy is also the source from which flows all of our strength and refreshment in Christ's grace.

Being freely fed on His life and love we must be diligent in making sure that we feed others with what we have received, generously passing on the care, compassion and kindness of Christ Himself. Wherever there is a hunger, a need to be understood, filled and satisfied, there it is that we have to find ourselves, giving what we have taken from the Lord's Table.

Every Eucharist foreshadows the great banquet feast of unity, joy and peace in God's Kingdom which is our destiny. Likewise, our participation in the Eucharist and our sharing of the food and drink of Heaven with our sisters and brothers goes on until, as St. Paul said, Jesus comes again. For, His Body and Blood has become ours and we are becoming His until all is made anew and God's salvation amongst us is at last accomplished.