

Commentary on the Readings for June 2, 2024

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Today the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**, which in years past was known by its Latin name, **Corpus Christi**. It is fitting that we should celebrate this divine gift to mankind right after the Easter Season because it was as a result of the original events that Jesus gave us something to remember Him by. However, His command, "*Do this in remembrance of me!*" means more than an occasional mental recognition of this great gift. It is recognizing and accepting the Body and Blood of Christ as the sustaining food for our souls in our journey through life.

The **First Reading** is from the ***Book of Exodus (24:3-8)***. In the two chapters of Exodus, just prior to this passage, Moses was given the Ten Commandments and other rules that were the foundation of the Jewish "Law," or Torah, and the basis for the First Covenant. Here we have the Jewish people agreeing to abide by these laws and ordinances, which included recognizing the One True God as their only Lord, King and provider from which we get the word "Providence."

The **Responsorial Psalm** is **(116:12-18)**. This is a prayer of Thanksgiving that the Jews offered in recognizing how God saved them not only from slavery in Egypt, but from starvation in the desert and numerous other times. The "*cup of salvation*" refers to these events. In our day, we look to this "cup of Salvation" as Jesus' Blood being poured out for our salvation for which we must also be thankful.

The **Second Reading** is from the ***Letter to the Hebrews (9:11-15)***. In this passage, the writer is referring back to the customs of the First Covenant or the "Law" to explain how inadequate they were in comparison to the supreme offering that Christ made, once and for all, on our behalf. "For this reason, He (Jesus) is mediator of a New Covenant through which those who are called may receive eternal life."

The **Gospel Reading** is from ***Mark (14:12-26)***. Here, Mark gives us the story of Jesus at the Last Supper, wherein He gives us His Body and Blood under the appearance of bread and wine. How innovative, how practical you say? Not Really! There are many scenes in the Old Testament describing this ancient thanksgiving offering. (**See Genesis 14:18; Leviticus 6:7ff**) However, this was the beginning of the "New and Everlasting Covenant," which we celebrate in every Mass. For a more "in depth" look at this most Blessed Sacrament, go to the ***Gospel of John (6:25-59)***.

It is wonderful that so many people receive Holy Communion at Sunday Mass, but do we really understand that we are receiving the very essence of Jesus Christ? Are our minds, hearts and souls really prepared to receive the "King of kings and Lord of lords?" As you approach the priest or Eucharistic Minister to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, ask Our Lord to prepare

you mentally and spiritually for this greatest of unions; and then spend a few minutes in thanking Him for this divine food. Something to think about during your prayer time this week!

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