

# **The Body and Blood of Christ**

## **Corpus Christi**

**June 19, 2022**

The Easter season ended with Pentecost on June 5, 2022. The first Pentecost also signified the beginning of the Catholic Church and its mission to the world. It is the birthday of the church. After Pentecost we return to Ordinary Time until Advent in December. The first two Sundays after Pentecost celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ which changed the church forever. This week we will learn more about the growth of the church and how God--the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--responds to the needs of people. We also begin to see how the Church and Christianity began with the Hebrews but became more accepting of the Gentiles like us.

We hope that the readings and discussion that follow below will also help you understand

1. Jesus' miracle of the multiplying loaves and fish
2. the importance of sharing what we have with others
3. the special significance of Jesus' words in the letter of St Paul.

The FIRST READING happens during Abraham's time about 2,000 years before Christ, and about 4000 years before today and describes the events that led to Abraham's importance.

*A reading from the Book of (Genesis 14:18-20).*

**King Melchizedek of Salem brought out some bread and wine.**

**He was a priest of God Most High,  
and he said to Abraham,**

**"I give you the blessing of God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and of the earth.  
All praise belongs to God Most High,  
Who let you defeat your enemies."**

**Then Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.  
The word of the Lord.**

Many Kings had gathered to celebrate Abraham's victory in the battle against the forces who had taken over the land that God had promised to Abraham. Abraham not only reclaims the land but wins the battle. Melchizedek, one of the Kings who had gathered to honor Abraham, was the only one who had brought bread and wine to the celebration, and he blessed Abraham. This demonstrated that Melchizedek was both a King and "a Priest of God Most High." He came to praise Abraham, not to bring him gifts. Melchizedek recognized that God was on Abraham's side and had helped him win the battle and save many who had been prisoners of the enemy. Melchizedek's gifts and blessing may seem like a small token, but its meaning is more important. Abraham is blessed, and he will continue to benefit from it. Abraham understands and is grateful, so he gives most of the spoils to his men who helped him in battle and gives Melchizedek 10% of all the spoils of

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war, the houses, furniture, money, everything he had received. He wanted to honor God by giving the Priest so much, and the men who had helped him fight and win. He would not keep anything for himself.

The next reading is the Responsorial Psalm. (Psalm 110:1,3,4). It is a song or prayer in which the writer is talking directly to God. This is a song of Thanksgiving, a thank you for God's help. God responds.

Responsorial Psalm. (Psalm 110:1,3,4).

R/: You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right side,  
until I make your enemies  
into a footstool for you."

R/: You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Your glorious power  
will be seen on the day  
you begin to rule.  
You will wear the sacred robes  
and shine like the morning sun  
in all of your strength.

R/: You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Lord has made a promise  
that will never be broken;  
"You will be a priest forever,  
Just like Melchizedek."

R/: You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The Second Reading is from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians in which he tries to help the people of Corinth in Greece to understand how Jesus must be remembered. Saint Paul describes what happened on Holy Thursday during the Last Supper. This reading is also very important to us because it demonstrates how these words were added to our Mass. The words have become part of the Eucharistic prayer when the priest blesses the bread and wine and they are turned into the Body and Blood of Jesus. When people eat this bread and drink this wine, they should be reminded of the last supper and remember Jesus. This is called the Eucharist. The term Eucharist comes from the Greek word meaning thanksgiving.

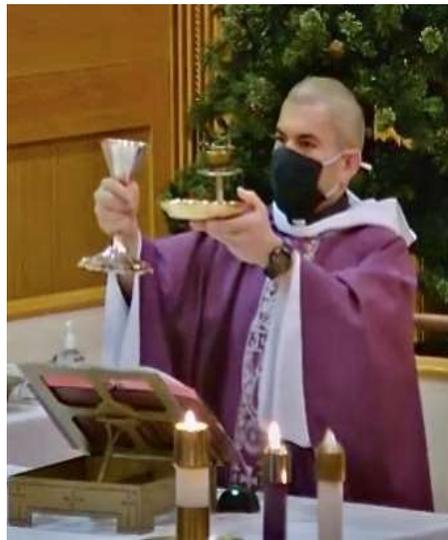
A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

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**Brothers and sisters:**

**I have already told you what the Lord Jesus did  
on the night he was betrayed.  
And it came from the Lord himself.**

**He took some bread in his hands.  
Then after he had given thanks,  
He broke it and said,**



**"This is my body, which is given for you.  
Eat this and remember me."**

**After the meal,  
Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and said,  
"This is my blood,  
And with it God makes his new agreement with you  
Drink this and remember me.**

**The Lord meant: when you eat this bread and drink from this cup,  
you tell about his death until he comes.  
The word of the Lord.**

**What night was the Last supper? On what night was Jesus betrayed?**

**Passover was the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. It occurred on Holy Thursday  
of Easter week.**

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The Holy Gospel today is according to Luke (9:11b-17). It tells us more about one of Jesus' miracles and how he demonstrated the importance of sharing. Just before the beginning of this Gospel we have been told that Jesus and his twelve disciples had gone to a quiet desert area near Batsaida to be alone and talk. However thousands of people came out from the area towns and followed them there.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (9:11b-17)

Jesus welcomed the people and began to speak to the crowd.  
He spoke to them about God's kingdom and healed everyone who was sick.

As it got later in the day, the disciples came to Jesus and said:  
"Send the crowd to the villages and farms around here.  
They need to find a place to stay and something to eat.  
It is like a desert.

Jesus answered. "You give them something to eat."  
[Although Jesus wanted to feed the 5,000 people in the crowd, there was not enough food.]  
But they replied,  
We have only five small loaves of bread and two fish.  
If we are going to feed all these people,  
We will have to go and buy food."

There were about five thousand men in the crowd.  
Jesus said to his disciples,  
"Have the people sit in groups of fifty."

They did this, and all the people sat down.

Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish.  
He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food.  
Then he broke the bread and fish  
And handed them to his disciples to give to the people.

Everyone ate all they wanted.  
What was left over filled twelve baskets.

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**The gospel of the Lord.**

**Jesus took the food, looked to heaven AND BLESSED IT, just as the Priest celebrates the Eucharist during every Mass .**

**It is unlikely that we could perform the same miracle, however, we can share with others. What are some other things we could do ?**

### Questions

- 1. Where do we usually hear these words about the Bread and Wine and why is it important for us in Church today?**
- 2. What night was the Last Supper? On what night was Jesus betrayed?**
- 3. How does Jesus respond to the needs of the crowd of 5,000. What does he do?**
- 4. We cannot perform miracles, so what could we do to help provide the needy with food or other necessary things?**
- 5. How can we best share what we have? Suggest some ways.**
- 6. How can we and our families help to feed the hungry? Suggest some ways.**
- 7. What do humans need to stay alive?**

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8. Where does all this come from?

**Answers**

1. Where do we usually hear these words about the Bread and Wine and why is it important for us in Church today?

During the Mass when the Priest consecrates or blesses the bread and wine they are turned into the Body and Blood of Jesus. When people in church eat this bread and drink this wine, they are reminded of the last Supper and remember Jesus.

2. What night was the Last supper? On what night was Jesus betrayed?

Passover was the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples.  
It occurred on Holy Thursday of Easter week.

3. How does Jesus respond to the needs of the crowd of 5,000. What does he do?

He performs a miracle and provides the food that they need.

4. We cannot perform miracles, so what could we do to help provide the needed food or other necessary things?

Suggest some ways.

5. How can we best share what we have?

Suggest some ways.

6. How can we and our families help to feed the hungry?

Suggest some ways.

7. What do humans need to stay alive?

Food/water/shelter/warmth/security/love

8. Where does all this come from?

From God. With God's help, our families and other people help to provide. God gives us many gifts and provides for our survival.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

**Michaela Quinlan**

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**This is the last Sunday of the Children's Liturgy of the Word for the summer months; we will be taking a recess until after the school year begins. We hope we were able to help you all better understand God's Word through the weekly Mass liturgies from the Bible. Don't forget during these summer months the importance of God's Word and the many benefits of going to Mass. We look forward to presenting you God's Word next fall. Have a good summer, and Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures!**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Mountainside, New Jersey**

**Joseph Calderone  
Michaela Quinlin  
Barbara Oberding  
Judy Wargaski**