



AMDG
CORPUS CHRISTI
YEAR B
3RD JUNE 2018



'This is my body'

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray, so to revere
the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.

Christ is our eternal high priest, forever interceding to the Father, through the Spirit, for us. The readings this Sunday guide us through the unfolding of the wonderful plan to make all people at one with God.

We begin by hearing how the old Covenant was written in tablets of stone and sealed with the sacrifice of animals. Moses was the mediator, and he cast the blood of the sacrifices over the people as a symbol of their communion with God. (*First Reading*)

Our *Psalms* is a thanksgiving song for the saving goodness of the Lord. The verses anticipate both the Passion of Our Lord and our Eucharistic celebrations.

The letter to the Hebrews (*Second Reading*) is a detailed explanation of how Christ's self sacrifice has replaced the old Mosaic covenant and religious practices. Christ freely offered himself up to the Father to atone for our sins, and in allowing his blood to be shed on the cross, Christ became the new living Covenant. In doing so, Jesus undid once and for all any need for human or animal sacrifice to make peace with God.

In Mark's *Gospel* narrative of the Last Supper we witness the beginning of the New Covenant of love. Jesus is the template for the new promise. Christ is both sacrifice and Covenant. What was once written on cold, dead stones is now written in the living hearts of Christians. With the words '*This is my body This is my blood*' we are invited to share in a new communion with God. We become one with Christ in this eternal Covenant of love and are called to share the Risen Christ with all people. With whom am I called to share this Covenant of love?

PSALM 115 (116)

R./ The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise:
I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

As I come to prayer, and to this psalm in particular, how do I approach the Lord?

Do I come joyfully, hesitantly, even fearfully?
Perhaps I enter calmly, easily, familiarly?
I take note of myself as I begin my prayer.

I slow down and try to become meditative.
I ask for the grace to feel deeply the Word of God.

Now I begin to read the psalm, praying it from the heart and lingering on any words or phrases.

I might read it aloud, or even sing the psalm.

Perhaps I change my emphasis on different words.

Why this particular word?

How does it speak to my life today?

Where do I see and feel the Lord's goodness to me?

Maybe this realisation causes me to rejoice or to feel repentant.

Am I deserving of such goodness and how could it ever be repaid?

I think of Jesus praying this psalm as a boy with his mother Mary.

What does it tell me about him?

With whatever time I can give, I let the Lord speak to me about his love for me.

GOSPEL MARK 14: 12–16; 22–26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, “The Master says: ‘Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.” The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

As they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. “Take it,” he said, “this is my body”. Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, “This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.”

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

As I prepare to pray, I ponder on how I feel.

How has my spirit been moved since I last made time to pray?

With an open and willing heart, I bring my concerns and deepest desires before God. I allow myself to slow down and become aware of the present moment, in whatever way suits me best.

I read the Gospel slowly.

Using my imagination, I place myself within the scene.

I may choose to be sitting at table with Jesus and his followers ... or perhaps as an observer looking with a curious and open heart at all that unfolds.

It may help to see Jesus looking deeply into my eyes, saying, ‘*This is my body ... This is my blood*’. What does he mean?

What is Jesus lovingly offering me? How is my life transformed by Jesus?

When I see that Jesus pours himself out for everyone, even those who would betray him, how might I follow his example?

I imagine myself sitting close to Jesus, and share with him all that I have been pondering.

Slowly I finish my prayer, saying *Glory be to the Father ...*

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Now Christ has come, as the high priest
of all the blessings which were to come.

Second Reading

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

Psalm

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven', says
the Lord. 'Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

Gospel Acclamation

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:

Exodus 24: 3-8; Ps. 115 (116); Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16.22-26



Sieger Köder, *This is my Body*



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
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JESUIT
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