

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST-THE CORPUS CHRISTI.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY:

All the readings today remind us of our spiritual nourishment on our spiritual journey.

In our first reading we meet the great king of Salem (present day Jerusalem), Melchizedek, who serves as a priest too. He welcomed Abraham and offered bread and wine in thanksgiving, also blessing Abraham. His priesthood, as mentioned in Hebrews 7:1-10, is the perfect priesthood of Christ which is quoted very well in the Eucharist prayer, which is used in the Liturgy of the Eucharist during our Catholic Mass.

It foreshadows (the Body and Blood of Christ, as the perfect Lamb of God, in the peaceful sacrificial offering of bread and wine in the Eucharist, which no longer requires any blood to be shed as an offering of atonement for sin, as the perfect blood of our Lord that will be shed/is shed/was shed taking away all sin for ever and can never be more perfect ending all necessary blood sacrifice at the altar) the Eucharist.

In the second reading today, St. Paul in the Letter to the Corinthians gives the account of the Institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper (1 Cor 11:23-26).

In our Gospel reading today, Luke presents to us the Multiplication of the five loaves of bread and two fish feeding the starving crowd that followed Jesus. The Last Supper is enacted again here... ***He took bread and fish, raising his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to share. The starving crowd was fed and satisfied.***

Jesus was concerned and is still concerned in caring for us during our journey here on earth. He is always present and with us (Emmanuel), and just as He told us ****Behold I am with you till the end of time.***

He is present to us in all forms:

- **prayer/praying in community - *where two or three gather in my name, I will be in their midst.***
- **priesthood - the person of the priest and more specifically in the Eucharist. When the priest pronounces these words in the Eucharistic Prayer at Consecration: THIS IS MY BODY, THIS IS MY BLOOD, DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**
- **Transubstantiation - The change of the whole substance of bread into the substance of the Body of Christ, and the change of the whole substance of wine into the substance of His precious Blood.**

Christ's Presence in any and all ways does not depend on our mood, our holiness, our faith, or our feelings... **Christ is just present (through His Grace - Emmanuel - God with us).**

Christ gave Himself to all regardless of color, tribe, age, nationality, or social status. He said: ****Take this all of you and eat it.*** This invitation is for all. Are you ready to be part of His Body too (**all of you present** in person as a group, physically)? (With **all of you**, as in all of your existence, as in your entire body and soul being changed just as the bread and wine become Christ's Body and Blood?).

****He assured us whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will remain in me and I in him.*** The invitation is there to remain in Christ. He will always come to our assistance and shoulder our burden, ****come to me all those who are overburdened and I will relieve you (and give you rest).***

Jesus will always give relief in each situation you experience in life. He will always identify with you, address your situation, and give you the kind of bread you need for the journey at each given moment:

*To the crowd that followed him into the desert he gave them physical bread for they needed food to satisfy their hunger.

*To the leper whose body was torn to pieces by leprosy, He gave him the bread of physical healing.

*To Mary Magdalene who was a public sinner and classified as a prostitute He gave her the bread of forgiveness and acceptance.

*To the lonely women at Jacob's well he gave the bread of company and human kindness.

*To the widower of Naim, and to Martha and Mary, who had lost dear ones, He gave them the bread of **Sympathy**, hence even in death Christ will be there for all.

*To the tax collectors the bread of changing and sharing (sharing with others instead of taking from others), in the sharing of His life.

*To the thief at the cross, He gave him the Bread of Reconciliation and peace, proving that it is never too late for salvation at any time or any place.

Please note the fact that not all accepted, or accept the invitation, and bread that Jesus was and is giving...There were those who resisted and still resist the invitation (both yesterday and today).

*The rich young man rejected the bread of Discipleship due to his richness, hence material possessions and property can be a big obstacle.

*Pilate rejected the Bread of Truth (choosing instead to wash his hands of any connection to Christ and the Bread of Truth, trying to avoid any responsibility).

*The residents of Jerusalem rejected the Bread of Peace.

*The Pharisees and scribes refused the Bread of Conversion.

What about you and me today, are we going to accept or refute this great invitation, the invitation for our spiritual journey and our spiritual nourishment?

When we receive the Eucharist at Communion we hear these words from the Eucharistic Minister: **THE BODY OF CHRIST**. Can we say “yes it is” and accept it, and become part of it, with our entire being...our whole body, heart, and soul by saying the word: **Amen?**

This is another way of saying we continue, participate and become part of the Mission of Christ...by proclaiming the very mission He left us...and in bringing it to completion by saying AMEN it means acceptance of the very breath and Bread of Life, the Living Word of God, for our journey to heaven.