

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Father Ed's Homily

THEME: THE HOLY EUCHARIST IS THE TRUE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

Last week, if you recall, we celebrated the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, one of the mysteries of our Catholic faith. Today, we commemorate another great mystery, the Solemnity of the Corpus Christi, who is the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus. Through transubstantiation, the simple bread and wine becomes really and truly the Body and Blood of Christ. In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus continues to share his life with us. Through the celebration of the Corpus Christi, we thank Jesus for sharing his life with us and also honor his Real, True Presence in the Holy Eucharist

In the Gospel reading, St. Mark describes the Last Supper as the Passover meal in the strict sense that took place on the 15th of Nisan. The Church Fathers and many renowned theologians also described the Lord's Supper as a Christian Passover sacrifice and Sacrificial Repast.

St. Mark tells us Jesus had his Last Supper with his disciples in the Upper room, Jerusalem: "While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." Unlike Moses in the first reading, who used the blood of animals to seal the covenant between God and his people, Jesus used his own blood to seal the new covenant between his heavenly Father and us.

The sacred author in the second reading sees our Lord shedding his blood on the Cross as a high priest offering God a sacrifice of atonement similar to that of Moses in the first reading. Christians of Jewish background understood him better because they were familiar with the activities of the Jewish high priest who was in charge of the sacrifice in Jerusalem. The high priest offered sacrifices to God on behalf of his people. Through the redeeming work of Christ, God has entered into a new and eternal covenant with his people.

At the end of the Mass today, we shall have our Eucharistic procession to publicly make our Catholic faith in the True, Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist known to our community of Buckhannon. Our Holy Father Pope Francis said it so well: "The procession with the Blessed Sacrament reminds us that we are called to go out and bring Jesus to others. To go out with enthusiasm, bringing Christ to those we meet in our daily lives." - Pope Francis, Homily on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, 6 June 2021

Let us also make the prayer of Pope Benedict XVI , our personal prayer during this Eucharistic procession: "We entrust these streets, these homes, our daily life, to his goodness. May our streets be streets of Jesus! May our houses be homes for him and with him! May our life every day be penetrated by his presence." Pope Benedict XVI, Homily on Corpus Christi, 26 May 2005.

I am very grateful to the Parish Corpus Christi committee, Liturgy committee, Parish staff, the Mayor and his council of our great city of Buckhannon, the police, and all the parishioners who helped to make it a memorable event again.

God's blessing to you all!