



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (B)

June 6, 2021

Jesus' Amazing Gift

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The beautiful painting, *Lament Over the Dead Christ* by Giovanni Bellini, shows the great care and reverence with which Joseph, Nicodemus, and Mary Magdalene place the body of Christ in the tomb. Yet it is also a symbol of the delicacy and devotion with which we should receive Jesus, who comes down to us on the altar at Mass.

His Body and Blood were shed to create a New Covenant, a new pact of love between God and people. In the Old Testament, God ordered that the blood of sacrificed animals be sprinkled on the

people as a way to seal a pact with him, thus gaining forgiveness of their sins. As if to say, may I be as this calf or goat if I ever fail to obey and live up to your commands.

In the New Covenant, God sent his own Son to be the sacrificial victim to seal our covenant of love with the Father. Before the blood was sprinkled, we consume his Body and Blood in the Eucharist as Jesus commanded: Do this in memory of me. Take this, all of you, and eat. Take this, all of you, and drink. If goat blood could express a covenant in the Old Testament, how much more powerful to unite us with God is the blood of his only begotten Son! How much more powerful to forgive us and communicate God's overpowering love!

Jesus lays down his life sacramentally again in this Mass. Let us receive his Body and Blood with purity and devotion, aware of the amazing gift and the miracle that happens in our presence. +

Sunday Readings

Exodus 24:3-8

[Moses] took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you."

Hebrews 9:11-15

He entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

[Jesus said,] "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."

Christ's Body and Blood were shed to create a New Covenant, a new pact of love between God and people.

A Word from Pope Francis

The Eucharist satisfies our hunger for material things and kindles our desire to serve. It raises us from our comfortable and lazy lifestyle and reminds us that we are not only mouths to be fed, but also his hands, to be used to help feed others.

—Corpus Christi Homily, June 14, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How well do I prepare my heart and mind to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Do I take time to visit him in the tabernacle or at adoration to show him my love and gratitude?

With God, Keep It Real

By Kathleen M. Basi

When my husband and I found out we were expecting our first child, a friend wrote us a note. “Your life is forever changed,” she said. “You will learn a whole new meaning for prayer. I never prayed so much and so hard as I do now that I have children.”

Shew was right, but the way it plays out in my life is quite different from the picture my mind drew when I first read those words. Her comment evoked a mental image of deep breaths, long pauses, and fervent, eyes-closed, knees-to-the-carpet prayers for my children.

That is not how my life looks.

With four children in three schools, volunteer commitments, and working from home, I rarely have time to retreat to a quiet corner and kneel in prayer. Rather, I feel the presence of God as a quiet partner standing by my side, ready to leap in at a moment’s notice. On any given day I toss a variety of mental whispers over my shoulder:

- *What should I tackle next?*
- *Grant me patience!*
- *What is the “natural” consequence to THAT behavior?*
- *Give me the right words.*
- *Help me to be bigger than myself.*
- *That was amazing, God. Just amazing.*



The hallmark of a healthy relationship is authenticity. Our human relationships are not based on one form of communication. Depending on what is going on in our lives, we may interact with our closest friends in person, by phone, or on social media, and each of those encounters has a unique character that enriches us.

The same is true of our relationship with God. I sometimes feel guilty about those prayers I toss over my shoulder. How dare I, a lowly human being, talk

to the Creator of the universe out of the corner of my mouth? Shouldn’t I carve out more time for traditional, more concentrated forms of prayer? Yet in those encounters, God is with me in a way that is wholly authentic for this season of my life.

Too often we try to put prayer—and God with it—in a box. We think of him as out there somewhere rather than looking for his presence close at hand. God wants us to seek him out in all the circumstances of life—not just when the stars align for concentrated, knees-to-the-carpet time. And if that means prayer takes on an unconventional form, that’s OK. As James said in his letter to the tribes of Israel: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8). +

PRAYER

Lord, out of brokenness and weakness you saved my life.

Help me to embrace my weakness so that I can walk in solidarity with the poor and suffering.

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

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WEEKDAY READINGS

June 7–12

Monday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:1–7 / Mt 5:1–12

Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:18–22 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 3:4–11 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, Weekday:
2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Hos 11:1, 3–4, 8c–9 / Eph 3:8–12, 14–19 / Jn 19:31–37

Saturday, The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 2 Cor 5:14–21 / Lk 2:41–51

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