

Holy Thursday Reflection

Mass of the Lord's Supper



Christ celebrated the Jewish Passover with his apostles. He gives them a new commandment that they love one another as he loved them. This love is shown in service. During the Supper Christ washes the feet of his apostles. He institutes the Sacrament of the Eucharist and so places himself forever at the service of the Church. The Mass makes effectively present the events which took place on that night and is the source from which all the other sacraments flow and towards which they all lead. On this evening the old Jewish rite gives way to the new sacrifice given to the Church by Christ.

(John Paul Sunday Missal)

Collect

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life.

Exodus 12: 1 - 8. 11 - 14

When I see the blood I will pass over you and you shall escape the destroying plague

This is my body, broken for you, bringing you wholeness, making you free. Take it and eat it, and when you do, do it in love for me.

This is my blood poured out for you, bringing forgiveness, making you free. Take it and drink it, and when you do, do it in love for me.

Back to me Father soon I shall go. Do not forget me; then you will see I am still with you, and you will know you're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow! You are my branches; I am the tree. If you are faithful, others will know you are alive in me.

Love one another – I have loved you, and I have shown you how to be free; serve one another, and when you do, do it in love for me.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Brothers and Sisters: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you; that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 13: 1-15

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.



A reading from the homily of Melito of Sardis on the Pasch

(Melito was the bishop of Sardis near Smyrna in western Anatolia, and was a great authority in the early Church. He died around 180)

The prophets announced many wonderful things about the Passover mystery which is Christ. To him be glory forever. Amen.

He descended from heaven to earth for the sake of suffering mankind, clothed himself with a human nature through the Virgin Mary, and appearing in our midst as a man with a body capable of suffering, took upon himself the suffering of those who suffered. By his Spirit which could not die, he slew death, the slayer of men.

Led forth like a lamb, slain like a sheep, he ransomed us from the servitude of the world, just as he ransomed Israel from the land of Egypt. He freed us from the slavery of the devil, just as he had freed Israel from the hand of Pharaoh; and he has marked our souls with the signs of his own blood.

He has clothed death with dishonour and he has grieved the devil, just as Moses dishonoured and grieved Pharaoh. He has punished wickedness and taken away the children of injustice, just as Moses punished Egypt and unchilded it. He has brought us from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light, from death to life, from tyranny to an eternal kingdom. He is the Passover of our salvation.

He was present in many so as to insure many things. In Abel he was slain; in Isaac bound; in Jacob a stranger; in Joseph sold; in Moses exposed; in David persecuted; in the prophets dishonoured.

He became incarnate of the Virgin. Not a bone of his was broken on the tree. He was buried in the earth, but he rose from the dead, and was lifted up to the heights of heaven. He is the silent lamb, who was born of Mary the fair ewe. He was seized from the flock and dragged away to slaughter. Towards evening he was sacrificed, and at night he was buried. But he who had no bone broken upon the cross, was not corrupted in the earth, for he rose from the dead and raised up man from the depths of the grave.

“Father, open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters; inspire in us words and actions to comfort those who labour and are burdened. Make us serve them truly, after the example of Christ and at his command. And may your Church stand as a living witness to truth and freedom, to peace and justice, that all people may be raised up to a new hope”

(Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs IV)

Prayer Before Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your death gave life to the world; free us by this your most holy Body and Blood from all our sins and from every evil; keep us always faithful to your commandments, and never let us be parted from you.

After Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is carried to the Altar of Repose.

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives...
They came to a small estate called Gethsemane, and Jesus said
to his disciples, 'Stay here while I pray'



Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated tomorrow night at St Wilfrid's 7.00pm.
There will be watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.30pm. Night Prayer will be
prayed at 10.20pm.

Mass of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated at St Thomas Becket 7.00pm.