

**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**    June 6, 2010  
**(CORPUS CHRISTI)**

(Genesis 14:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 9:11-17)

*“Do this in remembrance of me.”*

The bloodless Sacrifice of bread and wine offered by **Melchizedek**, King of Salem (**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**), and the five thousand feed by Jesus (**Gospel Reading**) point to the Institution of the Eucharist which Paul narrated in his First Letter to the Corinthians (**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**). Paul begins by telling the people of Corinth that the tradition of celebrating the Lord’s Supper is one that goes back to Jesus Christ himself (**1 Corinthians 11:23-25**).

Yes, Jesus gave his precious Body and Blood to us as true food and drink. He made it available to us in the form of Bread and Wine – a bloodless sacrifice like that offered by Melchizedek. This is what the Church is celebrating today, in a special way, in the Feast of the **“Corpus Christi”**.

Brothers and sisters, this Feast therefore, affords us the opportunity to give God collective thanks for Christ’s abiding presence with us which is made visible in the Eucharist. Christ is truly and wholly present with us always in the Eucharist. Do we really believe in his real presence and how do we live out this belief?

Also this Feast gives us an opportunity to reflect and to seek a better understanding of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ and to order our attitude to it accordingly. In the Eucharist Christ provides a visible means of communicating his life to us so that we can be fully alive. As he said, *“Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day”* (**John 6:53-54**). How often do we, faithfully, hunger and thirst for this life-giving Body and Blood of Jesus?

Jesus gave his Body to his followers as food and his Blood as drink in the context of the Passover meal. So he was presenting himself as their Passover Lamb. The Israelites in Egypt had to eat the flesh of the Passover lamb to identify themselves as God’s own people.

They marked their doorposts with its blood as a sign to keep away the *angel of death*. If the blood of an animal on the door post of the homes of the Israelites could save them from the **angel of death**, how much more would the precious Blood of Christ on our lips save us from the devil and from eternal death; hence, the power in the Blood of Christ.

The Eucharist is **true food** and **drink** but at the same time, it is very different from every other food and drink. We transform ordinary food into our own bodies but *the Eucharist transforms us into the Body of Christ*. As **Ludwig Feuerbach** rightly pointed out, *we become what we eat*. If we do not experience the transforming power of the Eucharist, it is probably *not because it is not true Body and Blood of Christ, but because of our*

***rotten faith and unworthiness.*** For as Saint Paul says; “*All who eat and drink in an unworthy manner, without discerning the Lord’s body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died*” (**1 Corinthians 11:29-30**).

Let us as from today approach the Eucharist with a more lively faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharistic species and we shall experience therein God’s saving power and transforming love.

**GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!**