



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi) Sunday 6th June 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Maundy Thursday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

A: He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: This is a difficult feast to celebrate at home, when we are unable to receive the gift that Jesus gives us, of his Body and Blood – and it is now quite a long time since we were able to receive holy Communion. Perhaps today we can offer our prayer in solidarity with all those, past and present, who have been unable to receive this gift – our own forebears in the time when Catholics were not allowed to celebrate Mass in our country, or people today, especially in the developing world, who have no access to Mass, or perhaps do so only every couple of months. The gift of Jesus, while a real, physical gift that we eat and drink, is also a *spiritual* gift – a gift of presence and communion beyond the physical. Let us give thanks for that, as we look forward to receiving his Body and Blood again in the future. We praise our God this Sunday as we say:

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take

away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover. And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he

gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.' After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

The Eucharist is not a thing – it is a person. Jesus gives himself to us, not as an idea or concept, not as a symbol or memory, but as a living reality in our here and now. This faith of the Church in the "real presence" of Jesus is what we celebrate today. But as we do so far from our church buildings, unable to receive holy communion, it challenges us to think a little more broadly about that presence. Our priests are still celebrating Mass every day, and this is true throughout the whole world. Just imagine, for a moment, all those Masses; imagine them connected up, like a network, each Mass a point where the Body and Blood of Jesus are truly present. Each Mass is the presence of the same Lord Jesus, who thus spreads his presence across the whole world. We may not be at church, we may not be receiving holy communion, but the "net" that is the real presence of Jesus is spreading over us even now, from altar to altar throughout the world.

For our Younger Friends

One of the most important moments in our lives when we are growing up is our First Holy Communion. Sadly, some of our young friends are still waiting for this – but it will happen, as soon as we are able to gather together in

Church! The reason First Holy Communion is so important is because we meet Jesus in a new way: we become his friends at the Last Supper, and hear Jesus say "This is my Body" – this is ME, coming to stay with you! If you have already made your First Communion, say a thank you prayer today, and perhaps dig out some souvenirs or memories! If you are still waiting for your First Communion, say a prayer for patience – the day will come when Jesus comes to you!

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist shows how he wants to be close to us. Let us offer our prayers through him now.

L: Let us pray for the family of the Church, united throughout the world by the one body of Christ we share. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for our children still waiting for their First Holy Communion, that they may have patience and hope. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for all our parishioners, that those still away from church may deepen their faith and reverence for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace, whose signs are to be seen in mystery, in the bread and wine offered at Mass. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, Jesus your Son offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity. Jesus showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already

there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

A: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

L: How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me? The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

A: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

L: O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

A: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

L: A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the Lord's name. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people.

A: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by the mystery of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!

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