

A Short Teaching on Corpus Christi
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Readings: EX 24:3-8; PS 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18; HEB 9:11-15; JN 6:51; MK 14:12-16, 22-26

The Church today focuses on the intimate covenantal aspect of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Exodus account of the ratification of the Mosaic Covenant unites together the people with blood sprinkled upon the people. The reading of the Law, sacrifice of young bulls, together with the acclamation of the people set the stage for the sprinkling of the blood upon the people.

There were two sacrifices - Holocaust and Peace Offering where the flesh is eaten.

There is an intimate physicality to the sacrifice. The flesh is eaten by the priests and the blood is sprinkled on the people all in reference to the offering before Gd and the vow of obedience to the Law (Word – Exodus here uses Word for Law).

This scene gains the fullness of Gd's revelation in the person of Jesus Christ. And, here too, it has an intimate physicality to the sacrifice. The fullness comes in three ways:

What is sacrificed – the perfect Holocaust and perfect Peace Offering – Jesus, Son of Man.

What is exchanged – the peace of Shekinah (Gd dwelling within, not simply among).

How is it transmitted - in the Holy Body and Holy Blood starting from similar earthly elements as used in Exodus 24 but now divinized to be Jesus himself. Bread and wine and water are now transubstantiated. Eucharist – thanksgiving.

Now instead of priest only eating, all eat. Now instead of an exterior sprinkling, a drinking.

This is not merely symbolic. It is actual in-taking of the Divine Son into your person by use of the same physical world we live in. Gd provides himself by coming to us (Shekinah). This is also prefigured in Ezekiel 3:1-11. (Scroll eaten).

The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." (CCC, 1324, 1326).

Learn to savor how good the LORD is; happy are those who take refuge in him. Psalms 34:9.

Savor means taste good food or drink.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry)