

Rectoría San Juan de Dios
The Solemnity of Body and Blood of Christ-Cycle A
Dt 8, 2-3.14-16; Psalm 147; 1 Cor 10, 16-17; Jn 6, 51-58
Fr Dante Gabriel Jiménez Muñoz Ledo

Let Us Live Forever

The feast of Corpus Christi allows us to proclaim our faith in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Each year we reach this awareness fully, drawing close to the Eucharistic mystery with a distinct reflection. In this liturgical cycle, following the Evangelist John, we are filled with hope, believing that thanks to the Body and Blood of Christ, we will live forever.

The glorified Jesus is the new manna that not only feeds, but also gives life. The new norm of this life does not come from an external code (law), but from identification with Jesus and His offering up of His life. He is not an exterior model to imitate, but an internalized reality.

At the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, Jesus anticipated His sacrifice on the Cross, giving Himself as food so that we would have a new and eternal life. For the love of each human person, represented by His disciples, He gave up His life. This love is stronger than evil, violence, and death. For that reason, He gives Himself as food in the consecrated bread and wine, desiring that we who believe in Him will reach the fullness of life that He has with His Father and with the Spirit. As we eat it, at each Eucharist, we are assimilated into Him. It is He who assimilates us into Himself and involves us in His plan of redemption.

But how do we enter into this mystery?

1-Let us understand about hungers.

In the first reading, we find the manna of the desert, a food for this life, but not for the supernatural life. The people were more physically hungry than hungry for God. We today want to perceive our hungers for life in God, for communion with Him, and for eternity.

To know about hungers means to touch upon our greatest material and spiritual necessities. It means remembering our human miseries and the times that we have been fed by God.

Let us exercise our memory. Bring to mind your most profound hungers and the way in which God is satisfying those hungers for you.

2-Let us form a single body.

Jesus takes leave of His friends at the Last Supper yet remains with them in the sacred gifts so that they can maintain perfect unity.

St Paul reminds us of this—that the Eucharistic bread that we break unites us to Christ by way of His Body, and then we are a single body.

Each Sunday *we receive communion*; this means that we are in communion with the life of Jesus and, through Him, in communion with the Unity and Trinity of love that is God. But also, we enter into communion with others for whom Christ wants the gift of our own person.

3-Let us be assimilated into Jesus.

In Jesus, God is made concrete, real. Jesus as man is the place where God makes Himself present and delivers Himself as gift to the world.

We are called *to eat and drink* so as to be assimilated into Jesus. This is not something magical or a spiritual illusion; on the contrary, it is as real as anything can be. Let us eat and drink the food that guarantees that we will have eternal life.

Listening to the Gospel of St John, we understand perfectly that the Eucharistic gifts are our *viaticum* in this life, while we are on the road toward our *exodus*, our exit from this world, until we reach the fullness of life and communion with God.