



# **LIVING THE GOSPEL**

## **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. (Corpus Christi) June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025**

---

**Theme: "Give them some food yourselves."**

### **Gathering Prayer**

**All:** 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. Amen.

### **Exploring the Word**

#### **Gospel Reading: Luke 9: 11-17**

<sup>11</sup> He made them welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing. <sup>12</sup> It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here'.

<sup>13</sup> He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people' <sup>14</sup> For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty'. <sup>15</sup> They did so and made them all sit down.

<sup>16</sup> Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. <sup>17</sup> They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

### **Gospel Focus**

Two weeks ago, we celebrated Pentecost, remembering that God remains with us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. This week, we remember another way God remains with us-in the Eucharist, Where Jesus' very body and blood are present. The gospel chosen for this feast could have been the institution narrative, but instead we have a moment from earlier in Jesus' life that foreshadows the Eucharist. In this episode, Jesus follows the same "take, bless, break and give" pattern that he will follow in the Last Supper and that we continue to follow at every Mass. In it, all those present find their fill, and God's superabundance assures there is much more food than what the gathered people needed.

## **Gospel Reflection**

This time of year is the “wedding season,” as young lovers often choose the spring or early summer to celebrate sacramentally their commitment to each other. In an act of profound self-gift, they entrust themselves, body, mind, and heart, to one another in loving union. There is another way in which bodies are given for others; each mother carries her child within her womb for nine months, sharing her own body and blood for the nourishment of the new life within.

Within the body of believers, church members also give of themselves, body, mind and spirit, for one another and for the life of the world. In each of the ways on which the whole self is given in love, Jesus’ act of self-gift lives on.

In the world of Jesus, the expression “body and blood” was a way of speaking of the whole person. Today we speak of “body, mind, and spirit” when referring to the whole self. This feast day celebrates the gift of Christ, who entrusted his entire self to us, in his life and ministry but especially in his self-surrender in death. In the ancient formula handed on to Paul and then to us, which we repeat at Eucharist, we are invited to receive the body and blood of Christ that is for us and to “do this in remembrance” of him. “Do this” means not only to recall his words and actions at Eucharist but also to emulate his whole manner of life. Moreover, “remembrance” is not simply to call to mind but to make present again, Christ’s entrusting of himself to us in love.

In the gospel, we see how easy it is to miss the moment when such self-gift is asked of us. The Twelve and the crowd have been with Jesus all day as he has poured out himself in teaching about God’s realm and has restored the bodies of those who needed healing. With the day ending, the people’s physical needs come to the fore. The Twelve suggest to Jesus that he send the crowd into surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and provisions. Such a move, would indeed give the hosts in the villages the opportunity to give of themselves in eucharistic hospitality.

Instead, Jesus directs The Twelve to their own resources, he takes the five loaves and two fish, looks up to heaven, blesses, breaks, and gives them to the disciples to set before the crowd. There is plenty for all, more than enough. The miracle is a summons to the giving of our whole selves, body, mind, and spirit, to the One who is the Source of all nourishment so that we may be broken open in love for the life of the world.

Such self-giving is not possible on our own. It is in the gathered assembly of believers, where we remember Christ’s act in sacramental ritual, that we gain strength and give courage to one another to entrust ourselves to this kind of love.

## **Old/New Testament and CCC links**

### **First Reading - Genesis 14:18-20**

In those days, <sup>18</sup> Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, and being a priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup> he blessed Abram with these words: “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand.”

<sup>20</sup> Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

### **Responsorial Reading - Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9**

***R: You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek. (R)***

The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand  
till I make your enemies your footstool.” **(R)**

The scepter of your power the Lord will  
stretch forth from Zion: "Rule in the midst of your enemies." **(R)**

"Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor;  
before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you." **(R)**

The Lord has sworn, and he will not repent:  
"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." **(R)**

## **Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> Brothers and sisters: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,  
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and, after he had  
given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>25</sup> In the same way also 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." <sup>26</sup> For as often as  
you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

### **Sharing and Discussion**

1. What does Jesus' command, "Give them some food yourselves," reveal about your role as disciples in the Church today?
2. But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish.' Do you focus more on what you lack than on what God can do with what you have?
3. We are made of body and soul, and God cares for and nourishes both of these. How do you find your physical health affecting your spiritual well-being and vice-versa?

### **Closing Prayer**

**All:** O God, you call us to participate in the sacrament that draws us into one with your Son. Christ Jesus, and with all who are gathered here. May we increase in our love for the Eucharist and so become more united as Christ's body. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

**All:** Amen.