

Homily for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ  
June 11, 2020  
By Nick Thompson

On this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi we have among us first communicants. Young in years, in heart, in soul on the cusp of lost innocence newly reconciled. Soon they will be challenged by their families, by their friends, their school, their country, their world in what is now a budding faith in God. They are much like the flowers of spring budding forth to observe the beauty of the world. Soon they shall fall from the bush and become seed for plants to come. If conditions are suitable, they will take seed and in time become the blooms of springs to come. We the body of Christ are their soil fed by Eucharist past we remember, sometimes faintly, our own blooming in faith. We parents, we Christians are the primary providers of the good soil of faith to these young blooms and so we must teach them of the Eucharist, teach them of reconciliation, teach them of the Holy Spirit, teach them of the faith. Consider now this morning's sequence that each of us young and old may once again become a spring flower in the Kingdom of heaven.

Why do we study Scripture our children ask? From the lips of God, the lips of the Son, the lips of Jesus Christ come the words of inheritance passed down to His body the church. "I am the living bread that comes down from heaven whoever eats this bread will live forever and this bread that I give is my flesh for the life of the world." Just as we will never be able to thank our parents for the gift of life so we shall never be able to thank Jesus the Word of God enough for the gift of his living flesh at the Last Supper. The Eucharist, gift from God, foreshadowed by the grain offerings of Able, by the forty-year gift of manna in the

dessert to the chosen people, a food never before seen, a promise from heaven of the sweetest food any will ever taste, a promise fulfilled at the Last Supper. We have among us those who will receive the sweetest food any will ever taste.

Why do we sing, our children ask? So that our hearts too burst forth in praise just as Christ's heart was pierced by a lance and burst forth water and blood, poured out love upon all who believe so we proclaim our love in song. The new sacrifice of our hearts, to replace the ancient sacrifice of the blood of animals, become the good works of our minds and hands for neighbor and enemy alike. The new oblation, the blood of God, the new river of grace flowing by the power of the Holy Spirit flowing throughout the world.

Why do we get Baptized, ask our children? Christ our light who provides us a new Paschal candle each year to light the way of those born through their mothers into the body of Christ, to light the way of the those newly born through death into the Kingdom of heaven, has erased the gloom of the sin of Adam through the font of life. We participate at every Mass in remembrance of Jesus destroying original sin making available to us once again the garden of Adam and Eve our first parents. With the Eucharist then we make holy through our remembrance of his actions an inheritance a blessing passed on to all generations by Jesus' single everlasting sacrifice.

Why do we confess, our children ask? We are not God. Like the people in the desert we are tested by life, by death. We are slaves to our bodily weaknesses but Jesus who became flesh restores the innocence of our Baptisms through the gift of forgiveness, provides an everlasting means of reconciliation even when our hearts seem to become parched and waterless ground Jesus can restore us to a state of grace restore us to his body. Eucharist and Reconciliation

are the right and left arms of Christ through which he embraces our souls repairing our broken hearts.

Why do we receive Communion, our children ask? The cup of blessing we bless is a participation in the blood of Christ. The bread we break is a participation in the body of Christ. "Because the loaf of bread is one we, though many, are one body for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread and wine are changed in substance through a mystery, a miracle of Jesus into his true body, his true blood. This we believe based on our faith in the Word of God nothing else. Though these are only visible as signs, yet our hearts believe because we are a people of faith in Jesus' living Word. Jesus is physically and spiritually present in each and every crumb, each and every drop. Because Jesus is God the entire world of believers by their belief in faith become one body, one blood in Christ. Jesus says, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them on the last day." Our belief, our faith, how we live our lives become our judgement in this one body, to participate without belief, without faith is a condemnation a denial of faith, a denial of salvation.

Remember young first communicates and old alike the Word of Jesus the Christ, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me."