

2020 April 09

Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Readings:

First: Exodus 12.1-8, 11-14, "Your lamb shall be without blemish." (5a)

Psalm 116, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones." (15)

Second: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26, "This is my Body that is for you." (24b)

Gospel: John 13.1-15, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." (8b)

Body that was broken

This day and this meal were much awaited and desired by Jesus. In the gospels this is the most prominent event Jesus planned in advance and meticulously executed. It was so because this day's events never ends, is continued till the end of time and would remain as the memorial of Jesus Christ on earth, not a lifeless monument but a living sacrament to be celebrated every time when the followers of Jesus gather together in his name!

Secondly, this was the night Jesus ordained and appointed his disciples as priests to celebrate this event perpetually till the end of time as the memorial of his supreme sacrifice and as the sharing of this banquet of his body and blood. Jesus had preparations remote and immediate for this great event. The immediate preparation was the physical purification and sanctification of the disciples visibly expressed and done in stooping down and washing of the feet of the disciples.

He not only washed their feet but cleansed their soul by his humility and by becoming a servant to them. It was not a show, not just an exemplification, but was a real act of love and forgiveness. Through this cleansing Jesus teaches us the need to be clean to approach these mysteries on a daily basis. This cleanliness cannot be achieved by our efforts alone. Jesus himself has to do it every time we approach this mystery. That is the importance of our praying, "*Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my souls shall be healed.*" (Luke 7.6-7) Whatever preparations we make, we cannot be worthy, and we will not be clean to receive Jesus into our heart. It is the infinite mercy of Jesus that washes us clean and prepares us for him to enter into us. By washing the feet of the disciples Jesus proved this reality. It is his work, not ours!

Hence all of us need to humble ourselves before him so that he cleanses us and comes to us. It was after this act of cleansing that Jesus established the Eucharist and ordained the disciples as priests for doing it in perpetuity. We must pray to Jesus earnestly to purify us, and most certainly we must believe that Jesus does forgive us in response to our humility, and by his own will he comes into us in his Body and Blood. Let us remember these as per the wish of Jesus, "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" (Luke 22.19b)

Fr. George

We have the Celebration of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday live on face book,

[facebook.com/stpaulspei](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulspei)

Also available on our website, www.stpaulsparish.ca

Fr. George

8th April 2010.