

## **Holy Thursday**

First Reading: Exo 12:1-8,11-14;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 11: 23-26;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 116: 12-13, 15-16ab, 17-18;

Gospel Reading: John13: 1-15

**Theme:** Celebrate, Love, and Serve

The best of rapport and unity are often fostered during meals. People often bond when they eat together. Jesus Christ gave out was vital to His life during a meal, the Passover Meal. The Passover Meal recalled and celebrated the liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery. Jesus Christ offered a new form of liberation that will endure as an everlasting covenant. He instituted what would last for ages (the sacramental priesthood) for the nourishment of humanity during a meal. This was a New Covenant that surpasses the Old Covenant. Yet it was during and immediately after the Last Supper that He was betrayed.

Jesus Christ knew that His closest friends and companion would fail and deny Him on that very night, yet He was not resentful. He did what was considered as the work of slaves; namely, washing smelly feet and wiping them dry. This was an act of unconditionally, love, compassion, and humble service. He did not have to do. He did it freely. Jesus Christ set a model of service for all ages.

Jesus Christ already gave himself when He gave up His body and blood as food and drink. No greater love can a person demonstrate than to give up his/her very source of life - body and blood. In essence, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was already accomplished at the Last Supper. The sacrifice was accomplished because Jesus gave up the very source of His vitality. The love of Jesus Christ that has been poured into our lives challenges our thoughts, intentions, hearts, and actions.

--Fr. Sev Kupo