



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

June 6, 2021

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Lectionary: 168

Gospel Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Spiritual Reflection: Fr. Ronald Rolheiser writes: "Christians have always seen this same dynamic in the Eucharist: at one level, the priest who stands at the altar at a Eucharist and offers bread and wine to God is, in essence, both Abraham offering Isaac on the altar and the archetypal farmer offering back to God the first fruits of his harvest. And God, in graciousness as always, is stopping the sacrifice and giving the gifts back to us in a deeper way, even as our hearts are being changed by doing this."

Spiritual Question:

1. What do you think that the disciples felt when everything was prepared for them?
2. How did celebrating the Passover help unite the disciples?
3. How did celebrating the Passover help unite the participants with Jesus?
4. How does going to Mass unite us to each other?
5. How does going to Mass unite us to God?