



Liturgy Cycle C

The Body And Blood Of Christ

The Banquet Of The People Of God

Introduction

We don't always appreciate the greatness of what we do when we celebrate the Eucharist. We don't appreciate our closeness to Christ, our Saviour and Friend, and our closeness to one another, as brothers and sisters in his name.

First Reading (Genesis 14: 18-20)

A pagan priest-king by the name of Melchizedek gives bread and wine to Abraham and makes a profession of faith in the one true God. In Christian tradition this bread and wine were taken to prefigure the Eucharist.

Second Reading (1 Cor 11: 23-26)

When we celebrate the Eucharist we do not merely make present Christ's Body and Blood, but we re-enact the death by which he saved us.

Gospel (Luke 9: 11-17)

Jesus provides an extraordinary meal for the people who followed him to a lonely place. In the Eucharist the Church continues the mission of Christ to teach, heal and nourish the People of God.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Jesus nourished those people who followed him into the desert. In the Eucharist he nourishes all those who follow him in their lives.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church: that the Eucharist may form us into a community of love. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That the well-off countries may share with the poor countries, so that none of God's children will go hungry. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That all who are lonely may find comfort; that all who are lost may find guidance. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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That we who share in the one bread of life may be filled by the Christ like love and put aside all selfish ways. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

**On the night before he died,
as he shared himself under the form of bread and wine
with his disciples, Jesus said to them:
'Do this in memory of me.'**

**Everybody loves to be remembered.
To be forgotten is to be treated as if we never existed.
If we want to be remembered
we have a duty also to remember.
But there is an art in remembering.
Memory is a powerful thing.
Wrongly used, it can bring death rather than life.**

**The art of remembering consists in remembering what will help
and forgetting what will hinder.
Past failures remembered will warn us against repeating them.
Past victories remembered will spur us on to even greater ones.**

**Memory keeps the past alive.
It is a form of immortality.
Those we remember never die.
They continue to walk and talk with us.**

**Memory is the only paradise
from which we cannot be driven.**