

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

He fed them with the finest wheat  
and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our  
prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament  
have left us a memorial of your Passion,  
grant us, we pray,  
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your  
Body and Blood  
that we may always experience in ourselves  
the fruits of your redemption.

**FIRST READING**

Ex 24:3-8

A reading from the book of Exodus.  
Moses went and told the people all  
the commands of the Lord and all the  
ordinances. In answer, all the people said  
with one voice, "We will observe all the  
commands that the Lord has decreed."  
Moses put all the commands of the Lord into  
writing, and early next morning he built an  
altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve  
standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel.  
Then he directed certain young Israelites to  
offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks  
to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of  
the blood Moses took up and put into basins,  
the other half he cast on the altar. And taking  
the Book of the Covenant he read it to the  
listening people, and they said, "We will  
observe all that the Lord has decreed; we  
will obey." Then Moses took the blood and  
cast it towards the people. "This", he said "is  
the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has  
made with you, containing all these rules."  
The word of the Lord.

**RESP. PSALM**

Ps 115

Response:

**The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.**  
or  
**Alleluia!**

- How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
- O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds. (R.)

- A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name.  
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Heb 9:11-15

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.  
Now Christ has come, as the high priest of  
all the blessings which were to come. He has  
passed through the greater, the more perfect  
tent, which is better than one made by men's  
hands because it is not of this created order;  
and he has entered the sanctuary once and  
for all, taking with him not the blood of  
goats and bull calves, but his own blood,  
having won an eternal redemption for us.  
The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes  
of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have  
incurred defilement and they restore the  
holiness of their outward lives; how much  
more effectively the blood of Christ, who  
offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to  
God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our  
inner self from dead actions so that we do  
our service to the living God.  
He brings a new covenant, as the mediator,  
only so that the people who were called to an  
eternal inheritance may actually receive what  
was promised: his death took place to cancel  
the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.  
The word of the Lord.

**SEQUENCE (shorter form)**

Behold the bread of angels, sent  
For pilgrims in their banishment,  
The bread for God's true children meant,  
That may not unto dogs be given:  
Oft in the olden types foreshadowed;  
In Isaac on the altar bowed,  
And in the ancient paschal food,  
And in the manna sent from heaven.  
Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,  
Still show to us thy mercy sign;  
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;  
So may we see thy glories shine  
In fields of immortality;  
O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,  
Our present food, our future rest,  
Come make us each thy chosen guest,  
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest  
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the living bread which has come down  
from heaven,  
says the Lord.**  
**Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.**  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mk 14:12-16.22-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread,  
when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his  
disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want  
us to go and make the preparations for you  
to eat the passover?" So he sent two of his  
disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city  
and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher  
of water. Follow him, and say to the owner  
of the house which he enters, "The Master  
says: Where is my dining room in which I can  
eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will  
show you a large upper room furnished with  
couches, all prepared. Make the preparations  
for us there." The disciples set out and went

to the city and found everything as he had  
told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread,  
and when he had said the blessing he broke  
it and gave it to them. "Take it," he said "this  
is my body." Then he took a cup, and when  
he had returned thanks he gave it to them,  
and all drank from it, and he said to them,  
"This is my blood, the blood of the covenant,  
which is to be poured out for many. I tell  
you solemnly, I shall not drink any more  
wine until the day I drink the new wine in the  
kingdom of God."

After psalms had been sung they left for the  
Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**  
**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.**  
**God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.**  
**For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**  
**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.**  
**He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**  
**I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.**  
**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of  
the dead and the life of the world to come.**  
**Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray,  
the gifts of unity and peace,  
whose signs are to be seen in mystery  
in the offerings we here present.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

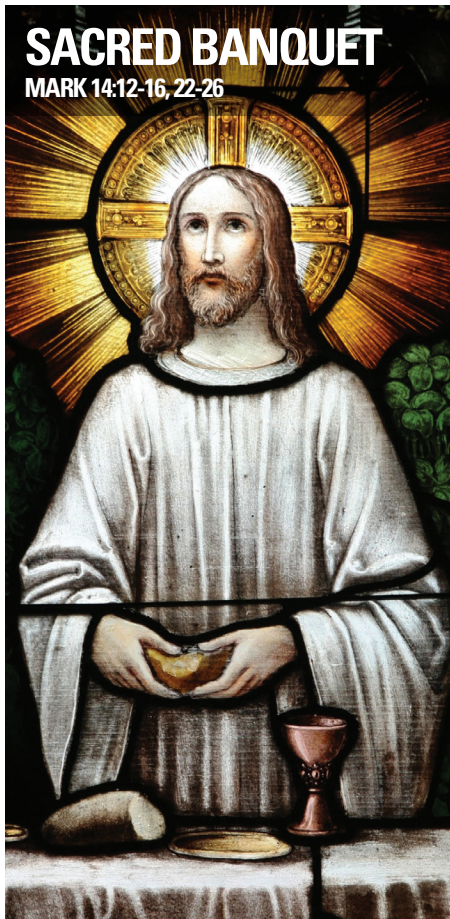
Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that we may delight for all eternity  
in that share in your divine life,  
which is foreshadowed in the present age  
by our reception of your precious Body and  
Blood.

# 7 JUNE 2015 Sunday Message

THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

## THE WORD

Psalter Week 2



### SACRED BANQUET

MARK 14:12-16, 22-26

The reading falls into two parts – preparations for the Passover meal and the meal itself. During the meal Jesus gives the gift of his body and blood.

Preparations for Passover were elaborate. Special food had to be purchased, a lamb had to be brought to the temple and sacrificed during the afternoon, and every trace of leaven had to be removed from the house where the meal was eaten. The place Jesus chose for the meal was probably a dining room belonging to a friend whose servant the disciples would meet while he was fetching water.

The foods eaten at the Passover meal recalled the Israelites escape from Egypt. The bread was flat, dry and unleavened because there was no time to let it rise in the haste to flee. The Passover rite still describes it as 'the bread of affliction, the poor bread our ancestors ate.' Wine was drunk at Passover, indicating that this was a meal of celebration.

Jesus adds something new to this traditional holy meal. His disciples will celebrate it in his memory, not just once a year, but whenever they come together. The broken bread and poured wine are signs of his life, given in love on the cross. His final words are a vow and promise that what has begun at the table will be accomplished in the kingdom of God. The Passover traditionally ends with psalms of praise (the Great Hallel). A new episode opens as they leave the supper room to begin a time of anguished prayer on the Mount of Olives. ■

## REFLECT

From the earliest days of the Church, the Blessed Sacrament was reserved for the communion of the sick. For several hundred years, this was done with very little outward display. By the middle ages, it began to receive more attention. The Blessed Sacrament was often kept in a little tower in the sanctuary of the church called 'the Sacrament Tower.' When it was brought to the sick, people wanted to accompany Jesus as he passed through their streets of their town on his way to the sick bed. These were the first 'Eucharistic processions' that are a feature of the celebration of today's feast. Confraternities were formed to ensure there were volunteers to accompany the priest and to provide candles for the procession.

St Juliana of Liege lived in Belgium in the twelfth century. She was the first person to suggest that a day be devoted to honouring the mystery of the Blessed Sacrament. It was first celebrated in Liege in 1246. It would be another twenty years before it became a feast for the whole church.

The greatest theologian of the time, St Thomas Aquinas, was commissioned to compose the Mass and Office for the feast. The prayers recall many aspects of the Eucharist – as food for the journey of life, the abiding presence, the memorial of the passion and death of Jesus, our share in his sacrifice. ■

## LEARN

The word Eucharist means 'thanksgiving,' as in this celebration we thank God for all the gifts of his creation and especially for the gift of life through Jesus his Son.

Celebrating the Eucharist is the work of the whole community, not of the priest alone

A 'visit to the Blessed Sacrament' is a traditional Catholic devotion of great value.

## PRAY

Pray for the people in our parish who care for the church and the altar, keeping it clean and adorning it with flowers.

## DO

Check if your elderly or housebound relatives are on the parish's communion list so that communion can be brought to them regularly.



## SAY

'O sacred banquet! Here Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is recalled, our mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.'