

Bible Study Corpus Christi Sunday, June 6, 2010 Year C

St. Peter Claver
Parish

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BLESS, BREAK, AND GIVE

Reading I: Genesis 14:18-20

This incident reported in this first reading for the Feast of Corpus Christi is to illuminate the offering of bread and wine to Abraham by *Melchisedek*. Abraham was returning victoriously from a battle against four invading kings from the east who raided and sacked eastern Canaan. The King of this city called Salem; the precursor of Jerusalem met him, congratulated him and offered him bread and wine. The bread and wine could have been part of a sacrifice that sealed an alliance between the Abraham and the King of Salem, *Melchisedek*. (Ex. 24:11)

Discussion Question: What are the properties of bread and wine and their benefits to



“The Eucharist is God’s kiss.” Andre Dubos, the Cajun novelist

the body when consumed? Why do you think Melchizedek chose them for offerings? Why do you think Jesus chose them? Why not bread and fish? Compare Jn. 21: 1-14. In what ways does Melchizedek prefigure Jesus?

Psalm 110:4; 3, Hebrews 7 read a messianic meaning in to the bread and wine offered by Malchisedec. **Clement of Alexandria** saw it as a prototype of the Eucharist. Others came to the same conclusion and eventually this offering by Maschisedec found its place in the Canon of the Mass.

MELCHIZEDEK

MELCHIZEDEK (mel-kiz'e-dek), (Gen 14:18 ff; Ps 110:4); *Melchisedek* (Heb 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:1, 10-11, 15, 17)): The name is explained in Heb 7:2 as "king of righteousness,"

Biblical scholars offer the following conclusions about Melchizedek: (1) There was a tradition in Jerusalem of Melchizedek, a king in pre-Israelite times, who was also priest to °El °Elyon. This is the origin of Gen 14:18 ff, where °El °Elyon is identified with Yahweh. (2) Ps 110 makes use of this tradition and the Psalmist's king is regarded **as Melchizedek's successor.** (3) **The Epistle** to the Hebrews makes use of (a) Ps 110, which is taken to be a prophecy of Christ, (b) of Gen 14:18 ff, and (c) of oral tradition which was not found in the Old Testament. (From International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Database Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

Reading II: 1 Cor. 11:23-26

ST. PAUL, preached the doctrine of the Holy Eucharist to the Corinthians. The custom of the early Church was to imitate the Last Supper, our Lords last meal with the disciples. These early Christians celebrated what was called the Agape Meal of love and unity after which they received the Holy Eucharist. Some abuses, such as drinking excessively, selfishness, developed during and connected with the meal. Paul here corrects them. Discussion Questions: What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Do this in remembrance of me"? To what does "this" refer? Could it mean more than one thing? Explain "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes."

Gospel: Luke 9:11b-17

Jesus had been preaching for months in the district around Lake Genesareth. He had become famous because of his miracles. Many followed him, some especially to receive favors. The crowd and some of his disciples wanted to make him King. (See Jn. 6:45) In earliest Christianity Jesus was interpreted as the prophet of the end time, repeating Moses' gift of the manna (a theme that comes out most strongly in the Johannine discourse following this episode) and the miraculous multiplication of loaves by Elisha ([2 Kings 4:42-44](#)).

Discussion question: These words are used by Jesus in the Gospel; "sit down . . . taking . . . loaves . . . blessed . . . broke . . . gave . . . ate." Why are these words associated with the Eucharist? How are these associated with your life as a Catholic Christian? How are these words used in your effort to proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus until he comes?

Jesus and the crowd were in an uninhabited region yet Jesus decides to feed them. Do you see a connection with the first reading?

The disciples express limitations in their ability to feed the people. Yet they had witnessed the miracles that Jesus had performed. If you were there with Jesus as one of the apostles – one chosen to follow him- how would you have responded?

Jesus' command is clear: we are to feed others. We give others not from the "deserted place" of our own hearts but from the "leftover fragments" of God's blessings. How do you obey this command of Jesus, to "Feed others?"



PRAY ABOUT IT !

Monday

Give someone a peace offering.

Tuesday

Attend mass and receive the Eucharist.

Wednesday

Today "Proclaim the Lord's Death" to someone.

Thursday

Spend time alone before the Blessed Sacrament.

Friday

How have you been blessed, broken and how have you given yourself to God's service?

THE TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC. 1378 *Worship of the Eucharist.* In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord. "The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession."

CCC 1381 "That in this sacrament are the true Body of Christ and his true Blood is something that 'cannot be apprehended by the senses,' says St. Thomas, 'but *only by faith*, which relies on divine authority.' For this reason, in a commentary on *Luke 22:19* ('This is my body which is given for you. '), St. Cyril says: 'Do not doubt whether this is true, but rather receive the words of the Savior in faith, for since he is the truth, he cannot lie.'"

Come join us

This study of God's Word is prepared by Deacon Terrel J. Broussard and is offered at St. Peter Claver Parish. The focus of the study is daily preparation for receiving the Eucharist. The Bible Study Group meets every Monday evening at 6:00 PM in the Ujima Center.