

June 19, 2022  
Corpus Christi C  
Bulletin Reflection

Fr. Ed Smith

Genesis 14:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 9:11b-17

Why do we come to Mass week after week? What happens here that doesn't occur at home, in nature, being with family or friends? The answer is: The Eucharist. We come to Mass time after time to celebrate and receive the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. And this weekend the Church calls us to recall what a gift of love this is as we gather for the feast of Corpus Christi. And our readings give us much to reflect on as we celebrate this great day. In the Old Testament, Mechizedek brought out bread and wine. In the Gospel, the disciples brought out five loaves and two fish. In the Letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded that Jesus brought out bread and wine on the night He was betrayed. All these important events refer, in one way or another, to the Eucharist. Mechizedek, king of Salem, prefigures the celebration of the Eucharist through bread and wine which are blessed by God. In the Gospel of St. Luke, Jesus feeds a great crowd with the bread [loaves] and fishes that were blessed by Him. Then, St. Paul recounts for the early Christians what occurred at the Last Supper, as Jesus transformed bread and wine into His Body and Blood, which would be shared by God's people, proclaiming the death of the Lord until He comes again in glory. This is quite a lot of scripture to absorb. But it is worth it. Consider how beautiful it is that Jesus gives Himself as food, so that we might be nourished and strengthened as we share a meal. He knows that life can be difficult, so He provides us with the ultimate gift: Himself. Because of this gift we can be people of hope, no matter what life throws at us. This is reason that the central act of worship for Catholics is the celebration of the Eucharist. We gather as the people of God; we listen to the words of scripture; we pray for and with one another; we recall the actions and words of Jesus at the Last Supper; we have the opportunity to share in Christ's holy meal; and through it all we can be transformed into people of peace, purpose and joy. What a gift this is! And only God could make this happen out of such simple gifts like bread and wine. A blessed feast of Corpus Christi to all of you!