

# The Living Word

**The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year B**

**6 June 2021**

## First Reading Ex 24:3-8

*This is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you.*

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 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.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R. v.13**

*(R.) I will take the cup of salvation,  
and call on the name of the Lord.  
or*

*(R.) Alleluia!*

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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

*The blood of Christ will purify our inner selves.*

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.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 6:51-52

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the living bread from heaven, says  
the Lord;*

*whoever eats this bread will live for ever.*

*Alleluia!*

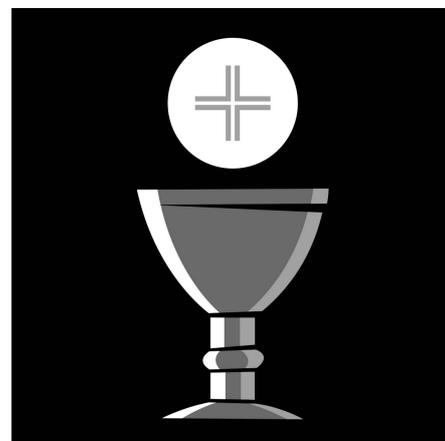
## Gospel Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

*This is my body. This is my blood.*

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.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I have met the Dalai Lama, obviously an admirable man of deep spirituality and simplicity of life. He believes that, after his death, there could be a further phase of existence as an insect or an animal.

Contrast Jesus of Nazareth, a man of deep spirituality and simplicity of life. He believed, and staked his life on it, that he would lead a glorified, fully human existence after death. There would be no extinguishing of his personality, but rather, it would be enhanced. He was vindicated in the Resurrection.

As St John Paul II put it, at the Last Supper, Our Lord gave us a sacramental way of eating and drinking and 'digest[ing] the secret of the Resurrection', what St Ignatius of Antioch called, 'the medicine of immortality, an antidote to death'.

Our Lord chose bread and wine to convey his Real Presence into us. It is the first course of the marriage feast of Heaven, but it has a beneficial effect on our earthly stage of existence. Bread nourishes us and wine gladdens our hearts. Our Lord shares his risen and glorified life with us because he wants to nourish us and gladden our hearts.

We may take a moment to pray that we will share the marriage feast of Heaven with those we especially love, and those for whom heavenly existence will be a life-enhancing surprise. Let us pray for His Holiness the Dalai Lama that he may find himself alongside Pope Francis in the everlasting joy of Heaven.

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**T**he Immaculate Heart of Mary is a symbol of Mary's love for God and her son Jesus. It is also symbolic of her joys and sorrows, her virtues and of her compassion and love for humanity. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is used to achieve union with Jesus by following the virtues of Mary. The scriptural basis for this devotion comes from two passages in Luke's gospel, which refer to Mary keeping the acts and teachings of Jesus in her heart, where she might ponder them and live by them.

Can you work out which two of these pictures are the same?



# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- body
- city
- cup
- first
- house
- hymn
- Olives
- Passover
- prepare
- teacher
- two
- wine

W	Y	O	R	C	Z	A	S	J	B	U	E	L	N	V	Q	O
Z	W	T	N	E	O	W	F	I	B	U	K	K	D	Y	B	L
D	V	R	Y	N	H	H	V	E	R	D	E	N	I	W	C	I
Q	Z	P	T	C	F	C	I	O	A	W	Y	Z	H	I	K	V
R	H	G	I	Y	I	T	A	V	Z	B	F	X	E	R	D	E
A	E	Y	C	Z	H	T	P	E	G	T	G	Y	F	W	K	S
N	Z	B	X	O	K	G	P	P	T	W	T	X	H	R	D	V
P	M	Q	G	P	F	W	X	C	R	O	Y	S	J	V	B	O
K	T	Y	Q	A	U	P	H	M	Y	S	Y	W	R	K	V	X
J	K	H	H	A	L	B	A	A	V	S	R	E	P	I	C	M
H	A	W	X	H	N	R	C	Y	B	E	T	A	R	K	F	X
A	T	O	I	E	V	T	A	U	V	G	A	K	E	F	U	S
T	N	K	S	U	U	F	A	O	R	P	U	Z	P	W	P	C
F	L	U	E	Z	B	L	S	B	Y	X	C	I	A	M	F	Y
Z	O	C	U	P	D	S	L	R	D	W	K	B	R	Q	D	U
H	F	Q	P	W	A	Y	D	F	D	A	X	N	E	O	C	D
Z	V	E	H	P	Y	E	Q	K	N	B	Q	N	B	O	O	H