

June 2, 2024



CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Responsorial Psalm

"How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me?"

PSALM 116:12

Reflection

As I reflect on Sacred Scripture, my mind and heart are stirred by the realization that God continuously pours out love, opportunities that nourish growth and faith. It is God who draws me into greater intimacy in our relationship. God desires to be One with me, you, and all creation. The invitation remains extended, waiting for our response. I am encouraged by people of faith within many traditions, who realize that all is gift from our generous and extravagant God. Each day provides one more opportunity to deepen and unify relationship.

Since Easter, we have been blessed with celebrations of who God is for us. Each

Sunday has highlighted a different aspect of our life in God. Resurrection and 50 Days of Easter, Ascension of Jesus to the Father, Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit, engaging the mystery of the Trinitarian nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each a celebration of God's desire to be One with us. God pours out the mystery of divine love and life and calls us closer.

Today is the ***Feast of Corpus Christi***. It is a festival of the Roman Catholic Church in honor of the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

‘The fact that the Church celebrates the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ makes good sense, given the Eucharist's centrality in the life of the Church, neatly described by the Catechism of the Catholic Church as the ‘sum and summary of our faith.’” (USCCB.org)

In everyday belief and experience, this feast day celebrates the tangible and lasting gift and grace of Jesus abiding within and among us through the sacrament of Eucharist. Catholics believe in the “*Real Presence*” of Jesus in Eucharist. A Greek word, Eucharist means “Thanksgiving.”

Every day, in every land, in countless communities of faith, people worship and participate in Jesus' request, “***Do this in remembrance of me.***” Again and again, we celebrate, as in the Last Supper in which bread and wine are consecrated and consumed. The “real presence” is given to us to take, and eat, and become the one we receive.

We give *thanks* for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We give *thanks* for who we are in Christ, for all we do, and all we have, and for all we are called to be. Jesus promised to be with us always. He nourishes us with himself, who is the Bread of Life.

In every way Jesus “laid down his life” for us, that we may be reconciled with God, to BE one in God, now and for all eternity. Jesus is present in the sacrament of Eucharist and in the sacrament of our lives. He sends us forth to be people of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and to draw all into God's unifying love. It is not enough to worship and receive Jesus' body and blood. **We are to BE Eucharist for others** by the manner in which we give ourselves away in ordinary and extra-ordinary ways of living in this world.

This is reason enough to rejoice, celebrate, and give thanks. We are loved, nourished, inspired, and sent out to be for others. Every day, you and I are to make a return “***to the LORD for all the good he has done for me.***”



Display Outside Sacred Heart Chapel - Orange, CA
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What is the meaning and place of Eucharist in your life?
 - In what ways do you encounter God providing and sustaining you in your daily life?
 - In what ways do you reflect the love, compassion, and mercy of God, and “do in memory of [Jesus/God]”?
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For Prayer

*Jesus, may all that is you flow through me.
May your passion and death be my hope and life.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
With you at my side, enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.*

Let me not run from your love.

Make me more your own each day.

Protect me from all evil and the evil I can do.

*Send the light of your Spirit on all my daily dying and rising
so that one day with all the saints I will praise you forever.*

Amen.

ADAPTED FROM JOHN FOLEY, SJ

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