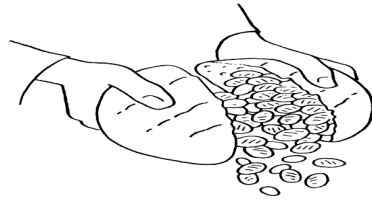


Feast of Corpus Christi
Year C
June 2nd 2013



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.” In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, “This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.” Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

Just before these verses Paul chastises the Corinthians for selfish behaviour at the agape following the Eucharist: the wealthy ignored the poor who had nothing to eat. And so Paul emphasises that the Eucharist is a community celebration: the blessed and broken bread, the body of Jesus, is shared among all. And with the words 'Do this as a memorial of me' Jesus invites Christians to share their lives with one another.

I settle into my place of prayer, read the passage and imagine the scene, watching the Corinthians, listening to Paul's words, recalling the Last Supper, seeing my own parish community/congregation.

Where is my attention drawn? What touches me? How am I inspired to respond?

I respond as I feel drawn, and close my prayer with my own words

Gospel: Luke 9: 11b-17.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late that afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.” He replied, “Give them something to eat yourselves.” But they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.” For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, “Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.” They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

As I begin my prayer, I become still and then slowly read the Gospel narrative.

- I notice the context—hungry followers of Jesus at the end of a long day. I notice the response of the disciples to this situation, the response of Jesus, and the effect of Jesus' response—at a practical level, on the disciples and perhaps on the crowd. I notice the similarity of Jesus' words to those he spoke at the Last Supper.
- I become aware of myself in the scene. With whom do I identify? Is there a hunger within me for anything? How do I interpret Jesus' words, actions and instructions? How do I feel as I take part in what's going on?
- I close my prayer as I feel drawn, perhaps conscious of the hungry in today's world and/or of my own hunger. What does Jesus say to me about these? I listen!