

**Sunday, June 2, 2024**

**The Most Body and Blood of Christ**

- 1) Exodus 24:3-8
- 2) Hebrews 9:11-15
- 3) Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

**FOCUS:** Jesus' sacrifice seals our covenant with God forever.

As we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we give thanks in a particular way for Christ's perfect offering of himself as the eternal sacrifice. In ancient times, sacrifices of animals, material goods, or even humans were offered to divine entities. These were ritual ceremonies forced upon the people as an act of worship or placation. Jesus, in revealing to all the one, true God, offers his own body and blood for our salvation. This perfect sacrifice has united us to the Father once more, and is the source and summit of our life in Christ.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, Moses and the people offer sacrifices to God. The author of the second reading emphasizes that Christ sacrificed his own blood, an offering far greater than an animal. In the Gospel, Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover. While they were eating, Jesus blessed bread and wine and gave it to his disciples, saying, *this is my body*, and *this is my blood of the covenant*.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Remembering the needs we have this day, let us bring them together with one voice.

- 1) For the Church and her work to build God's kingdom on earth, may the Lord strengthen her ability to reach those on the margins, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may the Lord inspire them in making decisions that benefit the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For areas of the world brutalized by war and violence, may the Lord bring his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, as we make decisions each day about sacrifice and service to the Lord, may God guide us along the right path, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God bring them to everlasting life in the eternal peace of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, your Son offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for our salvation. We now bring our prayers before you and ask that you grant us what we need, through Christ our Lord.

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