

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

May 30th, 2005

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Invite persons present to pause for a few moments of silent recollection and to offer any special intentions.)

It's so easy in our Western culture to adopt the attitude that human fulfilment is gained through the individual attainment of material goods, wealth, power and pleasure. The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ which we have just celebrated is a powerful reminder that as Catholic Christians, the ultimate purpose of our lives is fundamentally linked to Jesus. Throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter, we reflect on the price Jesus paid to demonstrate once and for all the radical love which God has for each one of us. Through the giving of his body and blood, Jesus has shown the extent to which God is willing to embrace us as His people. It is this outpouring of God's own self which unites us and which we celebrate at each Eucharistic Liturgy. It is the Eucharist that gives us a share in the ongoing life of Christ. Not only are we nourished by sharing in the Eucharist, but we are united with Christ and each other as a community. The feast of Corpus Christi - the Body and Blood of Christ - gives special honour and appreciation for the great gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.

READER: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (John 6:51)

LEADER: Lord, we give thanks and praise for the gift of yourself in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

ALL: Though many, we are made one in you. Nourish us. Strengthen us. Give us life.

LEADER: You are our one bread, our one body, our one Lord.

ALL: Nourished by you, may we be the bread of life to one another by our sharing, our healing, our kindness, our friendship and our forgiveness of one another.

LEADER: Lord, we thank you for all those who have been the bread of life for us . . .

ALL: for our families, friends, co-workers and all who have been life-giving to us through their kindness, compassion, friendship, and forgiveness.

LEADER: Lord, as members of your body, may we be blessed with strength and courage so as to reflect your care, your love, your peace, and your concern to all we meet.

ALL: Lord, united in you, may we be faithful, life-giving members of your body. Each time we receive the Eucharist, help us remember these words of wisdom spoken by St. Augustine, "Receive what you are and be what you receive." We make our prayer in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

