

## THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI YR B)

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus (24:3-8)

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 observe all that the Lord has decreed; 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.'

**The word of the Lord.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 115:12-13,15-18. R. v.13)

**R. The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.**

**Or: Alleluia!**

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.**

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.**

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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (9:11-15)

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.

**The word of the Lord.**

### SEQUENCE

Behold the bread of angels, sent  
For pilgrims in their banishment,  
The bread for God's true  
children meant,  
That may not unto dogs be given:  
Oft in the olden types foreshadowed;  
In Isaac on the altar bowed,  
And in the ancient paschal food,  
And in the manna sent  
from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd,  
bread divine,  
Still show to us Thy mercy sign;  
Oh, feed us still, still keep us Thine;  
So may we see Thy glories shine  
In fields of immortality;

O Thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,  
Our present food, our future rest,

Come, make us each Thy  
chosen guest,  
Coheirs of Thine, and comrades blest  
With saints whose dwelling is with Thee.  
Amen. Alleluia!

### **Gospel Acclamation (Jn 6:51)**

#### **R. Alleluia alleluia!**

I am the living bread which has come down from  
heaven, says the Lord;  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

#### **R. Alleluia!**

### **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
(14:12-16,22-26)

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.

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**