



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

June 2021

The Final Step - Down

We have celebrated them all...all the great feasts: Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity...and now comes the capstone: Corpus Christi, or in English, The Body and Blood of Christ. It is the capstone, even though it is the final step – down. How so?

Take a wide view. We have a God who is driven by love to send its own deepest Word, its identity, into the human world to fix something that is broken. A relationship is broken. So, in the virgin's womb he mends it. The Word creates a union between divinity and humanity that can never be broken again. Then he shows us what he intends to do with that hangover we call death...his and ours. After he brings us to life, he takes our very humanness home to the very throne of God and sends us his own Spirit to remind us what wonders he has done, to fill us with joy.

But bending way down to become one of us was not enough for this love. He cannot bear to leave us to struggle alone to respond to the Spirit. He found a way to take one more step – down. Yes, he bent way down to hide his majesty under the veil of our humble humanness. Yes, when he was silenced upon the cross, he made his many wounds become so many mouths to tell of his love. But he was not finished. One more step. He chose to bend down to become a thing. His veil this time is bread. He became our food...on hand, anytime, hidden...so as not to frighten even the tiniest child. So now it is our turn to bow down. For it is only in bending low that we can reach this Lover, who waits like a beggar for a meager return of love.

*Down into time-space; down into flesh;
down into death-which-dies.*

One more step:

*Down into bread; it is finished.
You feed me with your risen Life.*

*Then it's up from death to life,
up from grave to glory,*

up with you into eternal life.

You would have it no other way.



Thank you to Associate Hsin-Hsin Huang for this month's reflections.

June 6 – Tenth Sunday in Ord. Time – Ex 24: 3-8; Heb 9: 11-15; Mk 14: 12-16, 22-26

Moses gathered the blood from sacrifices brought forth by the people of Israel and sprinkled it upon the people. In doing so, the blood of the covenant between the Israelites and the Lord was re-established. No longer just a group of aimless wanderers or political refugees fleeing from Egypt, the Israelites were restored as the People of God. They no longer lived as individuals; they lived as the People with purpose. When we partake in the body and blood of Christ, broken and shed for us, we become part of the Body of Christ. As Body of Christ, we no longer live as individuals pursuing personal gains. We become interconnected arms and legs of Christ, called by Love to build the Kingdom of God, on earth as in heaven.

June 13 – Eleventh Sunday in Ord. Time – Ezek 17: 22-24; 2 Cor. 5: 6-10; Mk 4: 26-34

The Lord “bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom” (Ezek 17:24). God’s way is beyond human expectations and understanding. God’s way often cannot be predicted nor achieved by human planning or efforts. Whether one likes it or not, God often surprises. We are so used to succeeding, controlling, earning, and proving that we forget it is God who gives life and makes possible what is impossible. Instead of upward mobility, God’s way is downward, entering into suffering, reaching out to the outcast, and surrendering to death (letting go of self-preservation) so that we can be bread and wine for others, like Jesus. Our walk is not by sight, might, or strife. Instead, God invites us to live in radical faith and by the Word of God.

June 20 – Twelfth Sunday in Ord. Time – Job 38: 1, 8-11; 2 Cor. 5: 14-17; Mk 4: 35-41

Before a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it forms a chrysalis where the caterpillar completely dissolves into liquid and is re-formed, cell by cell, into a butterfly. A butterfly looks nothing like a caterpillar, but it contains everything of the caterpillar. Such is the transformative power of God. It is not just a power that calms the storm and stills the sea. It is not just a power that changes external circumstances. It is a power that heals the wounded hearts and transforms a scared fisherman like Peter into the pillar of the Church. “What paralyzes life is failure to believe and failure to dare”, as Teilhard de Chardin continued, “The day will come when, after harnessing space, the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And, on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire.” When we dare to live by faith, we will truly see the transforming power of Love at work.

June 27 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ord. Time – Wis 1: 13-15; 2: 23-24; 2 Cor. 8: 7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5: 21-43

The Gospel today described a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years, desperately in need of healing. In many cultures, a woman’s menstrual cycle is seen as unclean. It is likely this woman had been shunned or even abandoned by her husband. Additionally, “[s]he had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had” (Mk 5: 26). The woman has likely lived in shame, humiliation, and poverty for years. Ashamed, she secretly touched Jesus and received the physical cure that she hoped for. But Jesus invited her to step forward, validated her, and blessed her (to go in peace). Unlike the judgment and condemnation she had experienced from other men, Jesus restored her dignity and healed her in body and soul. Such is the love of Jesus, reaching into the depth of our brokenness and restoring us to be His beloved.