

HOLY THURSDAY - 2019
Ex.12.1-8,11-14//1 Cor. 11.23-26//Jn 13.1-15

→a little five year-old child and his mother were on their way to McDonald's one evening for supper and on the way they passed a car accident

→the mother had taught her son that whenever they passed by an accident or saw an ambulance....it was always good to say a prayer for whoever might be hurt

→and so, the mother pointed out the accident to her son and said "we should say a prayer"

→so her son fervently blessed himself offered his prayer: "dear God, please don't let these wrecked cars block the entrance to McDonald's!"

--EATINGit is an important priority in most of our lives isn't it?

→we don't like anything to get in the way when we are ready to eat

→and for almost all of us...eating has become more than just a way to stay alive

→it is often a way to celebrate life, a way to enjoy good friends...a way to remember important occasions and a way to mark significant moments in life.

→in our readings tonight...we hear about two different occasions of how God made eating...the eating of a special meal..... significant for people throughout all of history.

→in the first reading we hear of how God made the eating of a special meal a way for the Jews to remember that he led them to freedom, made them his chosen people and expected them to live lives of holiness as his chosen people

→without special ways to remember, we can easily forget and so in our first reading we hear the story of how the Passover came about

→[and] it was this celebration of remembrance of having been chosen by God as his special people that Jesus and his disciples commemorate at the Last Supper.

→and the second occasion is obviously the Last Supper that we hear about in the second reading and our gospel.....however at this meal....Jesus surprises his apostles by revealing a new way in which God was about to extend his saving love to all people

→as Paul writes in the second reading....with bread he gave them to eat he said: “this is my body that is for you...do this in remembrance of me.”

→and with a cup of wine he gave them to share he says: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood...do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”

→what a shock that must have been to their sensibilities...these apostles whose life was spent having to drain every drop of blood out of the food they ate,

now are being told to take this cup of Jesus' blood and drink it...and through this they would enter into a new covenant with God

--and then ...beyond this...Jesus kneels down and washes their feet....

→they had to be incredulous with all that was going on at that meal....

→[and] when you think about it...even today....2000 years later.....this remains one of the most difficult parts of our faith for many people ...

→in the scientific culture we live...we often look for proof or evidence first

→we have an attitude of **“SEEING IS BELIEVING”**

→yet the gospel message sees things the other way around....

“BELIEVING IS SEEING”

→until we believe...we will not see the mystery....and that is basically what Jesus tells Peter: “unless I wash you...you will have no inheritance with me

--and that is why Jesus washes the feet of his disciples

--and why we remember that action tonight.....PAUSE

→i.o.w. before Jesus can fill us with his love...we must surrender ourselves to him in faith.

--and by having our feet washed...by becoming the servants...by living and proclaiming the message of God to one another

→our belief is hopefully strengthened and becomes real.

PAUSE

→ Saint Thomas Aquinas once said...when we eat something, it is turned into who we are...that bowl of spaghetti we had for supper last night...has now become part of our human flesh and muscle...our brain and bone...

→ it has become us...

→ when we receive the Eucharist...we do not turn Christ into ourselves...but we turn ourselves to be more like Christ...we become more like him

→ this meal tonight and each time we gather..... celebrates our communion....our becoming more like Christ, it celebrates our dying and rising in Christ ...and it celebrates our belief...PAUSE

--whenever we gather...it is a moment for us to “see” so that we might “believe”

To see that ----Jesus is the person behind the meal

-----it is the Lords' table that we sit at each week....

---it is the Lord's Supper that we eat each time.....

---and it is Jesus Christ who meets us at the table

---when the bread is broken –it is Jesus Christ breaking it

---when the wine is poured –it is Jesus Christ pouring i

And when the food is shared...feet are washed it is then that we can believe...

--in the end the more we gather...the more we are fed...the more we believe
and most importantly the more like him we become.