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(Food for thought)

Gospel: Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26.



“Being Remembered - and Remembering”

We gather this weekend to remember and celebrate the Body and Blood of Christ. The Scriptures speak to us of covenant - of man's relationship to God, of God's enduring faithfulness to man - and we are reminded once again that when Jesus invites his disciples to eat his flesh and drink his blood, he invites each of us to take his life into the very center of our being. That life which he offers is the very life of God himself - the beginning of a "new" covenant, a new relationship between Creator and mankind.

We all desire to be remembered, not to be forgotten. And Jesus was no different. He wanted his disciples, and all of us, to remember Him... to remember his words and actions, his compassion and love for the disenfranchised, his forgiveness and his steadfastness. But more than that, he wanted us to remember that God's promise will never be broken, will never be taken back.

The Eucharist is a gift, not just to be adored and revered, but also to be consumed, digested and lived by every Christian. What were once the simple gifts of bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of our

Savior - the new covenant between God and mankind. It is not a private gift, but a communal one: an invitation not only to receive His Body and Blood, but also to become His Body and Blood for others.

At home, we gather around our family table not merely to eat and drink, but to be healed of anger, to be refreshed in our weariness, and to strengthen the bond of love and concern that makes us a family. So, too, Jesus invites us to gather around the table of the altar to give and receive reconciliation and forgiveness, to be filled with new strength when we have grown tired in our struggle to be witnesses to the Gospel, and to reinforce the oneness in faith and love that makes us a holy people, a "holy communion", a group of people bound together as His faithful followers.

Now, more than ever, we need to remember that if He is with us, nothing and no one can overpower us. We need to remember to how He has changed our lives - to make us less fearful and more courageous in our preaching of the Good News. We need to remember and understand - now and finally - that our lives will not end with death, and that we, too, are called to resurrection and the fullness of new, unending life.

