

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

(Sunday after Trinity Sunday)



About the Solemnity of Corpus Christi

This Solemnity of Corpus Christi was first celebrated in the thirteenth century in Belgium as a response to debates about the Real Presence and to encourage more frequent Communion.

The Second Vatican Council taught that Christ is present in four modes in the liturgy:
-in the sacrifice of the Mass, in the person of His Minister, and in the Eucharistic elements;

-in the Sacraments;

-in His Word (Scripture Readings);

-when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

Corpus Christi is one of the most Catholic of days, an expression of our belief and faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of Mass when we are dismissed, we are called to live out the Eucharist beyond the confines of the Church building and ritual. In this way, this feast celebrates the mystery of the nourishing and enduring presence in our lives of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

Bibliography

Daily Mass Book, © 2019 Liturgy Brisbane

Sourcebook 2017: © Liturgy Training Publications 2017

What can we learn from the Solemnity of Corpus Christi?

When we receive Christ's Body and Blood, we are called to live a Eucharistic life, serving both God and neighbour. Our prayer life should continue as well as our good works towards others. At the end of the Mass when the priest gives the dismissal, we are called to announce the Gospel of the Lord. The celebration doesn't end when Mass finishes, but rather continues out of the church into the streets, our homes, workplaces and wherever we go. We don't necessarily need to buy Bibles for people, but rather by our good works publicly and privately, Christ's Name will be proclaimed by our lives and words, so that we can be a living witness to Him in the midst of everything going on in the world.

Prayer Resources

COLLECT

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

GOSPEL (Year A)

John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;

and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh
to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly,

if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food

and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me

and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,

myself draw life from the Father,

so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;

not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

This is my body; this is my blood.

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.

They all ate and were filled.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said,
‘Send the people away,
and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food;
for we are in a lonely place here.’
He replied,
‘Give them something to eat yourselves.’
But they said,
‘We have no more than five loaves and two fish,
unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.’
For there were about five thousand men.
But he said to his disciples,
‘Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.’
They did so and made them all sit down.
Then he took the five loaves and the two fish,
raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them;
then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd.
They all ate as much as they wanted,
and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

Communion Antiphon**Jn 6: 57**

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

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Hymn for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi

1. With five loaves and two fish, Jesus
more than five thousand men fed,
blessing what he had before Him,
amongst many it was shared.
Everyone ate what they wanted,
scraps on that day did remain,
showing His love has no limits,
not once – time and time again.

2. “Take and eat this is my Body,
and my blood poured out for you.”
We recall words that were spoken,
His command is what we do.
On the Night of that Last Supper,
Christ washed the Apostle’s feet.
Now we follow his example
serving everyone we meet.

3. When we gather round this altar
offering the Bread and Wine,
we experience Christ’s presence,
presence true, never a sign.
Offered to His loving Father,
by the Spirit sanctified,
nourished by His Blood and Body,
our hunger is satisfied.

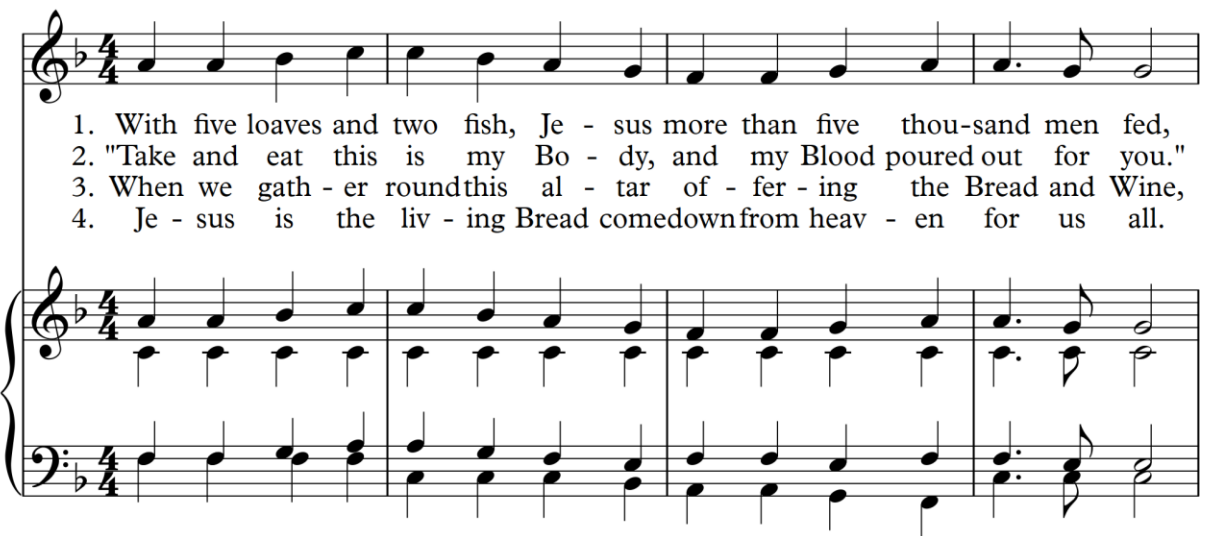
4. Jesus is the living bread come
down from heaven for us all.
Those who eat this Bread will live for
ever faithful to his call.
Those who share this Eucharistic
Banquet will His coming see:
on the last day Christ will raise them
to new life eternally.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
Tune: ODE TO JOY 87.87D

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Years A, B and C)

Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono, revised May 2021, revised April-August 2022 ODE TO JOY 87.87D

Voice

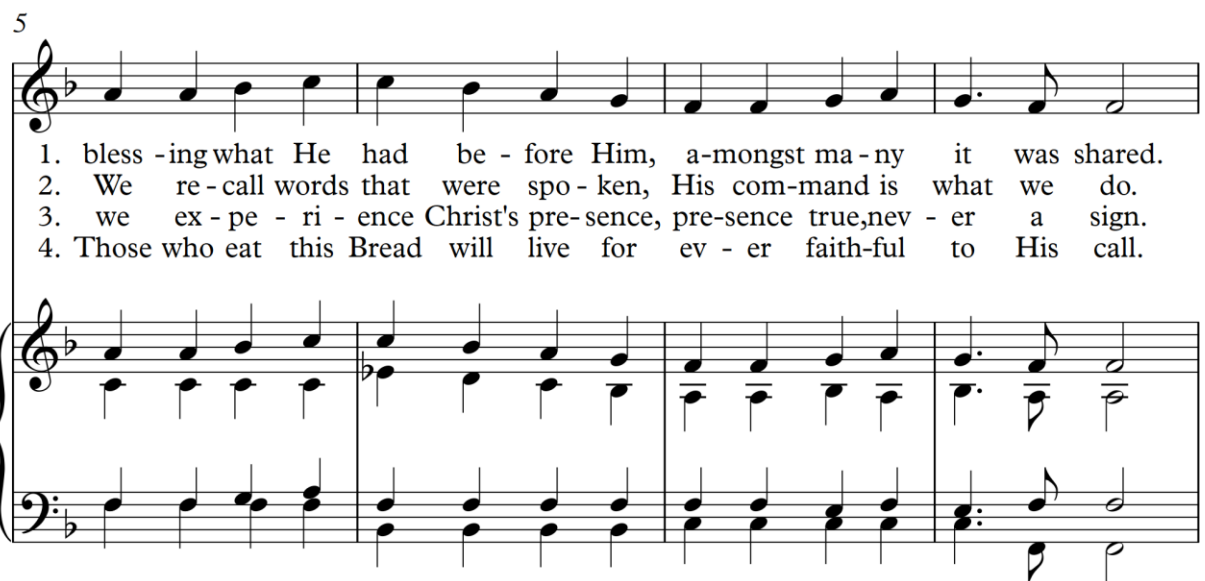


1. With five loaves and two fish, Je - sus more than five thou-sand men fed,
2. "Take and eat this is my Bo - dy, and my Blood poured out for you."
3. When we gath - er round this al - tar of - fer - ing the Bread and Wine,
4. Je - sus is the liv - ing Bread comedown from heav - en for us all.

Organ

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Voice



1. bless - ing what He had be - fore Him, a-mongst ma - ny it was shared.
2. We re - call words that were spo - ken, His com-mand is what we do.
3. we ex - pe - ri - ence Christ's pre-sence, pre-sence true, nev - er a sign.
4. Those who eat this Bread will live for ev - er faith-ful to His call.

Org.

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Voice

1. Ev' - ry one ate what they want ed, scraps on that day did re-main,
 2. On the Night of that Last Sup-per, Christ washed the A - pos-tles feet.
 3. Of - fered to His lov - ing Fa-ther, by the Spi - rit sanc - ti - fied,
 4. Those who share this Eu - cha - ris - tic Ban-quet will His com-ing see:

Org.

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Voice

1. show - ing His love has no lim - its, not once-time and time a - gain.
 2. Now we fol - low His ex - am - ple serv-ing ev - ery one we meet.
 3. nour-ished by His Blood and Bo - dy, our hun - ger is sat - is - fied.
 4. on the last day Christ will raise them to new life e - ter - nal - ly.

Org.