

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

June 3, 2018

The Body and Blood of Christ

Exodus 24:3-8 + Hebrews 9:11-15 + Mark 14:12-16,22-26



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Crowley, OP

This is the third of three weeks of powerful imagery. It is a time of Mystagogy, a process of leading one into the mystery, initiating into that which is not yet fully revealed. It ties together all that has gone before.

Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit as the on-going protector and energizer within the community, begins the cycle. Consider the Celtic image of the Spirit as the *Wild Goose*, not the gentle and demure dove, but untamable, dynamic, persistent and just.

The Feast of the Trinity follows, inviting us to reflect and pray with Andrei Rublev's icon depicting the image and role of the three persons in one. His icon offers the deepest understanding of the dogma of the Holy Trinity.

The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ completes the cycle. We require nourishment; without it we cannot go on. What we take in becomes part of us, of our very flesh and blood, giving us strength for the journey.

The Jesuit, Benjamin González Buelta, tells us that Eucharist provides a paradigm of the world as it could be. In his words:

Bread can only be offered
with open hands
and fingers wide...
There is no offertory
from a clenched fist or a possessive heart;
the claw of self-interest,
personal or corporate.

It is only the raised arms
of the whole community that can offer and break
something blessed
By its work and with its joy:
Bread without a trade mark.
Without owners,
Bread set free.