

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

June 14, 2020

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a † 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 † John 6:51-58



Reflection by: Sr. Gina Scaringella, OP

This year, we celebrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ during a pandemic, when we haven't received Eucharist since March! Most of us participate in livestream Mass, and this temporary solution blesses us and reinforces our identity: We are the Body of Christ, pandemic or not, closed churches or not. Thanks to extraordinary efforts by parish staff, online offerings have fed, comforted, and even united us during this painful time. At one local church, parishioners left a sign on the church door. It said, "We thank you for the Easter Sunday webcast. It lifted our spirits.... We are proud to be part of [this parish family]."

But what about parishes that cannot offer livestream? (Yes, they exist!) Parishioners can surely find a Mass online, but are *their* spirits lifted? Would they prefer, as many do, the consolation of joining with their regular community online? What about those who have never felt welcome, whether in a house of worship or anywhere? What about those without food for their table, or even a table? Jesus tells us today that he gives us himself "for the life of the world." That means for *all* of us. Paul reminds us we are "one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." Jesus, our living bread, wants to feed all of us, including those on the margins. And while we hunger for him, he hungers for *us*—too much to deny us grace just because a pandemic has kept us from the sacraments.

What does this grace look like? In these days of heartache, we see an instinctive movement to mend hearts. We know a deep-seated need to bring goodness from so much grief. Many are working to feed, to thank, to comfort. Many are acknowledging systemic injustice and racism. There is still much to do, but we are "in this together," as we've heard so often. This is the Body of Christ at work. It is grace, and—as the name of today's celebration declares—it is most holy.