



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II



May 28th and 29th 2016

Corpus Christi Sunday - C

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

GOSPEL STUDY

In contrast to Mark, Matthew and Luke, John does not assume that the "Last Supper" or Jesus' final farewell meal is a *Passover celebration*. Whereas the first three evangelists in so emphasizing the Passover atmosphere of this meal appear to link Jesus' own mission of salvation to that singular *Exodus* event in Israel's history. For contemporary Jews the Passover meal was something more than a meticulously regulated culinary experience. It had to be prepared by a male of the household (*Exodus 12:3*) and served by a widow first to all the males of the household then to the women and children. Mark even footnotes that the place for the repast would be readily identified by a *man carrying a pitcher of water (Mark 14:13)*- a task assumed only by women. There were other aspects to a formal meal in ancient Judaism. Mutual *table fellowship* confirmed one's status in the community. *To break bread together and to drink of one cup* denoted shared recognized values and common beliefs. It was during such a meal that Judas Iscariot definitively *had* to break ranks with Jesus (*Mark 14:17*). Ordinarily, great attention was paid to such circumstances as one's dining companions, ritual ablutions, priority in seating arrangements, the type and manner of food being served, the utensils, the order of servings- not to mention the carefully chosen topics for discussion. For such cultural infractions Jesus was more than once vehemently attacked and stigmatized as "*a sinner.*" Thus, for Jesus this Passover-farewell dinner already steeped in symbolism became itself a means of cementing his loving relationship with his disciples. In the face of impending evil *Do this-* that is, break bread and drink of this cup *in memory of me.* This Eucharist or *Thanksgiving* is not only to be remembered but is to be eaten, drunk and rightly adored by us who believe, hope, love and follow him whatever the cost discipleship may exact.

The feast of Corpus Christi or the Most Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord is that feast wherein we as a Christian community are given the opportunity to manifest our worship of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. This honor is shown in many ways. The solemn procession or "walk" with Jesus Christ present in the Host is a sign of willing discipleship (*Luke 19:36*); incense is used in recognition of the kingship of the Lord and a sign "of the prayers of God's holy people" (*Revelation 5:8*). The four altars (in St. Joseph's, in St. Thomas, in St. Barbara's chapel and at the Main Altar in the Church) represent the Four Corners of the earth. Before each altar the following rite is observed:

1. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar and incensed during which the hymn *Down in Adoration Falling* is sung;
2. The Gospel is read followed by a moment of reflection;
3. Prayers of the Faithful;
4. The Priest recites a short prayer and then blesses the congregation with the Monstrance.
5. The Procession then continues on to the next station or altar.

"Adoration means entering the depths of our hearts in communion with the Lord, who makes Himself bodily present in the Eucharist. In the monstrance, He always entrusts Himself to us and asks us to be united with His Presence, with his risen Body."

„The Holy Eucharist is the "source and summit" [*fons et culmen*] of the life and mission of the Church. This section of the Adoremus web site provides resources for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations, prayers and music centered on the Holy Eucharist, as well as recommended resources for study“

Pope Benedict XVI

Address to Roman Clergy - March 2, 2006

osaprag@augustiniani.cz

SEQUENCE - LAUDA SION

Lo! the angel's food is given
To the pilgrim who has striven;
see the children's bread from heaven,
which on dogs may not be spent.

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,
manna to the fathers sent.

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,
Jesu, of your love befriend us,
You refresh us, you defend us,
Your eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,
Who on earth such food bestow,
Grant us with your saints, though lowest,
Where the heav'nly feast you show,
Fellow heirs and guests to be. Amen. Alleluia.

In some ways every Sunday is a feast of the Eucharist, because by participating in the Mass, and in receiving Communion, we are honoring and celebrating the Eucharist. Nonetheless, a desire to specifically celebrate the Eucharist developed. The feast of Corpus Christi owes a rather large debt to St. Juliana, a nun of Liege, Belgium, who was led to start a celebration of the Mass around AD 1230. At an early age, she developed a strong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and she longed for a feast in honor of the Eucharist. In AD 1264 a bull of Pope Urban IV commanded universal the observance of the feast. Nonetheless, Urban's death impeded the spread of the feast. However, by the 14th century, the feast became universally celebrated in the West. St. Thomas Aquinas is given credit for many of the customs and hymns associated with Corpus Christi. Scholars have questioned this. However, the hymns and prayers certainly are in the tradition of Aquinas, and many defend the traditional ascription based on internal evidence. The Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated throughout the Catholic Church. Although the feast is not officially observed in most Protestant churches, some Anglican churches, especially Anglo-Catholics, observe the feast.

Ongoing Activities

***Bible Study** sessions are held each Tuesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in the Church office. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

* **Adult Religious education** every Wednesday at 06:30 pm.

*If you would like to receive a **copy of the bulletin by email**, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

*We wish all our families a wonderful, restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back at our Sunday School in September

Year of Mercy: "Merciful like the Father"

Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:

1. to feed the hungry,
2. give drink to the thirsty,
3. clothe the naked,
4. welcome the stranger,
5. heal the sick,
6. visit the imprisoned,
7. bury the dead.

And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy:

1. to counsel the doubtful,
2. instruct the ignorant,
3. admonish sinners,
4. comfort the afflicted,
5. forgive offences,
6. bear patiently those who do us ill
7. pray for the living and the dead."

The 13th PARISH FESTIVAL

**U Krčské vodárny 36, 140 00
Praha 4 from 1pm till 9:30pm. 18th
June 2016**

Program for children; Program for families;
Theater
Dance, music; Presentation of the activities
of the Church; BBQ for all; Raffle; and a lot
of surprises...