

Corpus Christi Sunday

- Once upon a time there was a rich man who held a great party for all his friends
 - They had great food, wine, conversation, song – just a great time with friends
 - They had such a good time he decided he would host this party every month
 - These good friends would come together and eat, drink, share conversation
 - One month 4 or 5 were all sick with flu and couldn't come
 - Master set aside his best bottle of wine for them
 - He put it in a lovely box up on the sideboard in the dining room
 - He told his servant that this box was special – he should keep it safe
 - So the servant kept the box on the sideboard and held it in respect
 - In fact, because of what the master said, he would even bow
 - Well the Master ended up getting the same flu – and died
 - In his will he had set aside some money so that, if he died, the party continued
 - So his friends continued to come and enjoy the feast
 - The master had intended to share the wine in the box with his friends
 - But he never told the servant -- So the box was never opened
 - Friends noticed the servant bowing, so they did the same
 - But they never enjoyed what was in the box
 - Eventually the dinners began to fade, they became more somber, less joyous
- This story is actually a parable of our church
 - When Jesus walked the earth he was with us – with sinners, every day
 - He ate with them, drank with them, talked with them – converted them
 - In the early church – Eucharist was also like that
 - People met in homes – they told stories of Jesus' life, shared communion
 - Eucharist was brought from there to the others who couldn't come
 - But by the 13th century all that history had been forgotten
 - By that time, the Eucharist – in an ornate tabernacle box
 - Was an awesome and remote mystery
 - To be bowed to, and approached with fear and trembling
 - Only clergy partook of it while the people felt unworthy
 - Eucharist became something hidden in the box
 - To be looked upon from afar when priest raised it up
 - A far cry from the reality of Jesus' life
 - The Church gradually realized this sad state of affairs
 - Legislated that everyone had to receive at least once/year
 - And established this feast – The Body and Blood of Christ
 - To restore its meaning
 - Napoleon wouldn't receive the Eucharist because he felt he was unworthy
 - Theologians would come and try to convince him – no success.
 - Old country pastor "Of course you're not worthy – but you need it"
 - Jesus didn't give us the Eucharist because we are worthy
 - Jesus gave us the Eucharist because he knew our need.

We come together here as family – to share a meal

We come together here as the Body of Christ – to share the Body of Christ.

JC, fully human, fully divine, gave us His body and blood to nourish our body & soul

Nourished by this Eucharist we ARE the Body of Christ

We share communion – 'common-union' in Eucharist

Jesus calls us to eat His body and drink His blood and we do

Jesus calls us to be His Body, in midst of the world, and we do that too

Strengthened by our unity Strengthened by His presence

We can bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all we meet