



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



June 10, 2012

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Gospel Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



Spiritual Reflection:

When speaking of the Eucharist it is important to focus on how Jesus' words change or shape reality. For example if you are at a baseball game and you see someone sliding into third base and you call him safe it does not mean a thing. The runner is not safe or out until the umpire says so because the umpire's words shape the reality of the game. If we remember that Jesus is God and when God spoke the universe came into being therefore when Jesus said sins are forgiven they are forgiven. When he says "this is my body" the bread becomes his body.



Spiritual Questions

1. What attributes given to God in the Old Testament do you sometimes forget to attribute to Jesus?
2. Jesus borrows a room to celebrate the Passover. What does Jesus wish to borrow from you and are you ready to give it to him?
3. What would have been your reaction to Jesus' pronouncements?
4. What preparations do you need to make to allow Jesus to celebrate with you?
5. Why bread and wine?