

**Holy Thursday 2018 – Year B**

**March 25, 2018**

**Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC**

**Reflection by Father Charles Blanchard**

**Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

**John 13:1-15**

**WELCOME** to this **AMAZING** Church where we hear God's Word and feast at this Table for spiritual comfort where **YOU're LOVED** without measure!

**My sisters and brothers; enduring members of this Church and new-found-Friends of Christ the Good Shepherd, WELCOME!**

**You and I have been embracing our Lenten journey of fasting, prayer, and alms-giving; so as to be CLEANSED or MADE ANEW in God's Peace and Love.**

**TONIGHT, It's the Great Passover of the Lord where you and I now call to mind God's evidence of Peace and Love as found in Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.**

**The first reading tonight takes us to the time of Moses and we read from the Book of Exodus about God passing over the land of the Egyptians and killing all the firstborn of the land in order to make Pharaoh understand the importance of letting the Hebrew people leave Egypt.**

**We moderns don't like the notion of God killing all the firstborn of the land or any idea which makes God kill people.**

**We must understand that our ancestors felt and thought differently and so interpreted the bad things that happened as coming from the hand of the Lord.**

**We modern people know that God does not set out to kill people but that God is involved in all that happens.**

The symbolism, however, is what is important in this reading. God tells the people of Israel, the Hebrew people, that if each family kills a lamb and puts its blood on the doorpost, the firstborn of that house will not die. And so it happens. The Israelites, the Hebrew people, are spared the death of their firstborn and Pharaoh is convinced to let them leave Egypt. The Passover becomes the great festivity of the freedom of the Jewish people.

The symbol is that the Israelites, the Hebrew people, are saved by the blood of a lamb. This becomes for us Christian a foreshadowing of the death of Christ, by whose blood we are saved.

The second reading is from the First Letter to the Corinthians and is **the oldest account of the institution of the Eucharist**. We can pay attention today to these words: "As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes." It is the death of the Lord that we celebrate because we know that He rises from the dead. But if He had not truly died, there could be no true Resurrection.

We also celebrate with this **institution of the Eucharist, the institution of the priesthood**. Without "doing this in memory of Him," we would not have the Sacrament that Jesus gave to us. So we give thanks for the priesthood (do this in memory of me) and for the Sacrament (the great Passover) and what they mean in our lives.

It is the Gospel from John today that tells us how we recognize these gifts of God: in the washing of one another's feet!

This is symbol once more and it is a symbol of always serving others in love, even when they may betray us and work for our death.

TONIGHT, my sisters and brothers, you and I are invited to follow the Lord Jesus; to love one another, suspend personal judgement and serve.

You and I are meant to be strengthened by the gift of the Sacrament of the Eucharist; so as to love well and serve well.

DOES THIS MAKES SENSE, do you understand what Christ has done for you?