

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**June 5, 2023**

### **THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD**

**Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14b-16a**

**John 6: 51-58**

**1 Corinthians 10: 16-17**

#### **1. Dt. 8: 2-3, 14b-16a**

- The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell sermons to the people before he dies, and they enter the Promised Land. It consists of three sermons. Moses recalls the saving acts of God in bringing them out of Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, and accompanying them across the desert for 40 years. He begs them to not let their prosperity in the Promised Land make them forget that they owe it all to God. He warns them not to become proud, but to realize their dependance upon God.
- 8: 2: Moses recalls how the Lord led them for forty years in the desert. He tested them to see what was in their hearts, and if they would obey his commandments.
- 8:3: He provided them with manna, a food they did not know. By the manna, he taught them to depend on God. They did not live on bread alone, but every word that came from the mouth of God.
- 8:14b: He begs them not to forget God who has done so much for them. He brought them out of the slavery of Egypt. He brought them through the desert with all its dangers and perils. He provided water from the rock for them. He gave them manna to eat.

#### **2. John 6: 51-58**

- After Jesus has multiplied the bread for the people, they seek him out and ask Jesus for a sign so that they may believe in him. They say that Moses gave them manna as a sign. Jesus tells him that he is the bread of life which surpasses the manna that Moses gave. Those who eat the Bread of Life will live forever. That is why Jesus came to earth so that we could live forever.
- The first part of Jesus' discourse may refer to bread as wisdom. In the Book of Wisdom eating bread is a symbol of acquiring wisdom. Those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God and who receive his word as the wisdom of God will have eternal life.
- The second part of the discourse (vv. 51-59) speaks about eating his body and drinking his blood, which refers to the Eucharist, the true Body, and Blood of the Lord. If we partake in the Eucharist, we will receive eternal life. When we receive the Eucharist, Jesus becomes part of us, and we are assimilated into him. We are united to him, and he abides or dwells with us. Receiving his Body and Blood in the Eucharist is a profound act of faith in Jesus as the Son of God who gives us eternal life. It is the true manna.

#### **3. 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17**

- The issue of eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols was a controversial topic in the church in Corinth. Previously, Paul had said that since the idols were not real and did not exist, it did not matter whether someone ate meat sacrificed to idols or did not. The only concern was not to give scandal to other members of the community.
- Now, Paul warns that Christians should not participate in the worship of idols because participation in sacrifice to idols unites one to the idol. Just as our participation in the Lord's supper unites us to the Body and Blood of Christ, so too does pagan worship unite us to false worship.
- The cup of Christ's blood unites us to the blood of Christ and eating the Eucharistic bread unites us to the body of Christ. When we share in the Body and Blood of the Lord, we are also united with one another. We become one in Christ.