

Maundy Thursday  
April 1, 2010  
Fr. Bill McGinty

## **“Eucharistic Feast”**

Tonight we gather, as the disciples gathered 2019 years ago. They gathered to begin celebrating the Passover with Jesus their teacher. But, that night, Jesus changed the agenda and turned the meal into something else. It was his Last Supper with them and he wanted them to remember it.

The Apostles and disciples did remember. They remembered that night so well, that they frequently came together to repeat it. They wanted to say again the words that Jesus had said to them: “This is my body, this is my blood, do this in memory of me.”

Remembering those particular words became important to every disciple. In them, they found the roots of their own salvation. For if Jesus truly left them his body and blood, he was inviting them to become other Christ’s in a Eucharistic way.

In participating in Eucharist, you and I are making a statement of our own. We are saying:

“Once we were sinners and not such good people. Now that Christ has come into our lives, we have been spiritually transformed and we cannot go back to our old ways. We cannot go back because in absorbing Christ’s physical presence into our being, we have come in direct contact with the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God cannot co-exist with sin. Something has to give. That something is our old self. We have to become spirit filled. The symbolic Eucharist becomes for us a spiritual reality. We choose in Eucharist to become sons and daughters of God.”

If the Jewish authorities had managed to get to Jesus before the Last Supper, they would have killed Christ’s embryonic church before it began. From the moment of the Last Supper the body of Christ existed, the church had been born. In his death, the next day Jesus sealed the covenant that he made with his disciples in the blood of his death on a cross.

It is this covenant bond that is the transforming factor, in the lives of Episcopalians. It is the reason, why being Episcopal is all about, more than your own salvation. Episcopalians want to change things. Episcopalians see the contradiction between the teaching of Jesus and the world and they want to speak out. Yes, they want to bring others into the Body of Christ. But, more they know that as the body they must continue Christ’s mission of building the kingdom on earth. And if that means, becoming involved in social justice issues, then that is what Episcopalians do.

If the answer to the old question: “How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb is three” then the answer to the question: “How many Episcopalians does it take to change a church, a parish, a family or a community is also three.”

In truth, three Episcopalians should be able to change the world. They should be able to change the world because Christ gave us the means to change the world. He gave us his word in the teaching of his gospel; he gave us the transforming power of the Eucharist, that unites us heart and soul in his mission.

Maundy Thursday should have a special meaning for each one of us. It is the birthday of the Eucharist and therefore the birthday of the church.

Let us continue to view the Eucharist throughout the year, knowing what it means and the grace that it affords us to complete Christ mission in this peace and be united in doing it.

Amen+