

“Last Supper”

In our Gospel, Jesus shows us how to love one another by washing the feet of His apostles. To Jesus, love is service to others. It is emptying ourselves of our ego, of our pride, and putting on Christ’s humility, tenderness, and kindness.

Jesus being their Master and our God, did something that Peter could never have imagined. So, seeing Jesus wash the feet of other apostles, Peter must have wondered why Jesus would do this. From what we know about Peter, he must have been a little bit put off by the action of their Master, so he balked when Jesus wanted to wash his feet.

Jesus then said something that brought Peter down to earth. Jesus told him, "**Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.**" By Jesus washing the feet of His apostles, tells them that though they know Him as their Master, for them to share in His glory, they would have to serve others and they should not expect to be served. He also told Peter that he would understand later what he was doing; meaning that when He is going through His passion, the apostles should not be shocked and in disbelief that their Master would be treated like a criminal.

The Church charge us today, to develop our homily towards our community. So, I would like to mention some of the ways people in Holy Trinity fulfill Jesus’ mandate for us to serve one another. We have sacristans, altar servers, ushers, greeters, the choir, lectors, grounds keeper, and we have those who beautify the church with flowers and decorations. The service they perform, help in building up the body of Christ.

The reason why God requires us to serve each other is, He is a good and merciful God who wants to bestow His grace on those who persevere in His service. Our service adds nothing nor does it subtract anything from God. God is self-sufficient. Therefore, out of love, let us place ourselves in the service of one another with humility.

In the last Supper accounts in the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus instituted the Eucharist during the Passover meal implying that the Eucharist is Christians’ Passover meal, because both are for life saving actions. One is earthly saving of the Jews through the account of the Exodus, while, the Eucharist is the heavenly saving action of Jesus through His passion, death and resurrection for those who believe in Him for their eternal life.

Jesus the bread of life that came down from heaven emphasized during the last Supper that “**The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world**” (John 6:51c). And declared that He will give us His blood in the appearance of wine. So we no longer look at the bread and wine as earthly but heavenly Food and Drink for our eternal life.

In our Epistle, St. Paul said he was handing on to the Corinthians what he received from the Lord which is the Eucharist. He told them the ritual should be done until the Lord’s coming, thereby not limiting Eucharist to once in a year ceremony as the Passover is with the Jews.

So on this night, as part of what is required for our salvation, Jesus instituted the Eucharist and service to others. As we come to receive Him, let us remember we are to serve others as well.