



LITURGY BYTES

by Michele Hall



Eucharistic Prayer - Part 5



Continuing with our study of the many parts of the Eucharistic Prayer, we focus on the "mystery of faith" proclaimed by the priest midway through the prayer. Our response can be one of three options.

The first one states, "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." These prayers are addressed to Jesus. However, it seems most of the Eucharistic Prayer is addressed to the Father through the Son. Now with Christ's Body and Blood becoming present, we pray to Jesus himself. To sing the mystery of faith is to prepare our hearts to adore the Lord in Holy Communion.

Each of the prayers puts Jesus' presence in the context of what he has done for humanity. Christ becomes present in the Eucharist. Jesus is the one who becomes present and raises death to new life. Jesus, whose death was the source of new life, is the one who transforms what it means to be human. To proclaim the mystery of faith is not to announce Jesus' presence as if he is some object. Rather, he is a person who has come to dwell among us, acting once again.

Keep in mind we are not just remembering the activity of Jesus once upon a time. Jesus is going to act again here and now. His Death and Resurrection are relived when we eat the Body and Blood of Christ, when we proclaim to the world that Jesus is the living one who comes to free us from sin and death. Let us reflect on this meaning as we join together at Mass.

Have a blessed, healthy and prayerful week ahead!