

June 19, 2025 Portugal Thursday The Body and Blood of Christ

Mass at The Church of St. Stephen, Santarem, Portugal

Father Juan and Deacon Roger (homily)

Reading 1 GN 14:18-20

In those days, Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, and being a priest of God Most High, he blessed Abram with these words: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Responsorial Psalm PS 110:1, 2, 3, 4

R. (4b) You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool."

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The scepter of your power the LORD will stretch forth from Zion: "Rule in the midst of your enemies."

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek. "Yours is princely power in the day of your birth, in holy splendor; before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you."

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

The LORD has sworn, and he will not repent: "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Reading 2 1 COR 11:23-26

Brothers and sisters: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. "In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Gospel LK 9:11B-17

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured. As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves. "They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people. "Now the men there numbered about five thousand. Then he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty." They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.

He said to them, “Give them some food yourselves.” On this Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we must recognize we are the Body of Christ, the Church, sharing His love and mercy with the world. How will they know God’s love if we don’t act?

The Lord’s Prayer is the perfect prayer because it starts with praise of God before our petitions. So, today I offer a prayer of praise before the words from a favorite song...it’s a prayer to restore compassionate care for the poor, the hated, the needy, the hopeless, the sick, the abused, The vulnerable, the innocent, the unborn and their parents, the immigrants, the refugees, the undocumented, the homeless, the marginalized, the LGBTQ, those with special needs...for the other...we pray to restore compassionate care for living creatures and mother earth...and, for all mankind, even those without a heart to serve others.

Lord Jesus may our lips praise you, may our lives proclaim your goodness, may our works give you honor and may our voices celebrate you forever and ever.

Dear Lord,
Maybe it's true what they say about
Maybe we can't make the ends meet
Maybe we'll all have to do without
Maybe this world's just incomplete
Well, we all look for truth in this life
Searching with hope inside
If it's so hard living in a desperate world
We all do the best that we can

Some people see a change
Some will remain the same
Others will live their lives under the gun
Some see the road as clear
Some say the end is here
They say it's a hopeless fight
But I say, we gotta try
Oh yes, we've got to try

Maybe it's too much to think about
Maybe there ain't nothin' left to say
But if our time is really runnin' out
Then this ain't no time to run away

Cause we're destined to look
For the truth in this life
Searching with tearful eyes
If it's so hard livin' in a desperate world
Then tell me Lord, why was I born?

Some people see a change
Some will remain the same
Others will live their lives under the gun
Some see the road as clear
Some say the end is here
They say it's a hopeless fight
But I say, we gotta try
Oh yes, we've got to try

Someone's tryin'
Someone's cryin' out
While we live under the gun
Someone's livin'
Someone's givin' up
But I say, we gotta try

And the Church says, Amem