

Today we celebrate Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ .

Under normal circumstances, we would gather at church for communion, and in the place I was trained, we would have a separate celebration of Adoration, the host/bread placed in a beautiful Monstrance and held up high to be adored, prayerfully. This year, I am seeing this feast through the lens of what is happening in the world. And am reminded that through Baptism, we are one with Christ, one as the church - his body, his feet, his voice in the world. It is easy to recognize the body of Christ when it is a pristine bread wafer raised up in a beautiful monstrance for all to honour and adore. We live in a world with systemic racism. And it can be hard to recognize the Body of Christ when it is on the ground, in a black body, under the knee of the law. If we take our faith seriously, we need not only to open our eyes, but to use our minds, our voices, our hands and our feet, united as one, to make a stand. For whatever we do to the least of these (or stand by and watch it happen) we do it also to Christ.

Under normal circumstances, we would observe this feast day by celebrating Holy Communion, approaching the altar and reverently receiving the body and blood of Christ...even the “left overs” are treated with honour, they are not discarded or thrown out, but either consumed or reserved with care and reverence, because they are holy, sacred. How we treat the body of Christ matters. How we treat his body in the world, matters.

We are the body of Christ.

Black lives matter. Indigenous lives matter. Brown lives matter. LGBTQ2 lives matter. The marginalized, the homeless, the addicted and the oppressed - their lives matter.

We are one as the body of Christ, we are connected to each other, not separate.

As St. Paul so eloquently wrote in first Corinthians, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all

made to drink of one Spirit. The body does not consist of one member, but many. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Our diocese has declared a Eucharistic Fast.

And while we no longer come together to worship as one in a physical space, to share bread and wine, we are still one in the body of Christ - one as his Church in the world.

Fasting is often used as a way of disciplining the body and heightening the awareness of the mind.

This Corpus Christi, I encourage you to use this time to heighten your awareness not on the fact that we are no longer worshipping in our building or receiving the Body of Christ in the bread and wine:

But on what is happening to the Body of Christ in the world - the black bodies, the indigenous bodies, the brown bodies, the LGBTQ2 bodies, the marginalized, homeless, addicted bodies. It is easy to see the body of Christ when it is placed reverently in your hands or offered to you in a silver chalice.

It is harder to recognize the body of Christ in the places and faces we are unused to looking for it...because our society has created systems which make it easy to over look, or walk past.

As we celebrate Corpus Christi, remember the body of Christ is not divided but one. And we are called not only to worship and prayer, but action.

We are one, united in the body of Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are called to use our God-given bodies and voices to speak out; because just as their suffering is our suffering, when we bring about change, and they are honoured, we will rejoice together. Amen.