

# *The Promised Eternal Inheritance*

Fessahaye Mebrahtu

This Sunday is called “Corpus Christi – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.” In every Mass we celebrate “Corpus Christ.” Every Sunday the Church gives thanks to God through the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Summit and Source of our faith and identity. Every time we participate in this celebration we promise, “All the Lord has said, we will heed and do.” The Feast of Corpus Christ invites to reflect and be intentional on how we approach the Body and Blood of Christ to have transformative effect in our day-to-day living. “We become what we eat” has to be true in us. The promise of eternal inheritance is *“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”*

Sacrifices offered by the high priest in Mosaic tradition were for thanksgiving and forgiveness of sins. In thanksgiving, people acknowledged that God is the source of their blessing and asking for forgiveness that people have not been faithful to the author of their life and everything they have. In the Letter to the Hebrews, the writer tells us that Christ is the High Priest not only who offers what people bring him but he himself is also the sacrificial lamb, who said, “Take it; this is my body. This is my blood of the covenant which will be shed for many.” By eating the Body and drinking, the Blood of Jesus Christ “we become what we eat,” Children of God in Jesus Christ. Our unity with Jesus Christ restores our divine identity, created for glory.

Celebrating Corpus Christ compels us to assess our understanding of the Eucharistic liturgy and on how we approach receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. First, Jesus Christ is “mediator of a new covenant,” heralding a new era, new creation, and new world order. Second, we are stewards of this new era as new covenant people, who can boldly proclaim, “All the Lord has said, we will heed and do.” What is “all the Lord has said,” “love one another as I have loved you.” It is an affirmative verb “love” and a noun. Unlike the negative Mosaic Law, “you shall not” the command of love is positive inviting us into action. However, it can only be possible in the context of Jesus’ sacrifice of self-emptying so that others might have life in abundance as blessings for others. Sacrifice therefore, includes partaking and sharing, which we are called to be Eucharistic people, whose life revolves around the Body and Blood of Christ to receive and give, to invite and share, to participate and transform through the command of love.