Because the Solemnity of the Assumption was celebrated last Sunday we did not hear the Gospel which showed exactly why some of Jesus' followers found his language intolerable: my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. The fact that these are followers is quite important. They are not the ones John refers to as the Jews, whose opposition can be assumed, but people who have been faithful until now. John had a community and the readers who belonged to it would know that it had been affected by people leaving. Jesus says that if these words upset them, how much more would they be upset by a greater truth, that he would be going back to the Father, from where he came. The words about betrayal anticipate the events of the Last Supper. The section ends with Peter's confession which takes the place of similar words of Peter in the other gospels and as on those occasions we have to answer the question ourselves: 'Do you want to go away too?'

1R relates an important event, the asking of a similar question. Shechem was an important city in the Holy Land and Joshua is asking the whole nation of Israel to say who they will serve: the Lord or other gods.

2R is a slightly problematic text and many women will bridle at the expectation that they be subordinate to the husband. But it also gives husbands responsibilities too: for a man to love his wife he is to love his own body too!

Prelude: Allein Gott '18' (JS Bach)

Introductory Rites

Opening Song: Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,

Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: 10 11 11 12; 'Lord of all hopefulness' by Jan Struther, 1901–1953; fr. Enlarged Songs of Praise, 1931. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Music: Trad. Irish melody; adapt. fr. The Church Hymnary, 1927.

Glory to God: Mass of Joy and Peace (Alonso)

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, ON EARTH PEACE, PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL.

We praise you, we bless you, We adore you, we glorify you, We give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD ...

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy of us.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD ...

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, ON EARTH PEACE, PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL. AMEN.

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

Psalm 34: Taste and see (Jakob)

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Taste and see, taste and see, Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Music: © 2021 Philip Jakob

Text: Abbey Psalms & Canticles © 2010, 2018, USCCB

Second Reading:

Gospel Greeting: Salisbury Alleluia (Walker)

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life.

Homily

Creed

Universal Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of Gifts & Altar: Love goes on (Farrell)

Love is patient, love is kind, never ending, never ending; slow to anger, rich in mercy, love goes on beyond all time.

Love is faithful, love is true, ever joyful and forgiving; love endures when life is over, love is old and love is new.

Love alone has shaped our soul, and our hearts are always restless until love becomes our purpose, new creation to unfold.

Love our journey, love our goal.

Though our faith may move the mountains, love alone can heal the broken; only love will make us whole.

Love, our Savior's one command:
"Love the way that I have loved you,"
with a towel and a basin,
washing feet with servant hands.

There are three gifts that remain when all other things have perished. Only faith, hope, love enduring, and the greatest gift is love.

Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 13, John 13. Text and music © 2004, 2012, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Eucharistic Acclamations: Mass of Creation (Haugen)

Holy, Holy – When we eat this bread – Amen

Communion Rite

Our Father

Lamb of God: Mass of Creation (Haugen)

Communion Song: Come and eat this bread (Haugen)

COME AND EAT THIS BREAD,
COME AND DRINK THIS CUP,
COME AND SHARE THE FEAST OUR GOD HAS SPREAD.
YOU HAVE PROMISED US,
YOU ARE HERE WITH US
IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD.

Marty Haugen © 1984, 1987 GIA

Post-Communion: Christ our peace (Haugen)

CHRIST OUR PEACE, YOU BREAKDOWN THE WALLS THAT DIVIDE US;. CHRIST OUR PEACE, COME, MAKE US ONE BODY IN YOU.

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Concluding Rite

Closing Song: Celtic Alleluia -Sending Forth (Walker)

Postlude: Theme & Variations (Andriessen)

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