



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Fr. Laurence
Friday, 5th Week of Easter
April 18, 2008

We are here this morning for two reasons. Christ has invited us to his banquet of life, and we have responded with grateful love. When you come to Mass you are coming to Jesus at the most profound moment of his life, the moment when he offered himself to the Father on the cross to take away the sins of the world. This is the most important action of world history, it saved all of mankind who wish to be saved, and Jesus has found a way of bringing that historical moment to us in our day. In a mystical way the action of Jesus on Good Friday 2000 years ago becomes contemporary with us when the priest offers the sacrifice of Jesus at the Mass. We enter into that same offering of Jesus, a once-and-for-all offering, and are taken up into it. We are invited to offer it with him as best we can, trying to pay attention to his offering of himself as if we were right there at Calvary. We can even lose ourselves in this offering, saying to God the Father, I give you myself along with Jesus. I thank you for all you have given me through him, for eternal life, for health, for eyes that see, for food, for my mind, my education, my family, my friends, freedom and plenty. As I offer to you, Father, the sacrifice of your Son Jesus, I ask that he may draw me closer to himself, make me more one with himself, for he is the way, the truth, and the life.

He is the way. What does that mean? He's like a path: you can walk along him. That means he created a path to heaven and invites you to walk along that path which is a way of living like his. Ask the Father to help you walk along that way, a way of love for God and for your brothers and sisters. Ask the Lord Jesus to make you like himself in the Eucharist, so that as you consume him you become more like him, more willing to give yourself for others and serve. Jesus is the way to the Father. Only receiving the strength from his body and blood will give you the strength to live like him and come to the Father.

He is the truth. What does that mean? Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" in a skeptical tone, as if to say "Who can expect to know the truth." A lot of people are like that today—they don't think we can know what the truth is—we can only have personal opinions. But Jesus boldly declares he is the truth. He is not the truth of a mathematical equation or the truth of a historical event or even the truth of philosophy. He is the truth: he is what really is. He is the truth behind every other truth, behind every reality. He is truth because he is God and man, joining the two together. He is God's will for man. He is the one who perfectly fulfills God's will for man in loving obedience, and in that way he reconciled man to God for all eternity. He is the truth of our absolute and eternal union with God. He is the truth that saves us. We come to the Eucharist to be filled by him again.

Finally he is the life. This follows on from what we have said. He perfectly accomplished the Father's will as a man and so was raised to eternal life. When



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



we consume his body and blood in the Eucharist we consume that risen life. We live with that risen life. It becomes our life. As we grow in Christian life we slowly we find that we're not just living with our own life, he is living in us, acting in us, inspiring us and strengthening us to live in new ways, more generous ways, more confident ways, more peaceful ways. We live more and more by the life that will possess us fully in heaven when we share completely the risen life of Jesus and see God the Father as he is.

Next time you ask yourself why you are going to Mass, say to yourself I am going to meet the one who loves me and gives me a share in his eternal life.