

Daily Meditation 04-14-22

Holy Thursday, 2022

Good morning.

Happy Holy Thursday. So in today's meditation, we're reflecting on the meaning of Holy Thursday. And in particular, on the meaning of the Eucharist, the breaking of the bread that happened at the Last Supper.

I think that one of the most profound interpretations of this foundational sacrament for Christians, is in fact the words of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Buddhist monk from Vietnam. I think he truly understood the archetypal meaning of the Cosmic Christ in the breaking of bread and drinking of wine. This is what he wrote.

(And for me, personally, I just love getting a take on Christian views of things from people of other traditions, especially someone of the depth and sensitivity of Thich Nhat Hanh.)

Not many people want to become priests in our day. But everyone is hungry. So many people are hungry for spiritual food. There are so many hungry souls.

Then he addresses what happens in Catholic worship.

'Take my friends, this is my flesh, this is my blood.' Can there be any more drastic language in order to wake you up? What could Jesus have said that is better than that? This piece of bread is the body of the whole cosmos --

Notice the cosmic dimension Thich Nhat Hanh gets.

...If Christ is the body of God, which he is, then the bread he offers is also the body of the cosmos. Look deeply. And you'll notice the sunshine in the bread, the blue sky in the bread, the clouds and the great Earth in the bread. Can you tell me what is not in a piece of bread? The whole cosmos has come together in order to bring to you this piece of bread. You eat it in such a way that you come alive, truly alive.

This is a wonderful understanding of both the Cosmic Christ and the Last Supper of the sharing of the bread and of the wine. Now Father Teilhard de Chardin, scientist, mystic, poet, and Jesuit priest, he too has very much a cosmic understanding of the Last Supper, Holy Thursday. He says,

When Christ comes to one of his faithful, it is not simply in order to commune with him as an individual. The effect of the priestly act extends beyond the consecrated host to the cosmos itself.

...to the cosmos itself.

The entire realm of matter is slowly but irresistibly affected by this great consecration. From the particular cosmic element, Christ has entered the activity of the word and goes forth to joy into himself, all the rest.

So here too, there's an awareness and a celebration of the cosmic dimension to the Last Supper, and to the sharing of the sacred meal, sacred bread and the sacred wine.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.