

Reflection Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 2024

Understanding the full significance of certain events often requires the passage of time. In the moment their true meaning is often elusive. Only with hindsight can we look back and understand better their significance. This retrospective view offers insights unattainable in the midst of the experience.

After Jesus washes his disciples' feet, he tells Peter, '*At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand*'. Initially, Peter didn't grasp the significance of Jesus' actions; his strong resistance testified to his confusion. Only after Jesus's death, resurrection, and the descent of the Holy Spirit, did Peter and the other disciples come to understand the profound lesson of service and love embodied in Jesus washing their feet. Their retrospective view helped them finally make sense of things.

Several hours later, on the cross, Jesus laid down his life for his disciples and the whole of humanity. In laying down his garments to wash the feet of his disciples, Jesus was anticipating that laying down of his life for them and for us all... tomorrow afternoon!

Malcolm Guite

Here is the source of every sacrament,
the all-transforming presence of the Lord,
replenishing our every element,
remaking us in his creative Word.

For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
the air delights to bear his Spirit's speech,
the fire dances where the candles shine,
the waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.

And here He shows the full extent of love
to us whose love is always incomplete,
in vain we search the heavens high above,
the God of love is kneeling at our feet.

Though we betray Him, though it is the night.
He meets us here and loves us into light.