

Tonight we open our minds, hearts, souls and bodies to receive. At this point in the Mass, we've already received the holy Oils and the Word of God in the Scriptures. Shortly, 6 of our members will receive the washing and drying of a foot in an ancient ritual. At Communion we will receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We don't take; we receive.

In the 2nd reading Paul writes: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you; namely, the Eucharist.

We come tonight and pray. God receives our praise and worship. God is open to us. Incredible, isn't it? God is open to us and receives from us.

In our daily living we are often receiving. We receive friendly greetings; we receive guests or company; we receive mail and packages; we receive compliments. A friend in intensive care has been receiving blood transfusions; some of us may have even received an organ transplant.

Bottom line: as beloved daughters and sons of God, our posture and experience of life and of God is: we receive.

We didn't ask to be born. We didn't ask to be male or female. We didn't ask for the color of our eyes, skin or hair. We didn't ask for our family, our faith, our country or even our name. These we received. Every moment of every day we receive.

Tonight at this Eucharist, we come to say to God: THANK YOU. It's a simple prayer and it comes from the heart.

My sisters and brothers: for a few moments during silence, let's pause and express our personal and private thanks to God for what we are now grateful.