

Thought for the day – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Come Holy Gift Corpus Christi

On the Thursday after Trinity Sunday we remember Jesus gift of Holy Communion, the gift of his body.

This is Steven Shakespeare's prayer poem

Hoc est enim corpus meum

I saw the dew settle on his skin  
as night fell to darker dawn  
flesh was weak then;  
words weaker still.

Hours before, his hands breaking  
breaking the offered bread,  
he gave himself  
kept nothing back.

He would not stay in the past,  
reduced to weightless memory  
a cup filled  
to absent friends.

No: he confounds all distance,  
defies the ebb of time,  
gathers the grains

pours the new wine.

So urgent, yet so still;  
the touch, the nearness of love,  
the bitter cross  
sweetness of grace

Here and now, as then  
he reaches to us from the dark:  
'Kiss me, my betrayer, my love:  
this is my body.'

Come Holy Gift Steven Shakespeare Canterbury Press

Let us give thanks for the love of Christ and the sacrament of communion.