

"I Thirst"
Good Friday, 2010
Allie Graham

O Lord, it is in you that "I feed upon the bread of God, and we drink the royal wine of heaven." Mine is the sin, but thine the cleansing cup.¹ And yet, it is you, Lord, who thirsts. Christ, who survived without food for 40 days and was tempted by Satan, in his last moments, it is he who thirsts.

Christ shows his deepest humanity through the "simple" act of being thirsty. (To fulfill the scripture, John specifies' in Psalms²; it is written "They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.").

Christ, who the night before raised a glass of wine and proclaimed, "drink this in remembrance of me" had his own thirst met with a sponge of vinegar wine.

A drink that was sustenance the night before is now a bitter, sour last request of a dying man. Hanging, alone, on the hard wood of the cross.

And yet, it is now, when Christ is at his most vulnerable – his most definitively human, dying – that we realize how much we need him – how much we thirst for him. It is in this moment of him giving himself up and expressing a most simple, human, yet imperative need of quenching thirst that the reality of the incarnation can be made most vivid.

God is here, among us, dwelling.

God is here, among us, dying.

God is here, among us, thirsting.

¹ Hymn "Here O My Lord I See Thee Face to Face" Horatius Bonar, 1855

² Psalm 69:21