

Sermon Summary
14th after Pentecost
2nd September 2012

- The end of John 6 finishes with a section which describes the eucharist. Remember John has not last Supper which describes the meal.
- The Anglican mantra, “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace” is often used to describe what is here envisioned as a sacramental action.
- It’s not the most helpful phrase- and John did not know it. Such thinking comes from the time of St Augustine of Hippo three hundred years later.
- John and the folk of his time knew sacraments and sacramental objects in a different way- ordinary things performing a holy function.
- In this case bread and wine serve to remind Christians through an acted out ritual that they have been enabled by Christ to receive his relationship with the Father, his life, and identity.
- How can such simple things do this?
- We might do worse than think as some theologian have- of how money works.
- A piece of paper or a metal blank is invested with a new significance through its stamping: cent , dollar, pound, shilling.
- The words give new value.
- So here, the words of Jesus give new value and identity to bread and wine. They become his Body and Blood.

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