

## Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

The doctrine of the “real presence” expresses the belief that Jesus is really present at Eucharist. To Episcopalians and Anglicans, the mechanism for this “presence” remains a mystery. To some, “real presence” implies that the consecrated bread and wine cease to exist, and they actually become Christ’s body and blood. Contrariwise, others believe that only Christ’s spirit is memorialized during the consecratory process. The belief of many Episcopalians and Anglicans lies between these extremes. John Donne, affirming these diverse viewpoints, penned this vague description of the consecratory process that could be applied by all: “He was the Word that spake it; He took the bread and brake it; And what that Word did make it; I do believe and take it”. To Catholics, consecration occurs during the words of institution (“this is my body/blood”). Contrariwise, Orthodox Christians believe that consecration occurs during the invocation of the Holy Spirit. Many Episcopalians believe that the entire Prayer of Consecration is required for consecration. In this theology, the laity complete the consecratory process begun for them by the celebrant when they robustly proclaim the concluding “AMEN” (printed in all capital letters stressing what is being affirmed by the congregants).

***If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: [gghaas@aol.com](mailto:gghaas@aol.com), or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.***