

TRINITY NEWS

Lent IV Sustenance for the Journey

Abraham is commended in Scripture for setting out to come south from Ur of the Chaldees without knowing his actual destination. This emphasizes his trust in God as the prompter and guide of his pilgrimage. It does not mean that he set out unprepared. He would have had a considerable entourage, with camels, servants, provisions and family members. We can almost hear the pots clanging in the saddlebags, the snorting and chomping of the camels, and the chatter of the children.

Christ appears in Galilee and feeds five thousand followers plus their families by the Lake. A holy site called Santa Mesa marks the designated place. It was a “holy table” presided over by the Messianic Prophet from Nazareth. Images are everywhere from the ancient past. The Manna in the wilderness of the Exodus falls afresh as the writer of John’s Gospel expounds this recalled incident of God’s provision for Israel. But the host does more. He takes and blesses and breaks the bread and gives it to them, and also the fishes. The breaking of the loaves is implied in this account rather than explicitly stated as in the other gospels. Twelve baskets of fragments are still left over!

We are taken from our mother’s womb or extracted in a caesarean section. We look out at the light in some wonder. If we are alert, we will see more than the adults around us. We are held up in our mother’s arms and blessed by the Prince of Life. We may be taken to be baptized and signed with the sign of the Cross, but we have already been blessed. Like the child at Bethlehem we have no idea in those moments that one day we will be broken on the wheel of life. We are happy to be passed around and given into the care of life itself. For the moment, it is all wonder and delight and endless exploration. We spend a lot of dormant energy trying to relive those pristine moments throughout our pilgrimage.

“I am the bread that comes down from heaven” is part of Christ’s interpretation of the feeding of the five thousand. The key to understanding its significance is in his own person. “He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in” are words from a familiar hymn. Like Elisha before him he brings an abundance of life-restoring sustenance. At the end of this narrative and its interpretation in John 6, Peter says to Jesus, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.” That word linked heaven and earth one day by Lake Galilee. Whenever we come to the Santa Mesa we come to be nourished and strengthened and given fresh hope to renew our first vision.

THIS WEEK:

Monday, 19th March.

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory

Tuesday, 20th March.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Discussion @ the Tutton's (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village)

Thursday, 22nd March.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33