

TRINITY NEWS

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

The Defining Aura of Christ

We, the Christians, are compelled to offer definitions of Christ. He is both vulnerable human and Divine mystery, so prose and prayers are needed. Prose about him ends in poetry. Prayers to him end in praise.

At a turning point in his ministry Jesus asked his disciples about other people's opinions of him. They gave the stock answers out of their traditions. That is, that some thought he was like Elijah or one of the ancient prophets. They even appealed to the executed John the Baptist as a recent model. But then he asks all of them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter responds, "The Messiah of God."

Peter gives his personal response, the response of the Church and our response.

Then Jesus utters a prophecy about himself.

"The son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised" (Luke 9:22).

Then he said to them, "If any want to become my follower let them deny themselves and take up his cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose of forfeit themselves?" (Luke 9:23-25)

Without the Gospels we would know very little of the historical Jesus. Without worship we would know little of the Risen Jesus.

The Gospels are at their deepest level of informing us where they resemble Jesus. We are at our deepest levels of understanding when we resemble Jesus. Taking up our cross is symbolic, but real. Those who get nailed to crosses on Good Friday, though sincere, offer only sham representations. Though less physically painful, it is much tougher to bear our crosses in the realities of life.

The Cross of Christ defined him, and this was vindicated in the resurrection. Our crosses define us, because in the midst of mental or physical pain we enter the empathy of the Spirit who unites us to the suffering of Christ.

Someone who really loves us is always there for us. We love them because we must be there for them also. When these two loves connect, then in memorable moments we are free.

We set out to define Christ and we find that he is defining us all the time. As the Apostle says, when we perceive this, then we are free to be ourselves.

The aura of Christ is in the Church, it is in you. When we receive it, we can pass it on to others.

Bishop Arthur Jones

TO PLAN:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1,13-25

Luke 9:51-62