**Please Take Spare Pew Bulletins** to anyone housebound or absent from church.

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**Before** the service, talk to God.

During the service, listen to God.

After the service, talk with each other.

**A Suffering Messiah?**

What does it take to follow such a Messiah? [ i.e. the Suffering Servant found in Second Isaiah]. To be willing to act like him. To be willing to suffer and die for the Gospel, so God can raise the person up on the last day. To be willing to become Christ-like and reject self-centred interests.

The daily cross should not be confused with daily troubles in life. The daily cross was the day-by-day commitment a Christian made to his Master. The daily cross was not suffering quietly through each day alone. The daily cross was to be like Simon the Cyrene, to help Christ and those in his Body carry the cross that leads to glory. This was how Jesus defined discipleship.

*Larry Broding*

*word-sunday.com*

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***Jesus begins to explain the mission he was sent to accomplish***

Why did Jesus command his disciples to be silent about his identity as the anointed Son of God? They were, after all, appointed to proclaim the good news to everyone. Jesus knew that they did not yet fully understand his mission and how he would accomplish it. Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD), an early church father, explains the reason for this silence:

There were things yet unfulfilled which must also be included in their preaching about him. They must also proclaim the cross, the passion, and the death in the flesh. They must preach the resurrection of the dead, that great and truly glorious sign by which testimony is borne him that the Emmanuel is truly God and by nature the Son of God the Father. He utterly abolished death and wiped out destruction. He robbed hell, and overthrew the tyranny of the enemy. He took away the sin of the world, opened the gates above to the dwellers upon earth, and united earth to heaven. These things proved him to be, as I said, in truth God. He commanded them, therefore, to guard the mystery by a seasonable silence until the whole plan of the dispensation should arrive at a suitable conclusion*. (Commentary on Luke, Homily 49)*

 *Don Schwager.*

*dailyscripture.net*

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*“Suppose Jesus were to come here.”*

Without the 19th century essayist Charles Lamb, William Shakespeare would be “missing in action.” Mr. Lamb’s essays snatched the 17th century playwright from undeserved obscurity after he had been famous for Andy Warhol’s fifteen minutes. One night, Lamb and his guests were chatting about the Bard over Spanish port and Cuban cigars. “Supposing,” one asked Lamb, “Shakespeare were to stroll into our dining room at this moment.” The essayist replied, “We would raise a glass of port to the great man.” “Supposing,” asked another, “Jesus were to come here.” Lamb answered, “We would all get down on our knees.” There is the essential difference between the Man from Nazareth and all other great people you can think of. The Christ is God, and all others, no matter what their deeds, are but fools who strut on the stage for a brief time and then exit.

*Fr. Gilhooly*

**Monastic Wisdom**

**Notice**

What unique sensitivities do you have for noticing how Jesus is already active in the lives of those around you, and for pointing that out? Those who are sent, the meaning of the word apostle, are bearers of Jesus, but they are also those attuned to finding and naming his presence and power where it may be hidden in plain sight.

*Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE*

**Know**

If we are true to the mission of God, which is our mission, then God will be known, loved, and felt in our midst – not as some distant, uninterested, and unknowable divine being, far removed from human life, but rather as one eternally creating, redeeming, and sanctifying God, who is knowable, loving, and sustaining and whom we know as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Br. James Koester, SSJE*

**Body of Christ**

Whether in our own personal lives, our family history, the lifespan of a community, church tradition, or nation, we cannot live in any time other than the present moment. But in this moment, as Christ’s body, all times and generations are present to our prayers. With this faithful companionship, and the Spirit’s guidance, all that is worth saving is our raw material as we co-create and co-restore with Christ.

*Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE*

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Do all the good you can,

by all the means you can,

in all the ways you can,

in all the places you can,

at all the times you can,

to all the people you can,

as long as ever you can.

*John Wesley*

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Encircle me, Lord,

keep harm without keep safety within;

Encircle me, Lord,

keep turmoil without, keep peace within;

Encircle me, Lord,

keep evil out keep your goodness in.

*Celtic Caim (circle) prayer*

***Carmina Gadelica***

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he spiritual life of individuals has to be extended both vertically to God and horizontally to other souls; and the more it grows in both directions, the less merely individual and therefore more truly personal it will become.

*Evelyn Underhill*

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**Forgiveness:** God is a forgiving God. God’s love for us is unconditional and the very foundation upon which we are forgiven. No matter what we have done or how long we have been away, God is going to welcome us back with loving, open arms. As we feel sorry for our sins and acknowledge our sinfulness, we return to God time and time again. In doing so, we are making a decision to allow a radical change in us.

**Transformation:** God’s forgiveness and love for us are not just for us to receive a warm, fuzzy feeling and a clean slate. God invites us to be transformed by being forgiven. God, then, gives us a task: not just to avoid evil, but to work to overcome evil by doing good.

Through God’s mercy we are welcomed and loved, forgiven and transformed

*Becky Eldredge*

***Forgiveness, Transformation, and Mercy***

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Lord, keep us from believing

that we earn our worth

through our own actions

and achievements;

that we can do so,

or need to do so.

Give us rather a fuller understanding of,

a fuller faith in,

your love and your grace,

which counts us worthy

and calls us to respond.

*Bill Braviner*

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**Who do you say that I am?**

On Sunday morning a man showed up at Church with both of his ears terribly blistered. So his pastor asked, “What happened to you Jim?” Jim said: “I was lying on the couch watching a ball game on TV while my wife was ironing nearby. I was totally engrossed in the game when she went out, leaving the iron near the phone. The phone rang, and keeping my eyes on the TV, I grabbed the hot iron and put it to my ear.” “How dreadful,” gasped the pastor. “But how did the other ear get burned?” “Well, you see, I’d no sooner hung up, the guy called back!” He just didn’t get it. Lots of folks never get it and never understand how life really works, even at the simplest levels. That’s why Jesus is pressing his followers — and us with a challenging question in today’s Gospel: “Who do you say that I am?”

*Msgr. Dennis Clarke*



You are not alone, you do not live life alone, but you live and God lives with you.

God does not forsake you for a moment nor for a twinkle of an eye.

*Pope Shenouda, Coptic Pope of Alexandria*

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Let us sing a new song, not with our lips, but with our lives.

*St. Augustine*

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I am trying to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.

*C.S Lewis,*

***Mere Christianity***