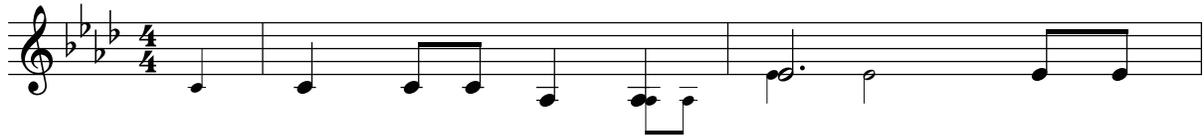


Singing Our Faith

5th Sunday of Lent – March 18, 2018

Verses I Am the Bread of Life



1. _____ I am the Bread of life. You who
 2. The bread that _____ I will give is my
 3. Un - less _____ you _____ eat of the
 4. _____ I am the Res - ur - rec - tion, _____
 5. _____ Yes, Lord, _____ we be - lieve that _____



come to me shall not hun - ger; _____ and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, _____ and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man _____ and _____
 I _____ am the life. _____ If you be -
 you _____ are the Christ, _____ the _____



lieve in me shall not thirst. _____ No one can come to
 eat _____ of this bread, _____ you shall _____ live for
 drink _____ of his blood, _____ and drink _____ of his
 lieve _____ in _____ me, _____ e - ven _____ though you
 Son _____ of _____ God, _____ Who _____ has _____



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons.
 ev - er, _____ you shall live for ev - er.
 blood, _____ you shall not have life with - in you.
 die, _____ you shall live for ev - er.
 come in - to _____ the _____ world. _____

Refrain: And I will raise you up on the last day.

Text: John 6 and 11; Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927; tr. by anon., rev. by Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946
 Tune: BREAD OF LIFE, Irregular with refrain; Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927
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Singing Our Faith 5th Sunday of Lent – March 18, 2018

The first and second readings this Sunday are tightly knit together. Ezekiel says *“O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them...I will put my spirit in you that you may live.”* and Paul echoes *“If the Spirit dwells in you, he will give life to your mortal bodies also.”* (paraphrased) Through scriptures such as these, we can trace the lineage of the Trinity to the beginning of time. It was the Holy Spirit that breathed upon the waters of the sea at the beginning of creation. That same Spirit is referred to in Ezekiel’s prophecy. That same Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and was placed in the Apostles at Pentecost. And yes, that same Spirit has been placed in us through Baptism, sealed in Confirmation, and visits us each week as it transforms the simple gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Although not defined until the 4th century, God the Father, Son, and Spirit have existed from the beginning of time as the mystical Holy Trinity.



Sunday’s communion hymn is beloved in modern Catholic repertoire. The first three verses and refrain are paraphrased from John 6, also known as the “Bread of Life Discourse.” The fourth and fifth verses are from Sunday’s gospel,

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where the raising of Lazarus foretells the resurrection of Jesus and our eventual resurrection on the last day.

Together, these verses unite the mysteries of the Eucharist and the Resurrection into one profound statement of faith. We sing this in “I Am the Bread of Life” as we process forward as one Body of Christ to receive the Lord in the Eucharist.

These scriptures and music meld as a reminder to us that we need the presence of the Trinity in our life: Christ’s presence as priest and sacrificial victim at each Mass; the Spirit’s presence as it transforms the gifts before our eyes and enters our being in the mystery of the Eucharist.

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy and Music