

# *My Soul Longs For You, O God*

*Chapters 5,6,7*

*Created & Redeemed In Love Through Christ*



St. John Parish  
Little Chute

*As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?*



# The Word Was Made Flesh

Response after each statement:

*The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)*

- I paused on a crisp Autumn night and took in the beauty of multi colored leaves. I marveled at a presence more than mine in that moment of wonder.....
- I visited a dying woman in the hospital. I sensed her courage and her strength in the midst of great frailty.....
- I looked into the eyes of the clerk in the department store. They were the eyes of one who was tired and discouraged.....
- I walked past a homeless man on the street. He held out an ungloved hand and asked me for coffee money to warm him in the cold.....

-I spent the early morning hour in prayer, asking God to tell me the meaning of incarnation in my life. . . .

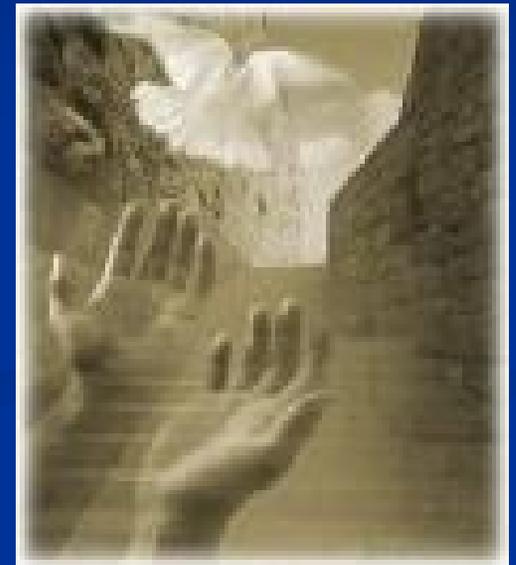
-I hear the story of a single parent who still has no work. She grieves over the little she can give her children and worries about their health. . .

I remember my friend who is struggling in her marriage. She grieves, she despairs, she cries.....

-I opened up the letter that came in the mail. When I saw the little sprigs of fresh holly, hope sprang up in my heart. . . .

-I went to church and turned my heart to the God who is always in need of a better dwelling place and I begged for my transformation. . .

**-All: The Word Was Made Flesh And Dwelt Among Us**



# Tonight we will explore:

Images of Christ

Trinity

Resurrection





“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth”

(Jn 1:1, 14)



## The Major Titles of Jesus

### Jesus — Christ — Son of God — Lord

The name **Jesus** means, “God saves.” St. Peter testified that “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (RSV Acts 4:12).

The word **Christ** means “Messiah” or “anointed one.” The Father sent the Holy Spirit to anoint Jesus as Messiah who would act as priest, king, and prophet, giving the complete meaning to these roles already present in the Old Testament.

# “Son Of God”

The Old Testament used the title “**Son of God**” for angels, the chosen people, and their kings. It implied a special intimacy between God and his creatures. But when Simon Peter called him “Son of the living God,” and when St. Paul uses a similar title for Jesus, they are attributing to him a divine Sonship. At the baptism and transfiguration, the Father designated Jesus as his “beloved Son.” After the Resurrection, Christ’s divine Sonship became evident in the power of his glorified humanity.

# Yahweh

- The name of God which Moses heard at the burning bush is rendered YHWH in Hebrew and Kyrios in Greek and **Lord** in English. Lord refers to the divinity of Israel's God. In the New Testament the title "Lord" was applied to Jesus as well as the Father. Still, it is true that in the Gospels people often addressed Jesus as Lord simply as a title of respect. But in the Easter narratives the Holy Spirit enlightens the holy women and the disciples to recognize the divine mystery of Jesus. The title infers adoration. "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28). "The title 'Lord' indicates divine sovereignty. To confess or invoke Jesus as Lord is to believe in his divinity" (CCC 455).



# What is it like to be an image of God?



God created us in his image. What does this mean?

We are the only creatures who image God so richly. We image God in five ways:

- (1) We can know truth and know God.
- (2) We can love people, ourselves, and God
- (3) Each of us is a person and not a thing. Our self-worth and dignity come from God.

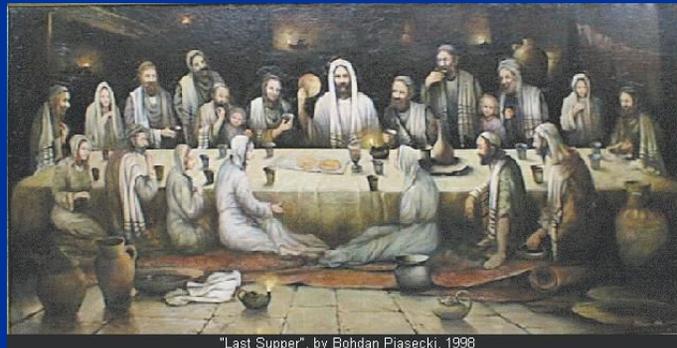
(4) We can know ourselves, control our lives, and enter into community with others — and should do so. This arises from our solidarity and unity with the whole human race.

(5) We are called by grace to communion/covenant with God. By a faith surrender to God we share in the divine life as a result of the gift Jesus obtained for us in his Incarnation and paschal mystery.



“[Christ’s divinity] shines forth whenever his human nature was humbled...If he was born of a humble maid in a stable, there were angels of heaven to announce his glory; if he lowered himself to an ox and an ass in a manger, there was a shining star to lead the gentiles to him as king...If he humbled himself as a sinner to receive the baptism of John the Baptist, there was a Voice from Heaven to proclaim the glory of the Eternal Son who needed no purification; if he was nailed to a Cross there was a sun to hide its face in shame and an earth to quake in rebellion against what creatures did to its Creator; if he was laid in a tomb, there were angels to hail his Resurrection.”

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, *Life of Christ*



"Last Supper", by Bohdan Piasecki, 1998



# The Church as Trinity

The Church is the work of the Trinity.

The Father called the Church into existence.

The Son founded the Church.

The Spirit manifested and sustains the Church



■ The word church comes from the Hebrew qahal. It means a “called community.” Hence, the Church is not created by the self-determination of the members but rather by the call of God. The Greek translation is kyriake, which became the German kirche and the English word church.

The word church refers to a parish, diocese, universal church, liturgical gathering, or witnessing community as well as the church building.



## It's Time to WAKE UP!

Jesus is the treasure hidden in the room inside our souls. To find him we need to wake up. The Bible loves to describe us as sleepers. We dream walk in the outer world and fail to notice the excitement within. St. Paul insists on this.

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead and Christ will give you light (Ephesians 5:13).” “It is the hour now for you to wake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed (Romans 13:11).”

What is this scriptural sleep? It is our inadvertence to our inner sleep. We are wide awake to what is transitory. We are awake to the latest news, which is full of the folly of life. We build our outer lives on sand. We should build them on the rock of Christ who lies within. Jesus wants to wake us up to the love that casts out fear. The Holy Spirit is a presence of peace in which there is no fear. Jesus says we need to yearn for him like a thirsty body longs for water. He teaches us who we are, souls that long for him who gives us absolute fulfillment.

## Closing Prayer:

Blessed are they who believe in the organization they serve,  
for their work will have dedication.

Blessed are they who guide rather than dictate,  
for they shall have cooperation.

Blessed are they who respect the opinions of others,  
for they shall be admired.

Blessed are they who present their point tactfully,  
for they shall succeed.

Blessed are they who search out the facts and ignore the gossip,  
for they shall be respected.

Blessed are they who give credit to others, overcoming jealousy,  
for they will have willing helpers.

Blessed are they who seek to be humble,  
for they have a due share of recognition without looking for it.

Blessed are they who can take orders as well as give them,  
for there in lies true leadership.

Blessed are they who in spite of criticism, have the strength  
Of purpose to continue and the stamina to carry on,  
for they shall be real leaders.

Blessed are they who have faith in their fellow people,  
For they themselves are justified.

