



May 1, 2022 Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

The Miraculous Catch of Fish (in John 21)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"



Liminal Moments

"Are you familiar with the word "liminal?" It is not a word that routinely comes up in conversation. Liminal comes from *limen* which means threshold. A liminal moment is a point where you leave one place and enter another. It is a place of transition:

"When entering liminal space, you leave behind your former ideals and conventions, your safety zone; you exit your place of security. You step out into a space where you will see things differently, where your existing priorities might be turned upside down."

The disciples in the boat had a deep liminal experience. They had seen the risen Jesus before, but in this story, Jesus was not recognized immediately. The fishermen had yet to let go of their idea of who Jesus was to them and had not accepted what Jesus is. Jesus created this liminal moment to open a space for the disciples to leave their old way of life and move into the new.

We may not have profound liminal moments like these disciples . . . or like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus . . . or like Saul on the road to Damascus. But we will have them, maybe even tiny moments which may take the form of a sudden soft breeze or the unexpected singing of a bird or an abrupt sense of our minds clearing and revealing a solution to a problem that has been dogging us.

We've all been asked to let go of so much these past pandemic years—lost time and community festivals and even lost loved ones. But the letting go of the liminal Eastertide is different. It's not the self-denial of a pandemic or a Lenten fast: it's the letting go of our need to cling to the previous wonder so that we can experience the present one.

Let us keep in our prayers: peace in the Ukraine and safety for all affected by war; the wildfires burning in the Southwest, especially in New Mexico; the divisiveness in our country; those suffering from severe weather; the summer worship schedule at the Raquette Lake Chapel. Hear our prayers O Lord!