

## Singing Our Faith 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 19, 2018

We continue this Sunday with the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. In this Sunday's verses, Jesus reiterates what he just said (last Sunday's verses) in an even stronger way. *"Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me."* Through this whole chapter of the gospel, Jesus is preempting the institution of the Eucharist and its meaning as a Sacrament. He reveals that through the Eucharist, we have an extraordinary, personal counter with the Living God.

The closing hymn for this weekend's liturgies is a prayer of trust – the text is summed up in the title "Jesus, Lead the Way." Connecting to the Eucharistic gospel reading, through **communing** with Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, he leads us out into the world. The Holy Spirit guides us, as the hymn says, through cheerless times, through darkness and fear, through temptation and grief, and whatever else this world may throw at us. It acknowledges that Jesus is present in our midst at Mass – "May we feel you near as we worship here." - "Lord, we see your grace in this holy place." As we continue journeying through John 6, we'll sing this several times over the coming weeks.

A little background on this new (to us) hymn. The tune's modern name is "Rochelle," which is noted in small text at the bottom of the hymn. The tune was originally named "Seelenbräutigam," written by Adam Drese (1620-1701). Seelenbräutigam is a great example of Germans combining two medium sized words to make one long, confusing word! To dissect the word, "seelen" means soul, and "bräutigam" means groom – together, "soul groom." Consider the closeness of Jesus in the Eucharist; he becomes wedded to our soul like a bride and groom are

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wedded. The Latin word “anima” is feminine, which makes our soul the bride. The text was penned by Count Nicolaus Ludwig Zinzendorf (1700-1760), who wrote some two-thousand hymns. Descending from wealth, he resigned all public duties in 1731 and devoted himself to missionary work. He traveled extensively on the Continent, in Great Britain, and in America, preaching "Christ, and him crucified," and organizing societies of Moravian brethren. As noted previously, the Moravian Church initially held fast to the doctrine of Jesus’ real presence in the Eucharist.

Stephen Eros

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### Jesus, Lead the Way



1. Je - sus, lead the way Through our life's long day. When at  
2. Je - sus, be our light In the midst of night. Let not  
3. When we seek re - lief From a long - felt grief; When temp -  
4. Je - sus, still lead on Till our rest be won. If you



times the way is cheer - less, Help us fol - low, calm and  
faith - less fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for -  
ta - tions come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en -  
lead us through rough plac - es, Grant us your re - deem - ing



fear - less. Guide us by your hand To the prom - ised land.  
sake us. May we feel you near As we wor - ship here.  
dur - ing. Lord, we seek your grace In this ho - ly place.  
grac - es. When our course is o'er, O - pen heav - en's door.