

## Third Wednesday of Easter ~ 4/25

"This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in Him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:40)

This is certainly one of the most reassuring lines of Scripture. Jesus wants us to know that the Father wants to offer us eternal life. Jesus promises the believers that He will raise them up on the last day. Yet what exactly will eternal life be and what will it mean to be raised from the dead?

In this experience of eternal life will we look like ourselves? Will we turn into a vague spiritual presence that connects to other spiritual presences? When we are raised from the dead will we be beautiful? Will we look like we did on the day that we died or will we have youthful bodies once again? We don't know, do we?

Some say that only a chosen few will receive this eternal reward. Others say that all people who believe in Jesus and who try to live good lives will be raised up. Still others believe that all people of good will whether they are Christian or not, will find themselves embraced in the loving arms of the Creator. We don't know, do we?

Eternal life will be spent praising God for some. Some believe that this time will be spent growing more deeply in love with God. Some even believe that heaven will entail suffering but that those who are held in everlasting love will offer up their sufferings in union with Jesus in a way that they were never capable of on earth. We don't really know about this either, do we?

There are probably as many ideas of what eternal life is going to be like as there are people. What we do know is that Jesus promised this gift to us. As His trusting followers we look forward to the experience, no matter what it is. And while we may contemplate what the experience will be like we know that it will be what it needs to be because we know that Jesus would not offer us something that was not good.

In the end it is about who you know, not what you know. If all you know is that Jesus is Lord then you are blessed with eternal life and being raised up will be more than you expected.

### *Questions for Reflection*

- 1. Do I know that Jesus really loves me, really know it?*
- 2. How important is it to know what eternal life entails? Does knowing what it entails effect how I respond to God?*

*Prayer: Jesus, you have promised eternal life and I am grateful but I am most grateful that You are in my life now. I trust you with my eternal future.*