

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP



THE LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Since Jesus is not present to us in bodily form, we need other ways of receiving from him the presence and instruction he gave to his first disciples.

This comes in the form of Word and Sacrament.

Can you speak to your experience of receiving a clear word from Christ in these forms?



BAPTISM



- ⌚ Baptism is a death. It is a completely passive act on our part (hence the fact that we can receive this Sacrament even as infants).
- ⌚ It is not, however, death as punishment at the hands of an angry Creator. It is rather death as grace, a gift that allows us to rise again, justified from sin and ready to live as a “little Christ” in the world.
- ⌚ How have you experienced Baptism (your own and that of others)? Does this description resonate?



BAPTISM

- ⌚ Baptism is final. It cannot be repeated, and it cannot be undone.
- ⌚ Thus, especially in the case of infant Baptism it is essential that the Sacrament be administered and nurtured in a community that supports the living out of the Baptismal death and rebirth.
- ⌚ Martin Luther always said “remember your Baptism.” How can we be a community that accomplishes this together?

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The Church is not an institution. It is a person.

This is difficult. How can we act as a single Person in communion with individuals and communities with whom we have severe differences and conflict?





THE BODY OF CHRIST

- ⌚ Perhaps part of the answer to the question on the previous slide is one Body, many members.
- ⌚ How would you describe your individual contribution to Christ's Body?
- ⌚ How would you describe the contribution of our parishes and the Episcopal Church as a whole to Christ's Body?



THE BODY OF CHRIST

- 🕒 How does the image of the Church as the Temple of God sit with you? How does this play out?
- 🕒 We must, of course, be careful to not mistake our literal buildings and institutions with the true Temple on earth, but they still have a role. Can we discuss this?