5th Wednesday in Lent
Rolling Meadows - 1975

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

FEAR, DESPONDENCY, HOPELESSNESS --- DEPRESSION with NOWHERE TO GO and seemingly NOWHERE TO TURN --- FUTILITY, CONFUSION, HOSTILITY --- the whole GAMOT OF EMOTIONS when we are FEELING DOWN-AND-OUT..... That is what TONIGHT'S FILM is all about!

The MAN in the film has just been released from a MENTAL HOSPITAL. He had suffered a "nervous breakdown." He could no longer "cope" with the world in which he lived as a "railroad man. Something "went wrong with him" -- where "everything once had gone so straight."

When released from this MENTAL INSTITUTION, HE is determined to find out more about himself, his personhood, other people, and things which have been very close to him.

He returns to his HOME -- where his mother and father are doing what they do best --- like planting a garden and baking bread. He has come home to "TASTE OF THE GOODNESS." But he soon decides that he must MOVE BEYOND this "place of safety."

He is still FEARFUL, CONFUSED, and NOT SURE OF HIMSELF! He goes back into the ruins of his life -- which once took place on the railroad tracks and also in a broken down round house, where once he moved mighty locomotives.

He wonders about his past, present, and future. He attempts to collect his thoughts and feelings about himself. He wonders "what went wrong" and "why."..... He goes where most people do not want to go when they are feeling down-and-out. He goes back to the sourse that caused his breakdown. There he begins to think while working at an impossible task. He tries to sweep the old round house. - to clean it all up so it will be like it used to be!

Then there are the voices: "FREAK ANIMAL."....."RUBBER SKINNED MAN"....."TWO-FACED" ....."MONSTER." He asks himself: "IS THAT ALL I AM?"

JESUS — who came to suffer our pain, our anxiety, our life — must have asked Himself that too. There is no other reason for the bloody sweat of Gethsemane — the spit in His face — the mockery and derision — the beating and crowning with thorns — the agony and death. "If you are the Son of God, come down from the +." He came to SUFFER OUR FUTILITY — to DIE OUR DEATH.

SHOW FILM

WHAT IS IT THAT GIVES US HOPE? What else but the promise of our Lord: "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU"....."I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD"....."I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU COMFORTLESS"....."I WILL COME TO YOU."

He has gone through it all for us and with us! No longer do we have to feel desperate or lonely or afraid. "HE IS RISEN!" "HE IS RISEN INDEED" HALLELUJAH! And He comes to us now in the HOLY SUPPER! We take Him into ourselves -- to dispell our fear & doubt