A Funeral Sermon - Silas Woxland - who entered Life July 24, 1975
and is given Christian burial July 26, 1975
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

IN NOMINE JESU

St. John 21: 1 - 14:

Can you IMAGINE Silas is HEAVEN? At the BLARE of the TRUMPETS, the CELESTIAL GATES OPEN WIDE to RECEIVE this REDEEMED of the LORD. ANGELS, and ARCHANGELS, and ALL the COMPANY of HEAVEN lift up their VOICES to SING their GLAD HOSANNAS and TRIUMPHANT HALLELUJAHS! Among other things they are SINGING "O LORD MY GOD, HOW GREAT THOU ART!"

Jesus and Silas WALKED through the HEAVENLY GATES TOGETHER -- for Jesus is the One who has SAVED HIM by His HOLY, PRECIOUS BLOOD -- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has been WITH HIM right down through "THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH." And now there is a TREMENDOUS PROCESSION of PEOPLE from every CLIME, and KINDRED, and NATION, and TONGUE -- ALL GOING WITH JESUS AND SILAS to the THRONE of the FATHER. They are SINGING and SHOUTING along the way! And when they reach the THRONE of GOD the FATHER, there is a TREMENDOUS HUSH. Jesus begins to INTERCEDE: "FATHER, SILAS IS ONE FOR WHOM I LIVED AND DIED AND SHED MY BLOOD. HE HAS BEEN FORGIVEN THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF ABSOLUTION AND HOLY COMMUNION -- FATHER, RECEIVE HIM AS ONE OF OURS. FATHER, HE HAS BEEN BAPTIZED INTO MY NAME." And the FATHER responds, "SON -- SILAS -- RECEIVE THE JOY OF ETERNITY!"

When the formalities are OVER, I can IMAGINE Jesus saying to SILAS: "SILAS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO HERE IN HEAVEN?" And I can also imagine Silas saying to Jesus: "LORD, I'D LIKE TO GO FISHING." So with FISHING POLE in HAND the Lord directs him to a LAKE in HEAVEN. Hour after hour passes -- but Silas doesn't CATCH ANYTHING. He CASTS, and CASTS, and CASTS -- but there is NOTHING! He wonders to himself, "Can this REALLY be HEAVEN?" Then Jesus comes along and says to him: "Have you any FISH?" He answers, "NO." And Jesus says to him, "Throw your line over here." Silas does that and finally, when he bring the FISH IN he says to the LORD: "THIS IS THE BIGGEST WALLEYE I EVER CAUGHT IN MY LIFE!" And the Lord says: "Throw your line over here." And Silas does that,

and he says to the Lord, "This is the BIGGEST GREAT NORTHERN I ever CAUGHT!" And the Lord says to him once more, "THROW YOUR LINE OVER HERE." Silas does that, and with EXULT and JUBILATION he has to exclaim: "LORD, this is the BIGGEST MUSKY that I have even seen."

Finally, Jesus says to him: "COME, SILAS, LET'S EAT TOGETHER." Others from the company of HEAVEN begin to GATHER AROUND. The FISH is COOKING - - but Silas says to HIS LORD: "LORD, Your presence is the BEST MEAL that anybody could ever have." Just last Saturday - - one week ago today - - THE PASTOR came to GIVE ME YOUR BODY and YOUR BLOOD. I KNOW and am SURE NOW that You are the FOOD of EVERLASTING LIFE. And Jesus smiles and says to him, "BLESSED ARE YOU," Silas

How BLESSED ARE WE when we TRUST and BELIEVE in THIS LORD JESUS CHRIST. There is NOTHING more important for US either for TIME or for ETERNITY. HE IS THE GREAT TREASURE! You and I must constantly HOLD ON to THAT! "THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE VISTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." Amen!!!