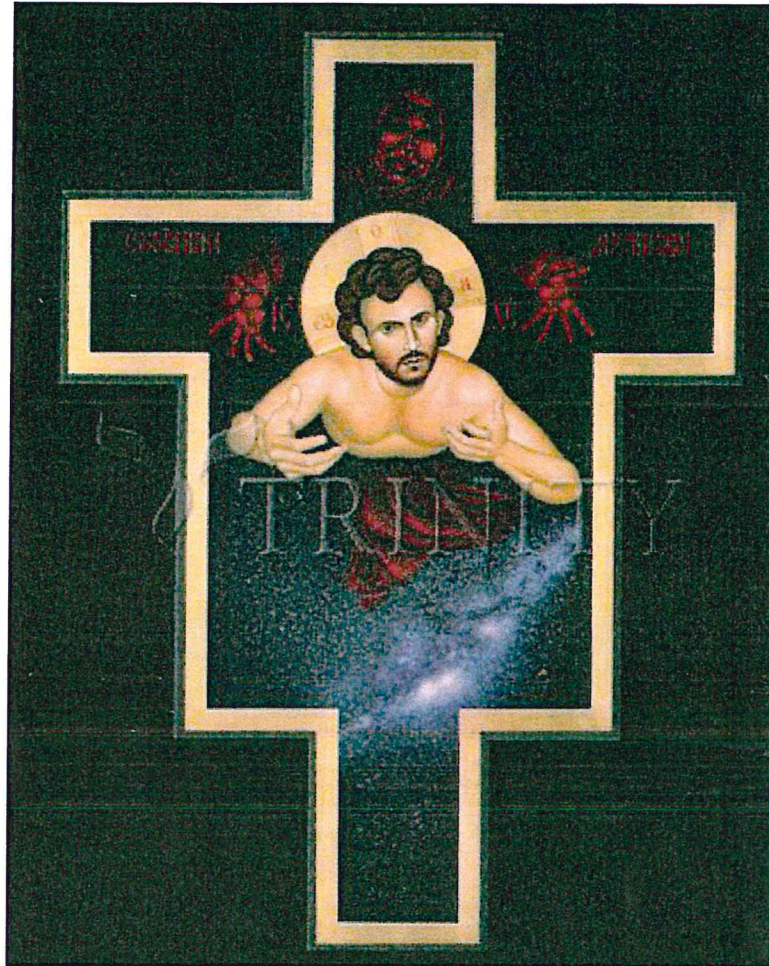


Jesus – Cosmic Christ
Sunday Forum – January 17, 2016



Opening Prayers

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that futures years shall see,
Evermore and evermore. *Hymn 82 – Verse 1*

Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise!
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high be near;
Daystar in my heart appear. *Hymn 6/7 – Verse 1*

The Gospel according to St. John – Introduction

History and authorship
Ancient and later sources
Structure

Logos Prologue – 1:1-18

Books of Signs – 1:19-12:50 (Seven signs – with Passion/Resurrection as possible 8th sign)

Book of Exaltation – 13:1-20:31

Epilogue – Chapter 21

Signs and discourses

Chapters 1-4

Chapter One

Logos Prologue – John 1:1-18

Logos

Word

Genesis 1

Word of God Incarnate

Logic

Structure of things

Wisdom

Sophia

Chokmah

Light – Truth – Glory

Contrasts with Matthew's and Luke's Birth Narratives

Not of blood, nor will of flesh, nor will of man (1:13)

Chapter Two



Wedding Feast at Cana – First Sign

What is a sign?

A symbol – outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace

Miracle

In-breaking of God – symbolic epiphany of God's presence and action

Portent for what is to be – kingdom coming

Wedding

Marriage: covenant relationship between God and Israel

Wedding feast – Gospel symbol of the fullness of the Kingdom/Reign of God

Bridegroom – Christ as Bridegroom – Community of followers (Church) as bride

Water

Purification rites

Transformation to wine of celebration and abundance

Wine

Joy and abundance

Looking forward to Passion – Life-blood

Best for last

Hope

Anti-Judaism mark?

Chapter Three



Nicodemus at Night

Conversation – discourse – Zen-like

Nicodemus

Sanhedrin

Return at middle (Chapter 7:50-51) and end (Chapter 19:39-42) of Gospel

Light and Darkness – Truth/Falsehood – Wisdom/Confusion

Where is real Light, Truth, Wisdom?

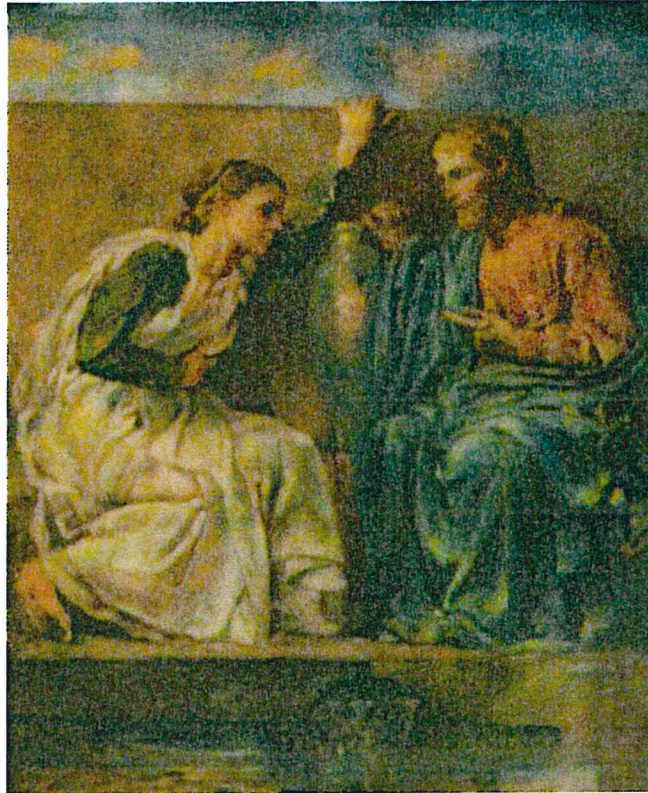
Anti-Judaism?

Birth and Re-Birth

Love

Born again, born from above

Chapter Four



Woman at Well at High Noon

Conversation – discourse – Zen-like

Woman

Marital situation

Divorced – Barren? – Dry womb – Waterless well

Well as place – Jacob's Well

Jacob and well of meeting with Rachel

Well as symbol

Life-giving spring

Place of falling in love – Jacob and Rachel

From outward light (noon) to inward light (wisdom)

New light within – dawning of light: This is the Messiah!

Spreading/sharing Good News

Come to the well – come to Jesus

St. Photini

Enlightened One (Buddha)