

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 2, 2012

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH (IV)

The prayer for the clergy (originally "pastors and curates", later an insistently episcopalian "bishops and other ministers") centers on their vocation to set forth the Word of God, in life, and in doctrine, and in the administration of the sacraments.

From there we naturally turn to the vocation of the Christian people. The pastors (shepherds) must be prayed for, but also "thy people, and especially this congregation [literally: flock] here present". Though the seed be good, it comes to nothing if the ground on which it falls is not receptive (Luke 8:4-15). We pray for grace to "hear and receive thy holy Word": "which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience".

This activity of hearing and receiving the Word of God is the work of faith, and faith characterized by "meek heart and due reverence" – a readiness to be taught by this Word, and a willingness to receive it "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13). The fruit which such faithful hearing and receiving brings forth is the fruit of good works: it is freedom to serve the Lord and our neighbours "in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life" (cf. Luke 1:74, 75). It is astonishing that (outside of Rite I, which is the 1928 Prayer Book text), the "prayers of the people" in the 1979 Prayer Book do not pray for the gift of faith and its fruits: there is much praying for all manner of good works - a

laundry list of good intentions - but the faith that hears and receives the Word of God, without which there are no good works, is either taken for granted, or thought unnecessary to pray for.

In prayer for Christian rulers and clergy, our charity is enlarged to pray for those institutional structures which benefit not just us but the whole Church; in prayer for the Christian people our charity is enlarged to pray for the faith and works of our neighbours; next the Prayer for the Church teaches us to pray God "of thy goodness ... to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity". The church is defined not just by its structural institutions, but also by its solidarity - as members of one Body - with those in suffering: "and whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26). We have received comfort from the gospel, "that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God; for as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation aboundeth by Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:4, 5).

"And where can we so properly commemorate the afflicted as at this sacrament of mercy, wherein God is moved by the representation of his dear Son's sufferings to pity all mankind, especially those who by suffering are made conformable to his image: ... our

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1 WEST MACON STREET

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site:

www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed

10:30 Mr. P. Drew Troxler

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. Scott Howard

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Radford by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roller.

And in memory of loved ones by Mrs. Hayden H. Banks.

And in Loving memory of Mr. Andrew Gay Labrot by Mrs. Andrew Gay Labrot and his children.

And in loving memory of Captain Harry E. Jennings by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Nolan and Alex.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Ms. Anne Mingleдорff, Mrs Michael Donahue
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. Sandord G. Simmons
Mrs. L. Dale Hendrix, Jr., Mrs. D. Brian DuFour

ACOLYTES

8:00 Clayton Compton
10:30 Kameron Sallee, Chris Dixon
John Osborne, Jamie McClellan
Turner Stevens, Hunt Wasden

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings

SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 A.M.

ADULT CLASS (CHAPEL)

The Articles of Religion - IX-XVIII Salvation in Christ
(the Rector)

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups

(READING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CRANMER HALL)

Tuesday 7:00 a.m. - *Colossians* with Fr. O'Brien.

Thursday 7:00 a. m. — *Acts of the Apostles* with Fr. Dunbar

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

Women's Reading Group (with Fr. O'Brien)

Thursdays 9:15-10:30 a.m. beginning

September 6 in the 3rd floor Reading Room:

Dorothy L. Sayers' *'The Mind of the Maker.'* All welcome at any time.

BAZAAR BUSINESS

The **canners** meet every Wednesday in the Cranmer Hall kitchen after 10a.m. Holy Communion. They need fresh veggies and fruits (figs, peppers, pears, peaches, apples, mangos, etc) sugar, mint, pecans and half-pint jars. Jane Pressly 233-6551.

There is now a second Storage unit available for **White Elephant and Treasurer Room**, contact Betsy Howard at betsyd6@aol.com or 398-1326

The Office will be closed Monday, September 3rd, for Labor Day.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

gift [i.e. alms] may bring some present ally to the distressed; but if we can obtain the divine favour for them, they shall be constantly supported, or speedily delivered, if that be best for them" (Dean Comber).

The final petition - omitted in 1552 and 1559 due to concerns about the exaggerated late medieval cult of the dead - is a commemoration for the faithful departed. In the American book it is enlarged with an idiosyncratic petition for "continual growth in thy love and service", but the core of it is a thanksgiving for those "departed this life in thy faith and fear" with a request for "grace to follow their good examples, that with them we may partakers of thy heavenly kingdom". Living as we do in a culture where despair lurks just beneath the surface, it is of vital importance that our charity extend beyond the grave, that we learn to hope for God's grace and favour even in death. Thus is the horizon of our hope lifted from this world to the world to come. "One family we dwell in him, / One Church, above, beneath, / Though now divided by the stream, / The narrow stream of death" (Charles Wesley, #397).

An early 18th century commentator, Charles Wheatley, finds this petition consistent with the consensus of the early church, "that the interval between death and the end of the world is a state of expectation and imperfect bliss, in which the souls of the righteous wait for the completion and perfection of their happiness at the consummation of all things: and therefore, whilst they were praying for the catholic Church, they thought it not improper to add a petition in behalf of that larger and better part of it which had gone before them, that they might altogether attain a blessed and

glorious resurrection, and be brought at last to a perfect fruition of happiness in heaven. By this means they testified their love and respect to the dead; declared their belief in the communion of saints; and kept up in themselves a lively sense of the soul's immortality."

The Church is and must be "militant here in earth" against the world, the flesh, and the devil, but beyond this strife we look to the peace and refreshment of the Church Expectant in paradise, and the joy of the Church Triumphant, in the great day of Resurrection, when Christ comes again in his Kingdom. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday 3rd: No Services.

Tuesday to Friday

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Morning or Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH (ECW)

The Women of St. John's **General Meeting on Wednesday, September 5th**. Installation of Officers will take place during 10:00 Holy Communion Service. This meeting will be the kick off for the Holly Days Bazaar. The meeting will be held in the Green Meldrim immediately following the Church service.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ALL BEGINS NEXT WEEK!

Parents are asked to take children (Gr. 1-6) to their class room, then, come to the Fellowship Hall for registration, coffee, and a brief meeting with Fr. Dunbar. Please be sure to fill out a registration card for *each* child. We look forward to seeing you there!

8:00 A. M. —HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel Prayer Book p. 207
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:00 AM —12 Noon: Nursery (Cranmer Hall)

9:30-10:15 AM —ADULT CLASS(Chapel))

9:30 AM —Pre-school—6th Grade Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 AM —Pre-School program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)
Jr. Choir—1st through 4th grade

10:30 A. M. —MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #370 *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*..... Graefenberg
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution & Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book p. 3-7
 Versicles and Responses..... 7-8
 VENITE (Hymnal #610)..... 9
 Psalms #74..... 430
 First Lesson: Galatians 3:16 207
 TE DEUM #615, 619 (Hymnal #615, 619)..... 11
 Second Lesson, St. Luke 10:23..... 208
 BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638) 14
 Apostles’ Creed..... 15
 Versicles and Responses..... 16
 Collect for the Day 207
 Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace 17-20
 HYMN #576 *Come, labor on*..... Ora labora
 Children (1st through 4th grade) participating in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.
 SERMON..... Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom

OFFERING

Sentences
 HYMN #498 *Where cross the crowded ways of life* Gardiner
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Prayer and Blessing
 HYMN #479 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*Hyfrydol
 ORGAN: Fantasy on *Hyfrydol*..... Gerald Near

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in Cranmer Hall immediately following the 10:30 service.
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

12 Noon HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel. (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as 8 a.m.)