

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 16

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2014

## WHY WORSHIP

After the healing of ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19) from the disease that made them outcasts to Israel, one of them came back to Jesus, "and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks". He is a Samaritan - not only an outsider but also a heretic. Jesus responds with a question: "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger" - to whom alone he says, "thy faith hath made thee whole" (or "hath saved thee").

Jesus' point is this: in refusing to render glory and thanks to God and to his Christ, the Israelites are behaving like heretics, whereas the Samaritan heretic is acting like a true Israelite. The first response to God's greatness is according to the flesh, man's fallen nature, the second moved by the Spirit. The first uses all things, even God himself, for self-gratification. The second uses all things, even itself, in gratitude to God. One seeks to glorify self to the point of contempt for God. The other is moved to glorify God to the point of contempt for self. Since the "default setting" of human nature is the former, the Christian religion must continually instruct and train the faithful in the latter. That is why the lesser doxology runs through Morning and Evening Prayer like a refrain: "Glory be to the Father....". That is why

the Lord's Supper culminates in the greater doxology, "Glory be to God on high". In worship we learn to look beyond ourselves, and to give glory to the triune God. It is in giving glory to God, and thanks to Christ, that man is made whole, and apart from this worship man is less than fully human. Man is made for worship, and the refusal to give glory to God diminishes us.

The question arises, what is the use of worship? To answer, one must distinguish between use and enjoyment, things used as means to another end, and things which are ends in themselves. Some play golf for love of the game (enjoyment), others for the sake of company, or exercise (use). Likewise, the worship of God may be something we use or something we enjoy. Much worldly religion indeed approaches God precisely as a means to an end - like the nine lepers, we may engage in prayer for the sake of purely temporal benefits. Yet even when we do so, the exercise has a way of bringing us as it did the Samaritan to the point of approaching God in worship as an end in himself. It is Bernard of Clairvaux, the 11th century Cistercian abbot, preacher and mystical theologian, who shows how this transition takes place. In *De diligendo deo* ("on

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St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

The flowers at the altar on Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory Andrew Gay Labrot by his family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Thomas E. Johnson Mrs. Nicholas K. Farley, Mrs. John R. Reiter Mrs. Rhett Willis, Mrs. David C. Barrow III

Daily Lenten Services

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Neil H. Victor Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. W. Howard Helmken Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lindsay Pindar 10:30 Chris Dixon Charles Perrie Turner Stevens, Edwin Shepherd Hawkins Pindar, Joseph Saffold

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

The Women of St. John's

SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Fr. O' Brien: Upper School, Fellowship Hall Dr. Bergstrom: Adult Catechism Reading Roomm Mr. Jack Wray: The Seven Penitential Psalms. 3rd floor, back left classroom Cranmer Hall.

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Monday Noon: Women's Study - Athanasius on the Incarnation, with Fr. Bergstrom Tuesdays 7 a.m.: Breakfast, Offices of Instruction with Fr. O' Brien Thursdays 7 a.m.: Men's Bible Study, on Samuel, Reading Room (Fr. Dunbar) Thursdays 9:15 a.m.: Women's Study, on The Imitation of Christ, with Fr. O'Brien

MEN'S FORUM - Thursday at Noon Good Food for Body and Soul

To Be Announced

Guests welcome. Donation requested. Food served 11:50, Talk runs 12:10-12:50.

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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, as hospitals are reluctant to give out any information.

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. E. Brian Culver

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. David C. Barrow III & Mr. George H. Barrow

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

loving God"), he says that man starts with love of himself for his own sake. This is our natural fallen state. But then we perceive that for the sake of ourselves we must love God also, for God gives great benefits to those who love him. Third, we come to love God for his own sake, and this is charity. Finally, in the resurrection, we shall love even ourselves, even our own bodies, for the sake of God - a complete reversal of natural perspective. When the sun rises we blow the candle; the lesser good is taken up in the greater.

Properly speaking, the worship of God is an end in itself, for God is supremely to be enjoyed, he is the highest and final end of all our striving. It is in glorifying and enjoying God that man finds true happiness as man: "man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever" (Westminster Catechism). We worship God indeed for his own sake, and not merely as a means to another greater good - but in worshipping God for his own sake we attain our highest and true good. The test of true worship, therefore, is what happens when we lose all the gifts we have received from God. The psalmist testifies: "My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." Theresa of Avila put it this way: "Let nothing disturb thee / Nothing affright thee / All things are passing / God never changeth / Patient endurance / Attaineth to all things / Who God possesseth / In nothing is wanting / Alone God sufficeth." God alone is enough: God who is infinite in power, wisdom, and goodness, God alone quite apart from all his gifts is worthy to be praised. "We

give thanks to thee for thy great glory" - not for what he gives us, but what he *is*. That is why the purest act of worship is offered upon the cross, in the cry of dereliction: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Condemned, forsaken, deprived of all good, afflicted with all evil he may be - but God is still his God. "Though he slay me, yet will I put him trust in him". *To be continued.*

#### **EASTER LILIES AND EASTER BRASS**

To give a lily for the Church at Easter, send a check for \$35 payable to St. John's Chancel Society marked "*Easter Lily*".

To contribute to the cost of the Brass players on Easter, please send a check payable to St. John's Church marked "*Easter brass*".

Please indicate the intention of the gift (memorial, thanksgiving, etc.). *The list will be published the Sunday after Easter.*

#### **PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK**

##### **Monday to Friday**

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

*Holy Communion with Morning or Evening Prayer*

##### **Tuesday 25th March**

##### **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

##### **In addition, on Wednesday**

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

##### **Saturday**

9:00 a.m. *Holy Communion.*

#### **Women of Saint John's**

##### **LENTEN QUIET DAY**

Wednesday March 26th

9:30am-2pm

Led by Fr O' Brien, on the "Seven Deadly Sins". Please reserve a place with a call to the church office. Light Lenten lunch provided.

**8:00 A.M. —HOLY COMMUNION—***(No Gloria in excelsis during Lent)*

Collects, Epistle, and Gospel..... 125, (124), 126

*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*9:00—12 Noon NURSERY *(Cranmer Hall)***9:30 A.M. —ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** *(Conference Room and Cranmer Hall)*10:30a.m. —Pre-school Worship—3 year olds through Kindergarten *(Cranmer Hall)***10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**

## CARILLON

HYMN #415 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* ..... Aberystwyth

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer ..... Prayer Book p. 3-7

Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #608 ..... 9

Psalm #9 ..... 351

First Lesson: Genesis 37:2-end..... 128

*Enviied by his brothers, Joseph is sold into slavery, and mourned as dead by his father Jacob.*

BENEDICITE #744..... Hymnal pg. 835

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:1, St. Luke 11:14 ..... 129

BENEDICTUS #638 ..... 14

Apostles' Creed ..... 15

Versicles and Responses ..... 16

Collect for the Day ..... 128, (124)

Fixed Collects and other Prayers ..... 17-20

HYMN #56 *Kind Maker of the World* ..... Jesu Dulcis Memoria*Kindergarten to Fourth Grade may exit following the Cross for Junior Music.*

THE SERMON ..... Fr. Bergstrom

**OFFERING**

## Sentences

Anthem: *Hide Not Thy Face From Us* ..... Richard FarrantPresentation of Alms: #732, *All Things are Thine* ..... Gardiner

## Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #551 *A Mighty Fortress* ..... Ein' Feste BurgORGAN: *Choral Song* ..... Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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

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**12 NOON—HOLY COMMUNION (CHURCH - AS 8 A.M.)**