

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 22

The Fourth Sunday after Easter

April 24, 2016

THIS SUNDAY- ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Join us after the 10:30 a.m. service for a Picnic in Cranmer Hall and Charlton Street.
Bring your favorite covered dish to share! *Games • Live Music • Ice Cream Sundae Bar*

THE FIFTH WORD

According to St. John, "Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth", and he "received the vinegar" (19:28-30). That Jesus accepts his suffering with regal power and authority (as St. John testifies) in no way means that he was somehow immune to that suffering or passed through it unaffected. The terrible parching thirst of a crucified man was really his. But it was in order "that the scripture might be fulfilled, that Jesus said, I thirst". However ironic it may be, that the one who makes the heavens drop down rain should suffer the agonies of thirst, yet in crying out, "I thirst", and accepting "vinegar" (the cheap sour wine of the poor) to drink, Jesus shows himself to be the one of whom Scripture speaks, the servant of the Lord, who suffers for his uncompromising adherence to the will of God: "They gave me gall to eat; and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink" (Psalm 69:21). His saying reminds us, that in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus had accepted the cup of wrath which the Father gave him to drink for us (John 18:11), and now

drinks it to the dregs.

So "I thirst" expresses not only the suffering of Jesus, in drinking the cup of wrath, but also his willingness to drink that cup, his thirst for the righteousness of God. This willingness explains why he would *not* drink the vinegar mingled with gall, which was offered to him when he came to the cross, because it was a kind of sedative to dull the pain (Matthew 27:34). A free rational obedience moves Jesus, not drugs.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Unquenchable thirst and desire for God is the condition of attaining God: as the psalmist testifies:

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God,
yea, even for the living God:
when shall I come to appear
before the presence of God? (Ps. 42 cf Ps. 63)

True, we find many substitutes with which we hope to slake our thirst – much sour wine mingled with gall, to sedate our soul's thirst for God: the sour wine of pride, envy, avarice, lust, anger – "the wrath of man which worketh not the righteousness of God" as today's epistle says (James 1:20). Yet if the poisonous intoxication of sinful lusts reaches its peak at the cross, it is also

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

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. B. Ray Summerell

ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Turner Stevens
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Phillip Inglesby
Hawkins Pindar Jackson McClellan

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frank B. Arden, Jr. and Frank B. Arden III by their family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. B. Ray Summerell,
Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Rhett N. Willis,
Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

THIS SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.

OF VESTMENTS AND CEREMONIAL

Your questions answered (maybe!) on what the clergy wear in liturgy, what they do and why. Show & Tell with Fr. Dunbar- Reading Room

NEXT SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.

BRINGING THE GREEN FURNITURE FROM PARIS
Join us on Sunday, May 1 in the Ralston Room to hear Mrs. Christian (Susan) Arden-Joly talk about bringing the Green family furniture back from Paris (slides included).

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Breakfast with Father O'Brien
Is Faith Reasonable?
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room
Thursday- Men's Small Group Faith Fellowship
Noon every Thursday
Cranmer Hall, 1st floor

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 27
Cranmer Hall Library
Thursday- Michael D. O'Brien's novel,
Island of the World with Fr. O'Brien
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday, April 25

FEAST OF SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Morning and Evening Prayer
With Holy Communion

Tuesday to Friday

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *The Litany*
10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

the point at which their true character is revealed, and repentance can begin. In the desolation of the cross, are these worldly loves crucified, and we are reborn to holy desire, a thirst for God.

For the believing disciples, as Jesus says in today's gospel lesson (16:5ff), it is only as by the desolation of the cross they lose the earthly presence of Christ, and their ideas of a worldly Messiah, can they know his divine presence in the Holy Spirit - that best of all the good and perfect gifts which the Father gives. Only in his going from the world to the Father can they be open to the new presence that comes to them in the Spirit. Only then can they "receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

For the unbelieving world, the desolation is the work of the Spirit, in convicting it of sin, as Jesus promises in today's gospel lesson (John 16:8). On Pentecost we see it when the crowd realizes "that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ". "Pricked in their heart" they asked, "what shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:36-38). For paradoxically, the Holy Ghost both stirs our thirst for God, and is himself the living water by which this thirst is forevermore quenched:

And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

SAVANNAH BAROQUE IN CONCERT
FRIDAY, MAY 13 AT 7:30 P.M.

A debut program of instrumental and vocal works by Purcell, Bach, Handel, Blavet, Telemann and Monteverdi.

Tickets begin at \$20 each and are available today at the Parish Picnic, during the week in the Church Office, at the door the night of the concert or any time online at www.savannahbaroque.yapsody.com.

MEN'S CLUB

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT- MAY 13

Marshwood Course- 1:30 p.m.

Contact Jim McClellan at 912-201-3895 or mcclellzoot@gmail.com.

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

THE O'BRIEN CUP- MAY 19

The Savannah Golf Club- 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Scott Howard at 912-598-3811 or robert_s_howard@ml.com.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

BOARD MEETING- MAY 2 AT 10:00 A.M.

ECW PICNIC- MAY 4 AT 11:00 A.M.

Nita Ann Klein's Home (144 Schley Avenue)

Bring a covered dish to share.

All Welcome! RSVP- 912-232-1251

EYCS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
DEADLINE- MAY 31

College scholarships are available through the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services. Awards are need based and for undergraduate education only. A letter of recommendation from the student's Rector is required. eycs.georgiaepiscopal.org.

LIVING VINE COLLECTION

Please donate items for *The Living Vine* (paper towels, napkins, bath tissue, and Kleenex). New or gently-used car seats, strollers and bassinets are also needed.

THE EAGLE- SUMMER EDITION
DEADLINE- MAY 2

Please send entries to Katherine Sallee at rsallee04@gmail.com

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 174
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - *Nursery (Cranmer Hall)*

9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 A.M. - JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS (*Cranmer Hall*)

Music, Teaching, and Active Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten.

10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN: #95 *Christ the Lord is Ris'n Today* Gwalchmai
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8
 EASTER ANTHEMS: #682 162
 Psalms #98,99 461-463
 First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-44:5 *The promise of the Spirit* Insert
 TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #613, 617 10
 Second Lesson: St. James 1:17-21 & St. John 16:5-15 174, 175
 BENEDICTUS #638 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day 174
 Other Collects, Prayers and The Grace 17-20
 HYMN: #89 *At the Lamb's High Feast* Salzburg
PSALM PSINGERS sing first stanza alone. Please join in at second stanza.
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).
 THE SERMON Father O'Brien

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Mack Wilberg
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Prayer and Blessing
 HYMN: *Come Down, O Love Divine* (Insert) Down Ampney
 VOLUNTARY: *A Festive Gloria* Aaron David Miller
 Gabriel Lawrence. Guest Organist

Everyone is invited to attend the Parish Picnic immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.
If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12:00 P.M. (Noon) HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as at 8:00 a.m.).