

The Acts of St. Luke's

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 15, A.D. 2010

O God, who declarest thine almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time change coming soon

Don't forget that beginning in September we will be changing our time for Sunday worship from 9:30am to 9:00 am. Pushing back the clock a mere thirty-minutes will give us more time for Sunday school and fellowship. Also, we finally achieved our goal last Sunday of getting everybody to sit together in the front half of the nave (we Californians do like our space), and it made a remarkable difference in the quality of our congregational singing, which was markedly robust and spirited. Sitting together near the transept makes our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving all the more splendid. So let's keep on assembling together in the first half of the nave for the Holy Communion. It will give us incentive to fill up the rest of Waverley church by inviting our friends and family.

Prayer Requests

Fr. Fox requests prayer for Melody Bartlett - a faithful Christian in San Bernardino - for a painful spinal degenerative condition. She is only in her 20's.

Also, let us pray for Rebecca Fox, Fr. Fox's daughter in Bridgeport, CT. Let us thank the Lord for providing Rebecca a job, but also, let us intercede for Rebecca's healing from a disease called "red hands". The cause is unknown, and no cure is known. With this disease one's hands become progressively red and painful and spreads to the feet.

Susan Sammons will be having foot surgery soon, and this will require her to refrain from driving for approximately eight weeks. Let us keep Susan in our prayers, and let us be willing to provide the Sammons with transportation while her foot heals. Please also pray for Ken as he recovers from the surgery he underwent two weeks ago.

We have recently received from Yuri a list of the names of the Marines in Christopher's platoon who work side by side as scouts on patrol in Afghanistan. Please remember to pray for divine protection for the following soldiers who are serving to protect us:

Christopher Bast

Daniel Richard
Jeffrey Downen
Tucker Beglan
Bernardo Rodriguez
Doc Saunders
Sgt. Harrell

Our brother-in-Christ, the Rev. Deacon Blake Schwendimann, of St. Matthew's ACC, Newport Beach, and his wife, Chau, are grieving the unexpected death of their son, Jacob, who died last Sunday, during the seventh month of Chau's pregnancy. Blake and Chau have been married less than a year, and Jacob was their first child. Let us lift up this young Christian couple before the Lord in prayer; beseeching the God of all comfort to hold them within the embrace of his loving kindness as they heal from this tragic loss.

Our sister in Christ, Susan Brown, asks that we keep her mother, Jean, continually in prayer. Jean, has been struggling a serious liver condition. Her condition has somewhat improved recently. Let us remember Susan and Jean in our prayers and supplications; beseeching the Lord to continue to pour out his healing grace upon Jean, and to comfort Susan with his fatherly compassion.

Our beloved brother, Mark Balok, requests prayer for his grandfather, Fritz Gaubatz; a beloved Christian family member and octogenarian, who has suffered with diabetes for most of his life. Mark's grandfather had a serious heart attack several weeks ago. By God's grace, he survived the attack; but it has left his already delicate health so compromised that his physicians fear he might not have much time left. Let us earnestly pray in hope for Mark's Grandfather and for the Gaubatz and Balok families.

Our friend and brother, Fr. Brian Foos, requests prayer for St. Andrew's Academy, which had a particularly tough academic year for 2009-2010, due to the downturn in the economy. Let us faithfully remember the fiscal needs of St. Andrew's Academy in our prayers; beseeching the Lord to bless the enormously important work Fr. Brian is overseeing in shaping the souls and intellects of young Christians, according to biblical and classically Anglican principles. If you aren't acquainted with St. Andrew's Academy, check them out at www.standrewsacademy.org.

Join us in prayer for our brother Charles Hewgill, who has been diagnosed with a very serious medical condition, requiring a bone marrow transplant. We

rejoice at the news that Charles has a possible donor in his younger brother. Nevertheless, there is still the huge problem of raising the money he will need for this procedure. Let us, therefore, pray in hope for Charles; beseeching our merciful Lord to provide all that he will need, medically, financially and spiritually, for the successful treatment of his condition.

For Your Prayers this Week

National repentance and revival; our Presiding Bishop, Leonard Riches; The newly-constituted ACNA parish, Church of the Resurrection, Fr. Richard Avery, rector; the Anglican Church in North America;

Saint Andrew's Academy, Lake Almanor, CA; Fr. Brian Foos, Headmaster; All Saints Church, Vacaville, Fr. Carl Lund, Rector; Christ's Chapel, Riverside, Rev. Deacon Randy Pierpoint; Flagstaff Anglican Fellowship, Fr. Earle Fox's apologetics ministry, Road to Emmaus Ministries; the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Placentia; Fr. Neil Edlin, St. Mary Magdalene ACC; Fr. Bill Thompson, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans

In the Diocese of Mid-America

Our diocesan bishop, Royal Grote
Our bishop co-adjutor, Ray Sutton, The Rev. Chris and Bridgitte Parrish

In St. Luke's Parish

The numerical growth and financial needs of Saint Luke's; the ministry of Dr. Earle Fox, the Bartel Family; the Bast family; Christopher Bast and the marines of his platoon serving in Afghanistan; Dr. Bowman; Esther Chen & her mother; Robert & Natalie Gutschow; Charles Hewgill; Ante Modrick; Ken & Susan Sammons;

Friends Near & Far

Calvin Ainley; Nicholas Armitage; Todd Aylard & family; James Bartlett; Melody Bartlett; John Bothwell; Jean Brown; Rob Cook & the Cook family; Tom Crist; Rebecca Fox; Charles & Betty Grant; Fritz Gaubatz (Mark Balok's grandfather); George and Jordan Haber; Norma Hake; Gregory-Theophan Hoffberg; Les Jordan's mother; Linda Kolb; Todd Larsen; Glen Lenardos; Cliff Lotzenhiser; Emma Lund; Eve Menees' oldest son; Brandon and Jessica Murray; Shawn Phillips; The Scott Plunkett family; Barbara Routh; the Schwendimann family; Sidney Spencer; Charles Steichen; Leon Streit; the Strom family; Charles and Margaret Templin; Cyndi Vanderpoel; David Zwicker.

The Holy Eucharist with Sermon

Scripture Lessons

I Samuel 24: 1-17

Psalm 33 (p. 318)

I Corinthians 15: 1-11

St. Luke 18: 9-14

Hymns and Service Music

Processional Hymn # 157 (2) "Father we praise thee, now the night is over"

Kyrie eleison (Nine-fold) # 710

Sequence Hymn# 577 "Awake my soul" vss. 1, 2

Gloria Tibi & Laus Tibi # 730

Sequence Hymn vss. 3, 4

Sermon Hymn # 550 "Am I a soldier of the cross"

The Doxology #139

Sursum Corda & Preface # 734

Sanctus et Benedictus qui venit, # 797

Agnus Dei # 712

Gloria in Excelsis # 739

Recessional Hymn # 145 “Not alone for mighty empire”

Assisting us in Worship

Celebrant and Preacher - The Rev. Fr. Earle Fox

Lay-assistant - Mr. Skip Fraser

Crucifer - Mr. Russ Smith

Lector - Mr. Don Feher

Ushers - Mr. Don Feher, Mr. Les Jordan

Greeters - Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sammons

Organist - Mrs. Esther Chen

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

HUMAN NEED.

by the Rev. Prebendary Melville Scott, D.D.

from *The Harmony of the Collects, Epistles, and Gospels.*

*A Devotional Exposition of the Continuous Teaching of the Church Throughout the Year,
S.P.C.K., London, 1902.*

THE first twelve Sundays after Trinity, which make up the first half of the Trinity series, form an orderly exposition of the great fundamental truths of the religious life. Five Sundays of the Love of God and His relation to man are followed by another five Sundays of Duty, or man's relation to God. Two Sundays remain, and are employed to explain the doctrine of grace, and to show how the love of God, which binds to duty,

also makes possible the fulfilment of duty, and not only constrains, but enables. Thus the whole series may be summed up in three words—Love, Duty, Grace.

It will be noticed that the order of thought is identical with that of the Church Catechism, in which, after learning God's attitude of covenant love displayed in baptism, and the lesson of duty as conveyed by the commandments, the child is taught that he is not able "to walk in the commandments of God and to serve Him without His special grace," which is to be called for by diligent prayer.

Thus the first half of the Trinity Sundays form a course of more advanced teaching for those previously trained in the Catechism—a correspondence which will be found of great assistance to the teacher. The presentation of religion must always proceed upon the same lines, and show how the love of God binds to Duty, and how Duty demands Grace.

Of these two Sundays which treat of the Grace of God, the present Sunday declares that we need the Divine mercy and grace, while the twelfth Sunday assures us of the Divine sufficiency which is able to supply all we need.

THE EPISTLE. (I COR. xv. 1.) THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL.

S. Paul here considers the relation of the Gospel to human need, naming only those vast features of it which make it, indeed, a Gospel of mercy and grace.

A. The Gospel of Mercy.

(1) *Its Efficacy.*

The Christian must first "receive it" into himself as the motive of a new life and the seed of a new character. He must "stand upon it" as on a firm foundation and sure hope. Standing upon his own merits he has no security, but standing upon the simple fact of Christ's death he rests upon something which can bear him. That to which he must trust is not Within him, but without him. He must "keep it in memory" as a thing too sweet to be forgotten, and as the ever-present motive of his life.

Doing this, he will find it the source of ever-increasing salvation.

(2) *Its Simplicity.*

It consists of certain completed facts of history, parts of a Divine plan foretold in the Scriptures and devised and carried out by the mercy of God. These facts are three in number.

- The Death of Christ for sin—this the primary Gospel fact delivered first of all.”
- The Burial of Christ, which certified His death.
- The Resurrection of Christ, which certified the Sufficiency of His death, and assures us of the life of grace here and of glory hereafter.

(3) *Its Trustworthiness.*

These simple facts challenge any amount of investigation. There are no events so sure or which rest on more complete evidence. S. Paul refers to the evidence of the twelve, to the evidence of hundreds of living Christians, and to his own vision of the Risen Christ.

B. The Gospel of Grace.

The Gospel of mercy is outside us that we may cling to it. The Gospel of grace is within us as—

(1) *The Source of Christian Character.*

By this S. Paul is, not perhaps all that he might have been, but something very different from what he was.

(2) *The Source of Christian Usefulness.*

By this S. Paul has done, not perhaps all that he might have done, but something, yes, more than something, “more than they all.”

For all that he is and for all that he has done the grace of God is responsible. In spite of all he has been and of all he has done the mercy of God is available.

THE GOSPEL. (S. LUKE xviii. 9.) THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF RELIGION.

The parable teaches the absolute necessity of a deep sense of sin as the one condition of receiving grace and mercy. This is the lesson of the whole Sunday.

A. The Pharisee.

We need not describe his outward dress, for he has worn every kind and sort of dress for these twenty centuries, but never the garb of humility. He thanks God for his virtues, or, rather, the absence of vices. He recounts all the good things he has done. All is part of his praying, but it is not prayer. "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire," and he has no desire. He has no conception of any goodness that he does not possess. He has not because he asks not, he asks not because he wants not.

B. The Publican.

We need not describe his trade, for he has been of every trade, his appearance or his complexion, for it is as various as mankind. In one thing alone he is ever the same—he is desperately in earnest, terribly in need. He is ashamed to encounter the eyes of men, for he "stands afar off." He is so humble towards God that "he will not lift up his eyes toward heaven." He feels inward heartfelt pain, for "he smites upon his breast." He feels the speciality of his sin—he is "the sinner." He trusts alone, if he dare trust at all, in mercy, and in God, for he prays "God be merciful to me, the sinner." His prayer is very short, and he will not be heard for his much speaking, but he will be heard, for he asks, and "whosoever asketh receiveth." And he is heard, he returns justified, and mercy and grace go with him.

Such is the prayer of need, and such is the answer of grace.

The choice of the Epistle and Gospel is a masterpiece of selection in its contrast between the unconverted Pharisee and the great convert from Pharisaism, conscious, indeed, of an inward change, but far from satisfied with the degree of it, ascribing it all to the grace of God, and ever humbled by the recollection of what he was previously. The difference between the two is that the one has felt a need of which the other is wholly unconscious.

THE COLLECT. A PRAYER OF NEED.

A true prayer of the publican enriched by the theology of S. Paul.

A. The Divine Mercy.

God's mercy is not at issue with His power, for it is the way of showing His power in which He most delights. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and each step in grace is an exhibition of the power of God as real as were Christ's miracles of mercy.

B. The Prayer for Grace.

We ask for grace in proportion to our needs. We ask for grace to start on the heavenly journey, for grace to advance quickly, and finally to obtain the prize.

*The Ven. **Melville Horne Scott, D.D.***

Archdeacon of Stafford, Vicar of Castlechurch, and Prebendary (Residentiary Canon) of Lichfield Cathedral

(late 19th Century Anglican churchman)

Please direct all suggestions, prayer requests, special notifications, and new member requests to Andrew Matthews at lonpilgrim71@yahoo.com.