



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Quinquagesima

Sunday Report



Today was Quinquagesima, (explanation of the origin of the word later in the report), which is the Sunday next before Lent. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a cool 34°F under overcast skies. By the time church started, the temperature had climbed to 44°F, a nice change from Tuesday's snow. The nice weather brought four people to church.

Jack Arnold played *Lord I lift Your Name on high* for the gathering song.

## **Lord, I lift Your Name on high**

Lord, I lift Your Name on high  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth  
To show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me  
Christ beside me, Christ within me  
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Lord I lift Your Name on high* is a congregation favorite.

## **Lent**

Lent is coming up, it starts this coming Wednesday, called Ash Wednesday. So, what does the word **Lent** mean? It has an obscure origin, and is probably a corruption of Lencen, or a similar term in ancient Anglo, Saxon, and Germanic languages, all of which referred to spring, new life, and hope. Although it is generally considered to be a



time of mourning and repentance, it is more than that, it is like death, a time of new life and hope because by means of the death of Christ, we receive new life.

Many avoid Lent and Holy Week because they think it isn't a happy and uplifting time—but to be honest, neither is most of life. Sometimes we come to church all scrubbed up, dressed nicely, with smiles on our faces, and when people ask how we are, we reply that everything is fine and we even boast how wonderful things are—but is it? Life is not always uplifting, or wonderful, or pleasant, or joyous. To claim it is, is to miss the whole point of the incarnation! God became flesh in Jesus Christ. Jesus faced temptation, He suffered hunger and thirst, He suffered the agony of crucifixion. Jesus our God did not face these things so that we would be exempt from them, He faced these things so that we would have dignity in them, He faced these things that in Him we might have triumph.

The forty days commemorate the significant "forty" periods in Scripture (although forty is not always significant), including the forty years the Jews wandered in the desert after they had been rescued by God from Egypt, and which did not end until they repented. Jonah preached to Nineveh that God's judgment would come on them in forty days. During that time the people repented and thus were spared God's judgment. Jesus was tested by the Devil in the desert for forty days before He began His public ministry, announcing salvation to the repentant and judgment to those who continued to rebel against God. Jesus prophesied that God's judgment would come against Israel for rejecting Him as Messiah within the time of His own generation (Matt. 24; Luke 21; Mark 13). Within forty years of His death, burial, and resurrection, Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was so ravaged that "not one stone [was] left here upon another" (Matt. 24:2). The Jewish Christians, however, escaped this judgment of God by fleeing to Pella before the final Roman siege, just as Jesus had warned them to do (Matt. 24:16-21).

Lent is a time for Christians to contemplate their sinfulness, repent, ask God's forgiveness, and realize the infinite sacrifice God made on their behalf. It is to be a time of quiet contemplation, but not a time of despair, since it culminates in the commemoration of the resurrection. Traditionally, those who are joining the church spend this period in special instruction regarding Christian doctrine, practice, and responsibility. Historically, prospective members ("catechumens") did not participate in the Lord's Supper portion of the Sunday services until they were received into full membership on the Sunday of the Resurrection of Our Lord. For them, this first experience of Ash Wednesday and Lent has special significance as God's eternal plan of salvation is applied to them personally.

When Jesus taught us how to pray, He didn't say, "If you elect to pray, do it this way..." and when He taught about fasting, He didn't say, "If you elect to fast, do it this way..."

He said, *when* you pray, don't do it for show like the hypocrites do. It's a conversation between you and God. And He gave us the Lord's Prayer as an example of what we should pray about:

**Address God**

"Our Father, who art..."

**Submit to God's will**

"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done..."



**Ask for your physical needs**

“Give us this day our daily bread...”

**Ask for forgiveness**

“Forgive us our trespasses...”

**To the degree that you yourself are willing to forgive...**

“As we forgive our trespassers...”

**Ask for help with temptations**

“Lead us not into temptation...”

**And preservation from evil**

“Deliver us from evil...”

**Recognizing whose world this really is**

“For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever.”

Similarly, Jesus told us that *when* we fast (not *if*) we are not to make a show of it, like



hypocrites do. A fast is different from a hunger strike: a fast is a personal act of devotion to God, while a hunger strike is a public act most often used to shine a spotlight on injustice. A fast is also different from anorexia nervosa: it is *disciplined* diet, not total abstention from food. During a religious fast, you still eat, you just abstain from certain foodstuffs. Traditionally, people have fasted by eliminating luxury items from their diets, such as meats. A fast can consist of eating whatever you want, but drinking only water.

More positively, you can fast in other areas beyond food, you can commit to a something that can benefit the church, such cutting back in

an entertainment area, using that time for Bible study and donating the savings to the church.

On Palm Sunday, there were crowds who cheered Jesus as the King, but where were all those fair-weather friends when Jesus prayed in agony on Gethsemane, and where were they when He hung upon the cross? Let us be bold to join Him, fasting in the wilderness for forty days during Lent; let us be bold to pray with Him in the garden on Maundy Thursday, let us fearlessly stand at the foot of His cross on Good Friday, so that we may witness His Resurrection and His Ascension, and join in His triumphant reign.

**Mite Boxes**

If you read this report at all, you know the Anglican Orthodox Church (AOC), and this parish in particular, is not about money. Not that money is not useful, but the parish has plenty. Any extra we get, we send it to the AOC to use for their mission work. The AOC works on a very slim budget, they aren't about money either. The AOC is about the Great Commission; to go forth and spread The Word of the Lord:

18And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, '...19Go ye therefore, and teach all



nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Mt. 28:19-20)

You may not realize it, but the AOC has national church affiliates in 22 countries around the world, that does take a little money. Not great quantities of money, but some and as a church, we would be dirt poor, if we had dirt.

So, that is where the Mite Boxes come in. Ash Wednesday is 22 February 2012; Easter Sunday is 8 April 2012. That period is Lent. Often thought of as a time for fasting, it is more importantly a time to channel your attention towards God. A time to let your heart open to the Holy Ghost that you might come closer to God and perhaps do His Work more effectively.

So, to exercise this concept, we are asking you to cut back. We know the economy is not really great and you are probably cutting back already. So, cut back a bit more. Take part of your savings every day and put it in the Mite Box. If you did not cut back on a given day, dig into your wallet or purse and cut out a bit of cash for the Mite Box anyway. Every day, except Sundays. Sundays are the Lord's Day and a day of celebration. They are not part of Lent. By Easter Sunday, you will have a full Mite Box. Bring it to church, this church, another church, that is best. If you cannot find a church to actually go to on Easter, you probably aren't looking hard enough, but pull the money out and send us a check, payable to the Anglican Orthodox Church and we will send it on.

One box for each member of the family. A little bit, just a mite, every day. Every day, miss none. Every day, every body in the family can do just a little bit. When you drop your daily contribution in, think, "Did I do what I could today for the Lord? Did I fall short or meet the standard? Can I do better tomorrow? Will I?" It should be a time of reflection. It will be if you do it.

By the way, what is a Mite Box? Named after the smallest of Roman coins, a normal wage of the time being 10 mites per hour, of which two were donated by the widow, in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4, it is normally a small cardboard box, say 3 inches each dimension, a cube piggy bank so to speak. If you don't have one, call, email or write. We have a pile of them.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the Lord's Work and make your life better at the same time.

### *Propers*

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister or our Deacon Striker.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 122-124, with the Collect first:

**The Sunday called Quinquagesima, or the  
Sunday next before Lent.**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoso-ever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's first letter to the



Corinthians, starting at the First Verse of the Thirteenth Chapter. Paul talks of charity<sup>1</sup>, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." Paul goes on to say that no matter what you do, if in your heart you have not that love for others, it is all to naught. Our understanding here on earth is limited, we will never here see the fullness of God's plan, yet the part most clear is the love we must have one for another, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, for no reason other than we know that is right so to do. Paul uses the phraseology "through a glass, darkly",

which is very interesting inasmuch as CS Lewis uses a variation to describe earth as compared to heaven. He calls the earth The Shadowlands and says in heaven all is clear and bright, not dark and muddled as here on earth.

**T**HOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And

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<sup>1</sup> Charity - Love; universal benevolence; good will; the word which properly denotes love. Properly understood the Love of God, that perfect love, to which man should aspire. [1913 Webster]

though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Holy Gospel for today which came from the Gospel of Saint Luke, starting at the Thirty-First Verse of the Eighteenth Chapter. The Gospel starts out telling of Jesus' trying to prepare his disciples for what was to come, and they could not grasp it:



“Then Jesus took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: and they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.” The Gospel goes on to tell of Jesus' healing of a blind man near Jericho, “And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way-side begging: and hearing

the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.”

If you take nothing else from today's Gospel, take this – Faith will save you. After you are saved, you need to act on your faith. The order is clear.

**W**HEN Jesus took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: and they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none

of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the wayside begging: and hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

### *Sermon – Time and Action*

Today's sermon brought the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



Consider these words from the Collect:

... that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity ...

In the Collect, we acknowledge to God that if we have not charity, nothing we do is worth anything; we then ask Him to send the Holy Ghost into our hearts with the precious gift of charity. Webster tells us that Charity is love; universal benevolence; good will; the word which properly denotes love. Properly understood the Love of God, that perfect love, to which man should aspire.

Paul tells us no matter our gifts, talents and so called accomplishments, without the Love of God, we are nothing and have done nothing. It must be clear to us that our understanding here on earth is limited, we will never here see the fullness of God's plan, yet the part most clear is the love we are to have one for another, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, for no reason other than we know that is right so to do. When Paul talks about God's great plans, he uses the phraseology "through a glass, darkly", which is very interesting inasmuch as CS Lewis uses a variation to describe earth as compared to heaven. He calls the earth The Shadowlands and says in heaven all is clear and bright, not dark and muddled as here on earth. So, here our understanding is limited, it will not always be so.

As they were coming in to Jericho, Jesus told the disciples of what was to come, yet they could not grasp their leader would submit to such treatment on their behalf. He was the Conqueror; in a sense they were right, He was to conquer death for us, but not the Roman Empire. As they went along, they encountered the blind man. The blind man who wanted his sight and knew Jesus had The Power. He cried unto the Lord and was rebuffed by His People. Did he give up? No, he cried the more. When Jesus heard him, he turned and asked what the man wanted. MY SIGHT! No generalizations, no beating about. He asked of Him what he truly wanted. Ask and it shall be given unto you. The blind man lacked sight, but not vision. Nor, it might be added did he lack faith. To some, the faith he had might seem a blind faith, but it was one that he acted on and gained what he lacked. Will we have the faith to act?

True love is Faith, Hope, Charity<sup>2</sup>.



### *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today we get a brilliant and inspiring sermon based on the propers for this week:

### **Sermon Notes for Quinquagesima Sunday 19 February 2012 Anno Domini**

#### **The Sunday called Quinquagesima, or the Sunday next before before Lent.**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoso-ever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



**31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, *Behold, we go up to***

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<sup>2</sup> The three Gloster Gladiator fighters *Faith, Hope* and *Charity* defended Malta against the Italian Air Force during the early part of the siege of Malta in World War II. Legend has it that all three persisted and of the three, *Charity* never failed.



*Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. 34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. 35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: 36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. 37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. 38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. 39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. 40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, 41 Saying, **What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?** And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. 42 And Jesus said unto him, **Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.** 43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God. (Luke 18:31-43)*

We will see today how Christ was so exceedingly constant in His love for us even while His death was impending. He never waivered in the face of His coming passion, It is an unattainable standard to which we must aspire. It is not a simple matter to consider the welfare and spiritual disposition of others while we are headed for a cruel cross ourselves, but Christ DID, and He did so as earnestly as He did at the beginning of His ministry.

We will know also how prevailing prayer, in the face of detractors, will be heard by God. Though many – even supposed believers – may attempt to sever our voices from a direct access to God, with perseverance, no wall can divide from the Springs of Mercy in Christ.

We would miss the great thrust of the day if we did not make mention of the prescribed Epistle for today – 1 Cor 13 – the Love Chapter. All that Christ bore in His body and soul for us was an open demonstration of that love presented in 1 Cor 13.

*<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. (1 Cor 13:1-10)*

This beautiful chapter tells us that all our labors, works, and service must have their foundations in love.

No matter the good we do, if love is not the motivator and cause, it is a waste to us for heavenly approval.

Christ gave, out of love, His very lifeblood for us. He was longsuffering and patient. He did not sound a trumpet before Him, but came speaking in a voice of kindness and soft accent. Christ bore all things for us – what have we born for Him?

Let us now address the text of Luke 18:31-43

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem for the last time. He is fully aware of the cataclysmic events that will occur: His betrayal, His trial, His torture, and His terrible death on the cross. But He continues to love and serve as long as His life's breath remains – even forgiving and receiving a thief on the very cross upon which He suffered.

*<sup>31</sup> Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: <sup>33</sup> And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. <sup>34</sup> And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.*

As Jesus approached Jericho, there was a certain man who had sat begging by the roadside. He had sat there year in and year out begging for the mere sustenance of life. When he had been led by his friends to the place he sat down that morning, he had not dreamed of the blessings the day would bring.

Often, we worry about the days events but most often, our worries are unfounded and God will provide an unexpected blessing.

Though the man knew not of the Coming Christ, the man's plight and circumstances was fully known by Jesus. He had watched all those years as the man sat begging beside that dust road to Jericho. Perhaps the pre-incarnate Christ would have wanted to touch the man's eyes with healing before he ever came to beg, but, with God, there is a time and season for all things.

It may be that Christ desired us to glorify God more mightily in the visible example of His healing of the man. Even the blind have glorified the Father by His manifest works.

*<sup>35</sup> And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging*

How random this sounds – how accidental even. But with God, there is no random thought or action, and there are no accidents. Christ was surely coming to the very place that this blind man sat begging.

Christ knew the man was worried with the cares of life much more greatly than those who were whole. The man would have been satisfied, before he met Christ, to have received a few shillings with which to buy food – but after we have met Christ, those concerns fall away. Our souls loom before us and we must care for them in Christ.

Though blind in sight, the man was privileged to retain his hearing – and it was made more acute by his blindness. : *<sup>36</sup> And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.* He wondered at the approaching crowd and what this meant. Little did he know that he had come to this place as a blind beggar, but would leave a blessed child of God, rejoicing and glorifying God. He would also be a follower of the Lord who had healed his eyes as well as his soul.

*<sup>37</sup> And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by* God must have seen to it, in

His divine Providence, that this man had heard of Christ being discussed by passersby and his friends. He had hung on to every word that he had heard – not knowing or believing that such as him would **SEE** Christ face to face!

When we while away our hours and days contemplating our troubles and loneliness, little do we know that the Savior is on His Way to us.

*38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.* The blind man may never have even given thought to the possibility that Jesus would restore his sight. That was not important to the man. The most important blessing that would outweigh all else was that Christ would simply have mercy upon him. That mercy of Christ is of greater benefit than all else.

It is sadly true that those nearest to Christ are often the very ones who bar the way to others in coming to Him. This is often true even in the Church. We stake out our territories and spheres of influence and woe be unto any who trespass.

We too often want to keep the blessings of God to ourselves and by that desire lose them.

*39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*

As Paul counsels "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free ...*" (Gal 5:1) Give no ground to the naysayers. When the enemy attack becomes most intense, retreat not – commit your reserves. No man was going to silence this man's voice when God was listening. He simply redoubled his effort and his volume.

*40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him*

When God stands still it is the moment of His greatest action. Christ stopped for the blind man.

You and I were blind too before Christ came to us. When we call on His Name, He will stop and command us to be brought to Him – often by the Holy Ghost, but now by men. He has commanded us to bring many souls. Have we done?

When we are near to Christ, we can hear His voice.

Now that the blind man was assured of the mercy of the Lord, he felt free to ask whatsoever he needed most: "*41 **Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.***

*42 And Jesus said unto him, **Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.*** Please observe that Christ heals fully and not partially, immediately and not with delay. When we have called upon Him, when we have COME to Him, when we have HEARD His voice – He will heal us and SAVE us. The man had great faith – and His faith was well-placed.

We should remember how the man came to the roadside, but also how he left it. *43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.*

Once we have seen and known, our souls should be changed completely. We do not depart from Christ in the same manner in which we came. We must, if we have been made whole, depart praising Him and glorifying His Holy Name. Our lives will be an inspiration and curiosity to others who need to know Christ.

## *Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sunday Sermon*

As is oft the case, we are honored to present Bishop Dennis' Sunday sermon presented to his parish. Dennis has an excellent command of scripture and is able to present it in a manner which is completely understandable to the rest of us. This year's sermons are being drawn from the book of Psalms, or, as it is known by Anglicans, "*The Psalter*" which begins on page 343 of the Book of Common Prayer. But, today he moved to drawing the propers together in a far different sermon than Hap's and adding in the psalm for this Sunday, Psalm 19. We think you will really enjoy it!



**God's Law Is Love**  
Psalm 19,  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13,  
Luke 18:31-43  
Quinquagesima Sunday  
19 February 2012

**BLESSED** Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Psalm 19. *Cæli enarrant.*

**T**HE heavens declare the glory of God; \* and the firmament showeth his handy-work.  
2 One day telleth another; \* and one night certifieth another.  
3 There is neither speech nor language; \* but their voices are heard among them.  
4 Their sound is gone out into all lands; \* and their words into the ends of the world.  
5 In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun; \* which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and re-joiceth as a giant to run his course.  
6 It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto the end of it again; \* and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.  
7 The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul; \* the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.  
8 The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart; \* the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.  
9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever; \* the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.  
10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; \* sweeter also than honey, and the honeycomb.  
11 Moreover, by them is thy servant taught; \* and in keeping of them there is great reward.  
12 Who can tell how oft he offendeth? \* O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.  
13 Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me; \* so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.  
14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, \* O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Quinquagesima Sunday is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and marks the passing of the fiftieth day before Easter. The Collect is fairly new by Anglican standards. Less than

500 years old, it was composed for the 1549 Prayer Book by Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer, who was so influential in bringing Biblical Christianity back to Britannia. The Epistle for the day is that great and inspiring passage which defines Christian love, and the Gospel foretells God's supreme act of love in the suffering of Christ. The Psalm for this morning shows us that the love of God is revealed in creation and in the Law of God. These Passages remind me of the words of Christ in two other passages of Scripture; "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son," and, "Greater love hath no man than this."

We are accustomed to hearing that creation reveals the existence of God. "The firmament showeth His handy-work," according to Psalm 19:1 and, Romans 1 tells us God is clearly "seen" in the things He has made. But how does creation show the love of God? Think of something you have made. Why did you create it? Did not some part of you create it for the sheer love of creating? And doesn't some part of you enjoy what you make just because you made it? If we can experience such love for our creations, surely God can too, for we are created in His image. But we don't have to rely on speculation to learn this. In Genesis we see God lovingly engaged in the work of creation, bringing the world to its crowning glory, which is the man and woman who were created in His image, given dominion over the earth, and given the ability to know and love Him. Yes, God also had other reasons for creating us, but among all His reasons, love was one of the most primary among them. Recognizing this, we thank God daily for all His "goodness and loving kindness," and "for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life."

God's love is also revealed in the Law. Love is the meaning of the Law, and giving the Law was an act of love. God's Law is love because it shows what we have to do if we want to live in a world of peace and good will. Most people, even in today's self-worshipping and materialistic culture, still agree that the world would be a far better place if everyone obeyed the Ten Commandments. Many of these people have never read 1 Corinthians 13, but if it were shown to them, I think they would agree that a world in which people live by that kind of love would be a wonderful place. But what is the foundation of 1 Corinthians 13? It is Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments, which our Lord Himself summarized saying, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," and, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." God's Law shows us the way to love one another. Psalm 19 makes a statement some people will find surprising because they consider the Bible outdated and its rules oppressive. But Psalm 19 says of the Laws of God, "In keeping of them there is great reward." There are benefits to knowing and/or living by the Law of God. I know many people who are miserable because they are reaping what they have sown. They have lived in sin. They have wasted their lives in wantonness and selfishness. They have given themselves to things that destroy people, and they have found that they have destroyed themselves. Truly there is "a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." By contrast, living by the Law of God gives joy. It rejoices the heart. God's Law shows us the way of peace and unity and harmony. People often want to know the secret to good relationships or a happy marriage. There is no secret. It is all right here in the Bible. The more closely we follow its teachings the better and happier life is. The further we go from it the more misery we pile upon our own heads. Our problem is not that we don't know what to do; it's that we don't do what we know.

God's Law is love because it points us to the Saviour. We are so used to hearing Law

and Grace used as antonyms that we sometimes forget they are both part of the same love of God freely given to us in Christ. They are only opposites when used to describe the way we are made acceptable, unto God. Law then becomes our attempt to cancel out our sins by being "good" while grace means being made acceptable by the free gift of God. In this sense, the two are completely opposite. But, in every other way Law and grace are both expressions of God's unfailing love for us. In fact, Law is an essential part of Grace, for God's Law shows our need of forgiveness as a gift from God. The Law is our "schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" as we read in Galatians 3 last Monday night. Seeing ourselves in the light of God's Law makes us realize we can never atone for our failure to live according to the moral and spiritual way of life it reveals. We realise, then, that we are entirely out of fellowship with God, and that our only hope of regaining that fellowship is Him. He must do something to forgive our sins and restore us to Himself. Learning that He has done this in the life, sacrifice, resurrection and ascension of Christ, we run to Him in faith.

No wonder the Psalm says God's Law is more valuable than gold and sweeter than honey. Apart from God Himself, there is only one thing more valuable than the Law of God, and that is the forgiveness of our trespasses against it through Jesus Christ.

--

tR. Dennis Campbell  
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*Commentary on Quinquagesima Sunday's Gospel*  
from F.B.Hole *Commentary on the NT*

Courtesy of Rev. Geordie Menzies-Grierson, AOC UK



Commentary on Sunday's Gospel  
Gospel Reading for Sunday: Luke 18:31-36

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The Lord was now on His final journey to Jerusalem, and He approached Jericho for the last time. The blind man intercepted Him in faith. The crowd told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, yet he at once addressed Him as the Son of David, and asked for mercy. The rich ruler had asked what he should do, when the Lord had just spoken of the kingdom being received. The blind beggar said that he would receive when the Lord enquired what He should do to him. No transaction came to pass in the case of the ruler: a transaction was completed on the spot in the case of the beggar. The contrast between the two cases is very decisive.

The beggar received his sight, and, said the Lord, "Thy faith hath saved thee." This shows that the transaction went deeper than the opening of the eyes of his head. He became a follower of the Jesus, who was going up to Jerusalem and to the cross; and there was glory to God, both on his part and on the part of all the beholders. An equally distinct case of spiritual blessing met the Lord when He entered and passed through Jericho.

If, at this point, Luke's Gospel be compared with Matthew 20: 29-34, and Mark 10: 46-52, a serious discrepancy becomes evident. Luke most definitely places the cure of the

blind man as Jesus approached Jericho, and the other two Evangelists as definitely place it as He left Jericho. With our limited knowledge it seemed impossible on this point to reconcile the different accounts. But during the last few years the archaeologists have been digging in the Jericho area, and have laid bare the foundations of two Jerichos; one, the old original city, the other, the Roman Jericho, a short distance off. The blind man understood the begging business and planted himself between the two! Luke writing for Gentiles, naturally has the Roman Jericho in his mind. The other Evangelists very naturally are thinking of the original city. We mention this to show how very simply what looks like an insuperable objection vanishes, when we know all the facts.

### *New Nametags*

We had no new nametags today.

### *After Church Hospitality*

Today we had no snacks as Jack decided we were on a low carb regime. So, right after church the congregation went to Stir Fresh Mongolian BBQ about an hour away! Maybe next week the fatted dog nut!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
26 February 2012	Jack Arnold
4 March 2012	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
11 March 2012	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
18 March 2012	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
25 March 2012	<b>Opportunity Available</b>
1 April 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Palm Sunday</b>
8 April 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Easter Sunday</b>

*People in our Prayers* - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

### **Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.**

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

### **Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?**

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at least once per day.

### **How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?**

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - [jack@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

### **What should I ask for?**

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

### **Updating the Team**

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

*Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!*

### **Travel**

*Bishop Jerry* is on travel this week.

*Betty Hoffman* is on travel this week.

### **Move**

*The Thomas Family* is on a short tour assignment in Guam for the next two years. Please pray for the assignment to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends and Kristyna and Mitchell in particular to develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development. Things seem to be going well where the sun rises on the United States, so keep praying! Give thanks and ask for continued good developments.

### **Birthday**

*Dru Arnold* celebrated her 57<sup>th</sup> birthday 2 February 2012. It should be noted while it was sunny, when she went outside first thing in the morning, she did not see her shadow; thus there will not be six more weeks of winter.

### **Homebound or Infirm**

*Sara's mother* is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally. On 30 January 2012, she broke her hip and had a partial hip replacement. Please pray for a rapid recovery for her, as well as peace of mind for her and the ability for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many problems involved.

### **Departed**

*Claranell* passed away the morning of 16 February 2012, after a stroke on top of her pre-existing heart problems. Please give thanks for her life here and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for her family who remain behind.

*Hal Campbell* (Lew and Dotty's Son In Law see below) passed away on 7 February 2012 at the Seattle Veteran's Hospital as the result of a head injury apparently sustained in a fall in his room there. Please pray for his wife Kathy and their two sons as



they deal with the loss of their husband and father..

*William F. Dean* a great Christian disciple of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, passed away. Mr. Dean was father-in-law to Eileen Jacob, wife of Bishop Ernest Jacob of the AOC of Peshawar, Pakistan. Until recent circumstances of age, he was a regular and active member of UP Church, Raja Baazar, Rawalpindi. Mr. Dean served as Librarian for Gordon College for a period of thirty years. Mr. Dean's funeral service was 25 November 2011 Anno Domini.

### *In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan*

*Todd and Kenny* have both been fighting osteocarcinoma for over five years and have been told their time here on earth is nearing its end, absent a miracle from God. Both are ready to go home and leave the pain, but would like to stay. Please pray for them and their families.

### *Healing*

*Izaiah Urista (4)* has a brain tumor. He was playing with his older sister, Jade, at McDonald's when she noticed he wasn't using his right side to climb, etc. Jade took her brother to their mother after which they realized he couldn't lift his arm. They took him to the hospital where it was discovered he has a brain tumor. He will undergo about 18 months of chemo to see if the tumor will shrink. At this point they do not think they can do anything else for him. Please pray for strength and guidance for Izaiah and his entire family, as well as provide guidance for medical treatment team.

*James L. Cavanah* had surgery the afternoon of 10 February 2012, to remove two small but cancerous tumors. James is a minister with the AOC in Savannah, Georgia. Please pray for his recovery and remission from the cancer. Give thanks for the surgery and pray for both him and his family to allow God to carry their worries while he recovers.

*Ron Bergman* underwent his first cataract surgery on 6 February 2012, which went very well. His second is scheduled for 13 February 2012. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating him, a good result and rapid recovery and good spirits for Ron.

*Ruby June Hauf*, now 8 month old daughter of Jerod and Amy (grandson of Lew and Dotty Valkenaar) had a large growth on her liver. Surgery on 16 January 2012 resulted in the removal of a large tumor surrounding one kidney and is recovering well. She and her family are awaiting a decision on chemotherapy. Lew and Dotty ask that you continue to pray for God's help in healing and appreciate all who have done so. Lew will report again once the decision on further treatment is made. Please give thanks for the apparently successful result, a quick recovery and peace of mind for her family.

*Bashir Ahmed*, father of Shamim Gray, fell whilst getting out of bed, and gashed his head badly. He has been admitted to the Mayday University Hospital, Croydon, UK. The CAT scan revealed no serious damage, however doctors diagnosed him as having pneumonia, and also a heart defect, which they only just found. Please pray for the medical team treating Bashir and for trust in God and peace of mind for Bashir and his loving wife, who cares for him. Pray also for their two young nieces living with them who see no real need to help, that God might enter their hearts. Above all, pray for his entire family to open their hearts to accept all God's love will bring them.

*Bill Aitken* had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011. This time the tumor was removed. The surgeon said pathology indicates the tumor with all margins out, along with a few lymph nodes and fatty tissue. The tumor is an intermediary (risk) sarcoma, but should not come back. There is a new chemotherapy pill Bill can take for extra precaution; he recommends Bill see an oncologist. Bill has an appointment on 13 December 2011, with the surgeon for follow-up and recommendations going forward. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing their very best, a successful surgery and pray for a good end result. Please pray that Bill might live a long and healthy life to the honor and glory of God. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

*Walt Dexter* had a stroke the week of 12 September 2011 and is still mostly half paralyzed. Please pray for a full and complete recovery for Walt and for peace of mind for him and his wife Fran.

*Gil Garcia* is finally home after extended hospitalization for what started as a minor skin problem. Give him a call at (909) 499-3665. He has lost some weight, looks great and is happy to be home. Please pray for peace of mind for Gil and his wife Mary.

*Dotty Valkenaar* appears to have completely eliminated the reoccurrence of breast cancer with surgery and pills. She is going to have surgery for a shoulder ligament problem on 28 February 2012. Please pray for continued recovery and peace of mind through trust in God for Dotty and Lew, her husband, as well as their entire family.

*Lew Valkenaar* developed ankle and leg pain and swelling in his lower right leg due to a blood clot. All is going well and he should be done with blood thinning later this spring.

*Morris Martin, 91*, was hospitalized with pneumonia and lost his ability to swallow; he is still trying to regain his ability to swallow. Give thanks for his great attitude and trust in God. Pray for strength and peace of mind for Morris and his family, in particular his son Paul. Pray for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

*Steve Sundberg* had a heart attack after Easter. After some time, the medical team treating him decided he was not a candidate for stents and a five-way heart bypass was performed the week of 6 June 2011. Please pray for his complete recovery and for his three children and family who are very worried about him, pray also for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

*Matt Alcantara, age 15*, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Matt is set up for bone scans at the end of December. Please pray for a good outcome. Thanks be to God for the way things have gone. Thanks also for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

*Shamim Gray* underwent a lumpectomy on Saturday 6 November 2010 at Bethesda Naval Hospital, with apparent great result. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Shamim will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

*Judith Clingwall*, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition seems stable a present, although the medication levels have been increased. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

*Becky Madden* is paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a tragic shooting accident. She has made it home and to church in a new donated magic wheelchair. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for each of those involved.

*Betty Macauley*, Tim's mom, is currently in a state of failing health. Please pray she will gain interest in life around her and actively pursue life here on earth. Please pray for her family, in particular her son Tim, as they try to help her.

*Lauralee* underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Lauralee will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

*Luca*, 5 years old, from our church family in Perth, Western Australia, who has just been diagnosed with leukemia. And for his Mum and Dad and extended family.

*Greg Chase* asks that you pray for his family:

*Diane*, Greg's wife, has a positive attitude dealing with the ongoing treatment of her ulcerative colitis. They are grateful for a positive attitude and would be pleased to see physical progress.

*Phyllis*, Greg's mom, has stabilized as the result of the good home care she is receiving and recently celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Vince* (age 15), reoccurrence of Osteosarcoma, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for Vince and his family.

*Obra Gray* continues to take day by day. Please continue to keep Obra in your prayers, and give him the strength of knowing the Lord is with him and will never forsake him. Obra needs security of what lies ahead of him, and only the Lord can grant the solace to answer his prayer.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) is still home and doing pretty well considering the bones in her neck and hands are degenerating as a side effect of her kidney failure. Her thumbs are not particularly useful any more. Mrs. Kay asks everyone who is praying for her know how grateful she is for their prayers. As always, she retains her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude

### **Guidance**

*Sara* asks that you pray for guidance for her as she deals with the stresses of her family and life. Pray that she can separate those things which she can affect from those things which she cannot and give her grace to accept that she cannot do everything and can only change those things within her control.

*Steve* asks that you pray for difficulties he is having with his family. Please pray that the Holy Ghost will enter into his heart and provide him with the heaven sent

inspiration that he needs to see clearly and deal with problems and the courage to do what needs to be done in the manner it should be done.

*Jacquie* to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

*Hap* and *Ryan* both ask you to pray they might be able to trust God will help them make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things they can change, accept those things they cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that they will open their hearts to the Holy Ghost.

### ***Armed Forces & Contractors***

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Japan), Jordan (USMC – 29 Palms), Neal (USN-Afghanistan), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam),

### ***Persecuted***

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of “Separation of Church and State” in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God’s guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

### ***Thanksgiving***

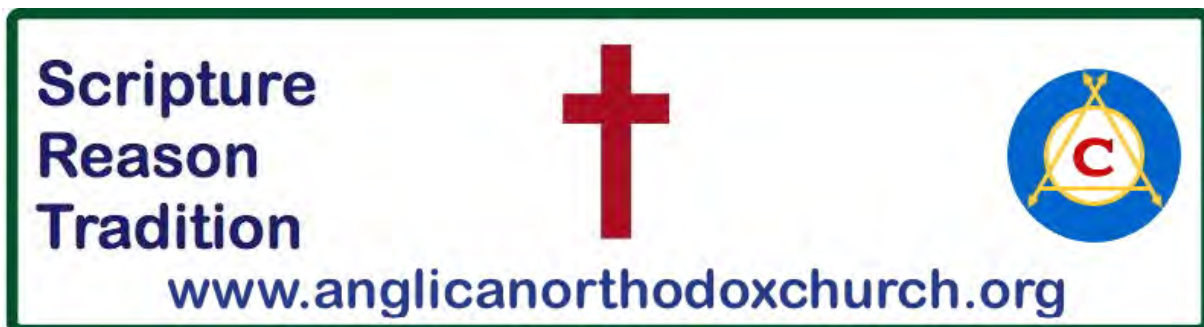
*Jim Thornell* gives thanks for a great recovery from gall bladder surgery on 10 January 2012. Give thanks for his trust in God.

### ***Various Special Requests***

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don’t know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

## **Need a Bumper Sticker?**



**The church has some very nice Bumper Stickers. If you would like one, email Hap at [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org)**

### *Question that only you can ask*

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

### *What is Quinquagesima?*

Quinquagesima, or, in full, Quinquagesima Sunday, is the name for the Sunday next before Ash Wednesday in the Catholic (Universal or Whole) Church Calendar.

The name Quinquagesima originates from Latin quinquagesimus (fiftieth), referring to the fifty days before Easter Sunday using inclusive counting, which counts both Sundays (normal counting would count only one of these).

Since the forty days of the Lenten fast included only weekdays, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, succeeds Quinquagesima Sunday by only three days. The earliest Quinquagesima Sunday can occur is February 1 and the latest is March 7. The Roman Church no longer observes much of the Christian Year, including Quinquagesima and the two immediately before it — Sexagesima and Septuagesima Sundays.

The contemporary service books of many claiming to be Anglican provinces do not use the term but it remains in the Book of Common Prayer.

The 17-day period beginning on Septuagesima Sunday spanning Sexuagesima and Quinquagesima Sundays was intended to be observed as a preparation for the season of Lent, which is itself a period of spiritual preparation for Easter. In many countries, however, Septuagesima Sunday marks the start of the carnival season, culminating on Shrove Tuesday, more commonly known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday.

### *I'd like to get a different point across or announce something*

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org).

### *The Ashes for Ash Wednesday*

The tradition of ashes, though not Ash Wednesday, goes back to well before Christ. The ashes we use are made from the palms fronds and crosses of last year's Palm Sunday. They are mixed with left over ashes from years past and thus, the ashes are a continuum to the church gone before.

### *Epistleers*

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
22 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Ash Wednesday
26 February 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Lent 01
4 March 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Lent 02

11 March 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Lent 03
18 March 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Lent 04
25 March 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Lent 05
1 April 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Palm Sunday
8 April 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Easter Sunday
15 April 2012	Ryan Hopkins – First Sunday after Easter
22 April 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Second Sunday after Easter
29 April 2012	Ryan Hopkins – Third Sunday after Easter

*The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

21 February 2012 – Pancake Breakfast – 0800 (8:00am); **Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

22 February 2012 – Ash Wednesday - Service start time 1900 (7:00 pm); **Time 1900 (7:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

26 February 2012 – First Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

4 March 2012 – Second Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

11 March 2012 – Third Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

18 March 2012 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

25 March 2012 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

1 April 2012 – Palm Sunday – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

8 April 2012 – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion – Mite Box Collection – What will we have? Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

15 April 2012 – First Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

22 April 2012 – Second Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

29 April 2012 – Third Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**