



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Ascension Day

and

The Sunday after Ascension Day

Sunday Report



Today was the Fifth Sunday after Easter, commonly called Rogation Sunday. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a lovely 43°F under bright blue skies. By the time church ended the mercury had climbed to 76°F under those same blue skies, with calm winds. The almost perfect weather brought the customary 4 people to worship our Lord.

Ascension Day

On Ascension Day, we had three members present for the service. Ascension Day commemorates the return to heaven, the ascending of our Lord. This is a day filled with joy, one where we get to recall fulfillment of promises.

The Ascension Day service always brings a lot of happiness and fun, being one of those days.¹



If you did not make it, resolve to come next year. The parish will buy your dinner afterwards if it is your first time to the service².

¹ One can imagine the apostles on the line, “5, 4, 3, 2, 1 IGNITION, Houston, we have liftoff here at Cape Bethany.”

² Maybe it will, maybe it won't. On the other hand, what do you have to lose? You have to eat and the parish might buy. It certainly will, if you remind Hap!

The Ascension Day Propers³

The Collect

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave.

For the Epistle. Acts i. 1.

THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: to whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: and, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The Gospel. St. Luke xxiv. 49.

JESUS said, Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.

³ The *propers* are the Collect (prayer) for the day and the Bible readings appointed for the day. They are selections based on the Christian Year and make a particular point. Their selection is important. The propers have been more or less the same since the beginning of the Church of England and a large portion precede the founding of the Church of England.

Ascensiontide Message from the Presiding Bishop

We live in an age of sensationalism and fantasy which often passes, among the naïve and spiritually gullible, for reality. On today's charts there are books and DVDs



claiming their authors to have made visits to either Heaven or Hell, and then returned to tell us of the fabulous experience they enjoyed there. Unlike the writings of CS Lewis such as *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, which derive from higher Gospel truth, these fables have no authority in biblical truth and openly violate that truth.

The modern apostate churches have ventured into like error and open defiance of Gospel truth. Is there nothing sacred to the spiritual scoundrels of our day – not even Heaven itself? Reflecting on that great Creed of the Church, whose every claim is profoundly biblical, we aver Sunday after Sunday that Christ is the Son of the Father who came down to us by assuming a carnal body through the agency of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, lived a sinless life marked by miracles and holiness, died a substitutionary death on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose the third day according to the scriptures. He ascended

into Heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father. Do we believe this? Do we believe that Christ is uniquely the Son of the Father. Do we believe that his descent and ascension distinguish Him from all us mortals? Or was Christ wrong in His description of Himself as the Bread that came down from Heaven? If we believe Christ (and our mortal souls depend on that belief), He is the only Man who descended from Heaven and ascended again. If we believe, then all the popular claims of the sensationalists are egregious lies from the pits of Hell.

Christ is distinct and different in His Office as Son of God and, even Himself, very God. He descended for us mortals, and ascended on High where He intercedes for us with the Father. And He will come again in like manner of his ascent to receive His Bride, the Church. Where will we own our estate if we have not believed in the immutable Word of God for He it is who bought and paid for us.

At this Ascensiontide, let us reaffirm that biblical faith once delivered to the saints and reject the fables and myths of ungodly men.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Most Rev. Jerry L. Ogles
Presiding Bishop
Anglican Orthodox Church

The Sunday after Ascension Day

Today was the Sunday after Ascension Day. We were slightly warmer than usual for this time of year. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was 50°F, by the time church ended the mercury had climbed to 83°F, all under bright blue and clear skies. We ended up with 3 people present for the service⁴.

Gathering Song

Jack Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song.

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Amazing Grace* seems to be the parish favorite.

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



⁴ With our Epistler Ryan Hopkins on his way to Pennsylvania for a year's Dressage Study, three is our new full house! We would not mind company if you are in the area!

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 179-180, with the Collect first:

The Sunday after Ascension Day.

The Collect.

O GOD, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us un-to the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Collect for Ascension Day, found on Page 177, is also read due to the rubric:

The Collect for The Ascension Day.

The Collect.

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ **This Collect is to be said daily throughout the Octave.**

Dru Arnold read this morning's Epistle, which is written in the Fourth Chapter of the First Epistle of Saint Peter beginning at the Seventh Verse:

THE end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.



Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read today's Holy Gospel came from the Fifteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John beginning at the Twenty-Sixth Verse. The Gospel talks about the origin of the Holy Ghost and the reason for which He is being sent. It also foretells the enmity that Christians will find from those of this world who do not share their understanding of God and His Will:



WHEN the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.

Sermon – Time and Action

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



Once again the propers for this week come together very well, their focus is narrow, thus powerful.

Consider these words from the Collect:

... We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us un-to the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before ...

The Ascension having just happened, Jesus having ascended in to heaven, we are alone and separated from God who gives us strength. Thus, we are looking towards Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Ghost. We ask for God's help that we might follow Jesus to heaven for all eternity.

For, while the end of the earth and this world may come at any time, for 285,000 people each day, their time here is up. Thus, in a very real sense as Saint Peter put it, "The end of all things is at hand..." So, how should we act? We are to do what we can with a smile on our face. To work hard, take care of those who cannot and be good stewards of the considerable grace God has given us. This does not just refer to spending MONEY, but rather to giving of our time and effort to bring the Gifts of God to others. We are to share the LOVE in our hearts with those we encounter, for Love is of God.

But, without the Holy Ghost, the needed action on our part is impossible. We need God's help and He sent it in the form of the Holy Ghost. The portion of God which can enter our hearts bringing understanding, hope and most of all the courage and determination to do what needs be done. Those who will not have Him in their hearts can never understand God and His Will.

Pray for His continual presence in your heart.

Heaven is at the end of an uphill trail. The easy downhill trail does not lead to the summit.

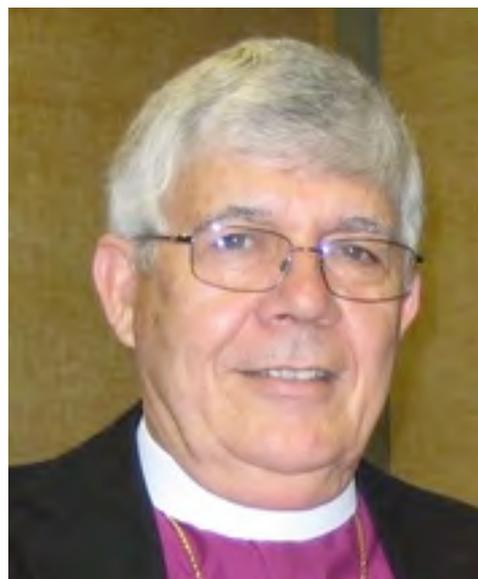
Bishop Ogles' Sermon

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today's sermon starts off with the collect. It will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

Sermon Notes
Sunday after Ascension
20 May 2012 Anno Domini

The Sunday after Ascension Day. *The Collect.*

O GOD, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us un-to the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



Our Collect for Sunday after Ascension follows logically the observance of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is perfectly timely and natural that we, having observed our Lord ascend, should now desire the promised comforter - ***I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*** (John 14:18) This word 'leave means, in the Greek, to divorce or to sever all legal connection. Christ will not disown His people even if He has departed to a High Station. Many of our friends may forget who we are if they advance to high political or social office, but not our Lord Jesus Christ. His very Ascension was for our benefit. We have been left with a close and intimate intercessor who will ALWAYS testify of Christ to us and point always to His benefits.

The Collect refers to God the Father as the King of Glory and is based, for the most part, on the 24th Psalm. ***Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.*** (Psalms 24:7-8) It is interesting to note that the preceding Psalm (23rd) describes **Christ** as the **Lord our Shepherd**, and here the **Father** is called **the King of Glory**. The plea is rhetorical for Christ has promised with a surety that He will NOT leave us Comfortless. The Holy Ghost (or Comforter) will exalt us to a standing place in Christ. The Holy Ghost has not come to exalt Himself, but to exalt and point only to Christ. We see that many churches corrupt the purpose of the Holy Ghost

in granting wealth, power, and benefits outside those promised in Christ.

THE TEXT

26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.* (John 15:26-27) **1** *These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.* (John 16:1-4)

Christ walked among us and taught us all things concerning Himself. He went about all of Judea and Galilee preaching, teaching, and healing. But Christ was confined to a body with limitations of time and space. He came to a few whom He called to Himself as Apostles so that a living testimony would remain after His Testament (death Will). This was a necessary component of God's plan to expand the witness of the Gospel unto all nations by means of witnesses. Today, we are those witnesses who teach and preach the Gospel of Christ once delivered to the saints. This teaching has taken place from heart to heart.

But it was necessary that Christ die on the cross, else we would remain unredeemed and unsaved. This was His most critical intent. Secondly, it was necessary that Christ ascend to the father, not only to make intercession for us, but that the Comforter might come. The Comforter, or Holy Ghost, is a Spirit not subject to limitations of time or space. The Holy Ghost is capable of witnessing in a diversity of places and times because He is a Spirit. He can warm my heart in Alabama and point me to the truth of the Gospel while He is able, at the same time, to do the same for a Christian in Indonesia. He not only reveals truth to us as written in Holy Scripture, but He also administers comfort, succor, and encouragement to us when the world offends. He does not leave us alone for He ABIDES in our hearts if we belong to Christ. ***But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.*** Do not be deceived by the modern apostates that the Holy Spirit will whisper secrets in your ear not revealed in God's Word, or cause you to speak in a babble that no one else can understand (including yourself). The Holy Ghost is reasonable, Biblically true, and loving.

27 *And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.* Jesus is speaking to His apostles here, but He also speaks to us. "From the beginning, for us, is the moment that we first believed. That is OUR beginning, for before we were born anew in Christ, we were dead in trespasses and sin. And you *hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:* (Eph 2:1-6)

We all find our 'beginning' in Christ Alone. Because we have known Him from the beginning, we must also bear witness of Him. If we have ever been WITH Him at all in

faith and trust, we must still be so, for He loses none that the Father has placed in His able hands.

1 *These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.* There is an old saying, "To be forewarned is to be fore-armed." When we have been warned of coming trouble, we are able to make provision for it and to prepare our hearts and minds. The Greek word for 'offend' is *Skandalizo*. It means to entice to sin, or to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey (to cause to fall away). If you have been told by the Field Commander to expect to encounter enemy elements ahead, you will be alert and at the ready for the encounter. If, on the other hand, you walk complacently and oblivious to the enemy, you will not be prepared for the engagement and may perish by the wayside or in ambush.

2 *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.* Do you realize that more martyrs have died in the last century than any previous one? Do you know that men and women are being hung by their necks, and beheaded, today in the name of a presumptive god called Allah? Those who bear the sword believe that they serve God by brutally killing all who do not accept their false god. Christ has told you already that they shall put you out of the synagogues (churches). If you have not yet been cast out, do not be surprised if you are so cast out when you insist on biblical truth and righteousness. You may be labeled a 'contentious one' for opposing a luke-warm Gospel or outright heresy. You may be beheaded as an 'infidel' for adhering to the faith of Christ. "This is America – such things cannot happen here!" you may say. Really? Have you observed the great changes that have transpired in just your own lifetime in America? Have you noticed how those things that are good have been relabeled bad, and the bad relabeled good? Have you noticed the departure from solid truth in modern churches and the embrace of abject error?

3 *And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.* How can those who profess Christ, or even Allah, cast you out as a heretic? Because they are false professors of Christ. They have not known the Father because they do not recognize His Son. The churches are full of such people every Sunday who call, unbelievably, upon the name of Christ. They call upon that unblemished name to gain wealth and political objectives. They stoke their own fires in Hell by so doing.

4 *But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.* The predestinate will of God does not include sin. God never ordains sin, but He warns us that it shall come. God may use the sin of others to advance His will for us and to chastise us, or to try us, but He is never the Author of sin. Many are being told today that God will never allow them to undergo the great Tribulation. Suppose these know-alls are wrong. What happens when the tribulation fires are stirred for believers in China, India, Vietnam, North Korea, or Alabama? Will we cease to believe because we have not been warned and feel deserted by the of our nativity? Erroneous doctrine can do much harm. It is for this reason that Christ warns us, and why a right understanding of His Word is so critical for our time.

What is it to you or me if Christ comes for us today, or in one hundred years? Regardless of when He comes for us, He is always 'on the way' and we must be ready for the sounding of the trumpet. He may come for you in the next ten minutes by means of an heart attack, or He may come for me on the highway this morning as I drive to church. His coming for us is at His own discretion and good time. Give no thought for when the Master of the House shall return – simply be prepared for Him always and

there will be no worry or grave doubts. Are you ready?

The day will come, my friend, when God's Word ceases to go out through the medium of preaching and teaching. There is a famine coming upon the land – evidence of which may already be observed in the brazen sky and denuded land - *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.* (Amos 8:11-12) Those who pick up man's Bible instead of God's is already evident in its prominence. The NIV, the ESV, and others posing as God's Word are simply copyrighted words of men who have corrupted the Bible and adopted false manuscript evidence to satisfy their insatiable appetite to embrace sin while appearing as Christians.

God's Church is a Holy Army. It sends out missionaries and evangelists ahead of its main body just as an earthly army sends out skirmishers, pickets, and vedettes ahead of its own main line of deployment. When the enemy draws near for the decisive battle, these skirmishers, pickets, and vedettes are recalled to the main battle line. So shall it be in the days of the consummation of that Last Battle.

It is interesting to note that the term 'sorcerer' can mean a marketer of mind-altering drugs in some parts of Scripture: *Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.* (Rev 9:21) The word, sorceries above in the Greek is the same from which we get the word 'pharmacist' – *Pharmakeia*. Look also in the following verse taken from the last book of the Bible - *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.* (Rev 22:14-15) If you have in your hands a modern wonder of error such as the NIV, you may miss some of the point of this counsel in verse 14: "*Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.* " Rev 22:14 (NIV) This change is not consistent with every other truth of the Bible – it is the white and sinless Robe of Christ that covers our sins – not the effort we make in washing them ourselves. We are told in Philippians 3:2 to beware of those of the 'concion.' These are those who 'mutilate' the Word of God.

In Verse 15 above, those dogs and sorcerers are a very clear definition of the society in which we live today. To the best of my recollection, no recognized government has ever before sanctioned homosexual marriage as legitimate. Though it was one underlying cause of the fall of Rome (Gibbon), it was not enacted into the law of the Republic. The Bible refers to sodomites as dogs - *Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.* (Deut 23:18) The word used for dog is blk *Keleb* – whose gender is masculine and which means a male prostitute. The preceding verse is clear as well: *There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.* (Deut 23:17) We see that this has already happened even at the Episcopal level of ECUSA and other apostate churches.

The Day of Battle draws ever nearer in our day. The Church of God will remain only as a remnant, but all of the forces of Satan shall be destroyed who assail it. All of the armies of Satan shall be gathered and will encircled that little enclave of God's people. Then shall the power and might of God be demonstrated in destroying them. *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and*

the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev 20:9-10)

There are those in our ranks who will resent my speaking so openly and forcefully of sin. The world would prefer a more gentle and polished dissertation of sinners, but God never minces words, neither should we in addressing the sins of the day. Are you in the right Army, or that which shall be destroyed by the Arm of God. Remember: *And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S.* (1 Sam 17:47)

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 a special sermon for the Sunday after Ascension Day:



God Exalted

Psalm 21, 1 Peter 4:7, John 15:26

Sunday after Ascension

May 20, 2012

"Grant, O Lord, that by thy holy Word read and preached in this place, and by thy Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same." In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Sunday after Ascension has two major themes. First is the exaltation of Christ. He came to earth in deep humility in which He was "touched by our infirmities." He knew hunger, thirst, weariness, and what it means to live with the constant knowledge of the inevitability of death. He even knew death; not just death, but the horrible death by torture of crucifixion. He knew all of this by experiencing it Himself, yet He lived in complete righteousness without sin. His resurrection is His victory over His enemies. Men and devils did their very worst to Him, yet He rose from the grave as easily as we rise from our beds at morn. But the Ascension is His exaltation. The Ascension is His return to His place in Glory, His ascent to His Throne. The Bible talks about Him as being seated at the right hand of the Father. This is the place of highest honour and glory. There is no award or prize or honour anywhere to compare with this, for it means He is recognised and received by God as God. He will remain on the throne of glory until His enemies are subdued forever and the whole creation honours Him as Lord and God. He came to earth as a Servant. He returned to Heaven as God. Thus, the exaltation of Christ is the first theme of today's message, and it is the reason we remember the Ascension of Christ.

Expectation is the second theme of the Sunday after Ascension. We, who belong to Christ live in the expectation of His return. The words of the Apostles' Creed are no mere words to us; they are the expression of a conviction that is at the core of our faith; "The third day He rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead." The Nicene Creed gives His Return more emphasis, saying, "He

shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end." 1 Peter states that "The end of all things is at hand." His words refer to the Return of Christ, when He will end the physical universe of material, space, and time as we know and understand it. All will be changed, rolled up as a scroll, consumed by fire, and replaced by a new cosmos and a new earth in which we shall walk with Christ by sight rather than by faith. For He will be with us, and we will be with Him in Paradise. This is a major part of our expectation today. We expect these things to happen just as we expect the earth to make a complete revolution every twenty-four hours.

In the mean time we live in another expectation. We live in the expectation of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. When Christ spoke the words recorded in John 16 and 17 the Holy Spirit had not been given in the same sense that He came on Pentecost. So the men who were soon to become Apostles were being told to expect the arrival of the Spirit. The Spirit would be their teacher, leading them in the truth and enabling them to understand those things Christ had taught them during His three year ministry and during the forty days after His resurrection. It is incredibly important for us to realise that our Lord did not just leave earth after His resurrection. He stayed with the disciples for an intense time of instruction in the doctrines and practices He intended them to teach and establish in His Church. One of the most important aspects of the work of Christ on earth was the formation of the Church, which the Bible calls both His Body and His Kingdom. He gave instructions about the organisation, structure, doctrines, practices, and sacraments of the Church, and He commissioned the disciples to become the Apostles, to found the Church and to establish it firmly upon the teachings and directives He gave. And we clearly see in the New Testament and in the Post Apostolic era that the Church worshiped liturgically and was led by bishops, presbyters, and deacons.

The Holy Spirit is given to the Church. I do not mean to imply that individual Christians are not baptized in the Holy Spirit. That would be like saying a house is built of clay bricks but the individual bricks have no clay in them. But the Spirit is given to the Church and lives in the Church. This is an important point because many people have separated themselves from the Church while claiming to have the Spirit, or, even to be led by the Spirit to leave the Church. It is sadly true that most of the organisations that call themselves "church" are very far from the teaching and practice of Christ, and all true Christians must "come out from among them." Likewise, all true Christians must align themselves with the true Church whenever possible, even if they have to be the only member of the parish in their area and communicate with the rest of the Church by mail or internet. But all true Christians endeavour to be active members of the true Church.

But these points are asides. The real point I want to express today is this; all who are in the true Church by faith in Christ, have the Holy Spirit. There is no need to speak in tongues, or work miracles as "proof" that you have been "baptized in the Spirit." Growing faith, diligent use of the means of grace, and holy living are the proofs that you are in Christ's Spirit, and Christ's Spirit is in you. Therefore, we expect the Holy Spirit to lead us into the things of God through the means of grace. You can expect the Holy Spirit to lead you into the Bible, lead you into private prayer and public worship, lead you into the Church, lead you into the sacraments, and lead you into God. This is part of our expectation today.

There is yet another, and very important expectation we remember today; the return of Christ for us. I do not refer here to the Second Coming. I refer to the moment when we pass out of this material world into the world where spiritual things are more real to us than material things are now. I refer to that event we call death, when our souls go into the immediate presence of God and we see with our own eyes the glory and love and power and grace of the Almighty as He welcomes us into His presence forever. This is our expectation as we gather before Him in worship on this Sunday after Ascension.

O GOD, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us un-to the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

--
+Dennis Campbell

Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church Diocese of Virginia
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Orthodox Church
Powhatan, Virginia
www.HolyTrinityAnglicanOrthodoxChurch.org
www.lifeinthescrptures.blogspot.com

New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

Sadly, no after church snacks. Our Epistler Ryan Hopkins on his way to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania to study dressage for a year, having left early this morning. With no fatted dog nut in sight, we set off for Fred's after church. Low Carb hamburgers on the menu!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
27 May 2012	Opportunity Available – Whitsunday or Pentecost – Memorial Day Weekend
3 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Trinity Sunday
10 June 2012	Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Trinity
17 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday after Trinity
24 June 2012	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday after Trinity
1 July 2012	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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 last 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 or Dru - 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

Ryan and David Hopkins are on travel to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mona Mukerji traveled from England to Pakistan recently, in order to commemorate the opening of a church she and her extended family had built in the town of Stunzabad, Pakistan, a very volatile area. Also, Mona's brother was a very, very renowned priest or bishop, in Lahore until he passed away. This family is heavily involved in uplifting Christians in Pakistan; as we know, they have their work cut out for them. God bless them and keep them safe.

Move

The Thomas Family is on a short tour assignment in Guam for the next 15 months. Please pray for the assignment to continue to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends. In particular pray that Kristyna and Mitchell will develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development

as both Christians and citizens. 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

Laurel Bessesen celebrated her 89th birthday on 26 April 2012.

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

Arthur Gregr, father of Brett Gregr, passed away on 16 March 2012. Please give thanks for his life here and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for his family who remain behind, in particular his son Brett.

Jackson Babcock, father of Hope DeLong, passed away on 14 March 2012. Please give thanks for his life here and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for his family who remain behind, in particular his daughters Lisa, Faith and Hope.

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

Sylvia Lee, Sandra Lee's mother, has progressive lumbar stenosis and sciatica, which is causing increasing pain in her back and weakness in her legs. Sylvia has already had mobility issues because of the strokes she had almost 20 years ago. She uses a wheelchair and walker as it is. Various pain pills and injections have not helped, so now it is time for a consultation with a surgeon. If this continues and Sylvia gets to the point where she can't walk or even stand, they will have to face moving out of the house they've lived in for 45 years. Please pray for strength, healing and easing of pain for Sylvia and her family's continued faith and in God as the Great Physician. They pray for help to listen to God's voice and guidance through this journey together.

Sara Simmons sustained fractured right knee as the result of a fall on a slate patio. It was only a four inch drop, but it resulted in her being in a splint from hip to lower calf. Her knee will immobilized for 4-6 weeks with no weight bearing, though she has crutches. Please pray for patience for Sara and her husband Bill, as well as rapid and complete healing.

Kristyna Thomas sustained a cervical strain in a boating accident in Guam. Please pray for a quick and complete resolution.

Kay Denton (Mrs. Kay) got a blood clot, which affected two of her fingers. She underwent an angiogram which seemingly had the desired result and the Eveready Bunny rebounded once again. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the positive outcome and pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude

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.

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 is out, along with a few lymph nodes and fatty tissue. The tumor is an intermediary (risk) sarcoma, but should not come back. 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.

Gil Garcia is back in the VA hospital trying to get a grip on his skin. Give him a call at (909) 499-3665. Please pray for peace of mind for Gil and his wife Mary.

Dotty Valkenaar had successful surgery for a shoulder ligament problem on 28 February 2012. Physical therapy seems to be working, but is painful. 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.

Morris Martin, 91, has had multiple bouts of pneumonia and lost his ability to swallow; he is still trying to regain his ability to swallow. Morris was back in the hospital over Easter as the result of an inadvertent aspiration. He is back in the nursing home and gaining strength. He has a great attitude and trust in God. Pray for continued gain of 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 just came back from his what is now every four month bone scan – CLEAN! 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!

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 has worsened recently. She is no longer able to stand, in fact she has a lot of

trouble sitting upright. Judith is depressed and wants to go home to watch her birds, which given everything seems unlikely at present. 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. Her husband is doing his best to take care of her; it is hard and he is learning the best he can. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for her husband.

Betty Macauley, Tim's mom, fell and cracked her hip. The surgeons were able to put a pin in the hip. She made it home after a week of rehabilitation, which is a good sign. She is now walking with the aid of a walker around the house and wheelchair when out side of house. Tim says she is tough and hanging in there, considering she will be 92 in June. Tim will be heading up to see her for a few days in April. Please pray for her rapid recovery and for a good attitude and most important for trust in God to keep her moving while she is here.

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.

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.

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.

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), 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

Ruby June Hauf, young daughter of Jerod and Amy (grandson of Lew and Dotty Valkenaar) had successful surgery for a large growth on her liver. All seems well. Please give thanks for the successful result and quick recovery.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Date	Reader
27 May 2012	Dru Arnold – Whitsunday – Pentecost
3 June 2012	Dru Arnold – Trinity Sunday
10 June 2012	Dru Arnold – First Sunday after Trinity
17 June 2012	Dru Arnold – Second Sunday after Trinity
24 June 2012	Dru Arnold – Nativity of St. John Baptist, superseding the Third Sunday after Trinity
1 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday after Trinity
4 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Independence Day
8 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday after Trinity
15 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Sixth Sunday after Trinity
22 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

27 May 2012 – Whitsunday - Pentecost – 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**

3 June 2012 – Trinity Sunday – 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**

10 June 2012 – First Sunday after Trinity – 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**

17 June 2012 – Second Sunday after Trinity – 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**

24 June 2012 – Nativity of St. John Baptist superseding the Third Sunday after Trinity – 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 July 2012 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity – 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 July 2012 – Independence Day – 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**

8 July 2012 – Fifth Sunday after Trinity – 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**

15 July 2012 – Sixth Sunday after Trinity – 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**

22 July 2012 – Seventh Sunday after Trinity – 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 July 2012 – Eighth Sunday after Trinity – 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**