



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent, commonly called
Ash Wednesday

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday Report



This report covers both Ash Wednesday¹ and the First Sunday in Lent².

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday services were held in the evening on schedule. We did the Penitential Office and quite enjoyed the peaceful experience. As expected we had three in attendance.

In addition, to the Penitential Office, we read the propers which are found on pages 124 and 125 in the Book of Common Prayer:

LENTEN SEASON

The first day of Lent, commonly called
Ash Wednesday.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hastest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

For the Epistle. Joel ii. 12.

TURN ye even to me, saith the LORD, with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat-offering and a drink-offering unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber,

¹ Ash Wednesday - The first day of Lent,

² Lent - A fast of forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing till Easter, observed by some Christian churches as commemorative of the fast of our Savior. [1913 Webster] a period of 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday [syn: {Lententide}]

and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

The Gospel. St. Matthew vi. 16.

WHEN fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

¶ The same Collect, Epistle, and Gospel shall serve for every day after, unto the next Sunday, except upon the Feast of St. Matthias.

Bishop Jerry Ogles on Ash Wednesday

JC Ryle, one of the greatest and most biblically centered bishops of the Church of England, seems to have properly identified a growing influence of spiritual-dumbing down of the church beginning well before even the Oxford Movement culprits entered the stage. He wrote in *Holiness*:

I cannot withhold my conviction that the professing Church of the nineteenth century is as much damaged by laxity and indistinctness about matters of doctrine within, as it is by skeptics and unbelievers without. Myriads of professing Christians nowadays seem utterly unable to distinguish things that differ. Like people afflicted with colour-blindness, they are incapable of discerning what is true and what is false, what is sound and what is unsound. If a preacher of religion is only clever and eloquent and earnest, they appear to think he is all right, however strange and heterogeneous his sermons may be. They are destitute of spiritual sense, apparently, and cannot detect error. Popery or Protestantism, an atonement or no atonement, a personal Holy Ghost or no Holy Ghost, future punishment or no future punishment, High Church or Low Church or Broad Church, Trinitarianism, Arianism, or Unitarianism, nothing comes amiss to them: they can swallow it all, if they cannot digest it! Carried away by a fancied liberality and charity, they seem to think everybody is right and nobody is wrong, every clergyman is sound and none are unsound, everybody is going to be saved and nobody going to be lost. Their religion is made up of negatives; and the only positive thing about them is that they dislike distinctness and think all extreme and decided and positive views are very naughty and very wrong!

Everything that Bishop Ryle wrote, he backed up with biblical principles.

When I hear of the justification for application of ashes, for example, today, I hear only well-conceived and intellectual opinions of the church tradition. True biblical tradition cannot stand alone, but must be supported by God's Word. Why do we not hear those who defend Ashes applied to the little spot on the forehead as being justified by Christ? If I saw such references, it would cause me to consider that I may have misinterpreted the very Words of Jesus; however, no one who supports ashes on the forehead as a sign of Lenten Fast have addressed the very cogent and clear admonition of Christ in Matthew, Chapter 6! **16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.**

Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. (Matt 6:16-18 (KJV) What does Christ mean by "they disfigure their faces?" What does He mean when He says that people who do so desire that men know that they fast? What does our Lord mean when He says that the proper way to fast would be to anoint our heads as if going on a pleasant visit; and what does He mean when He says that we should wash our faces before fasting? Is He appealing for the use of water-proof ashes? Ridiculous in the extreme! Oh, and by the way, how can we keep our fast secret when we go out in society at large wearing a smudge of ashes on our faces? What am I missing here, pray tell? Do we have eyes to see, and see not; ears to hear and hear not?

Bishop Charles Pettit McIlvaine, first Chaplain to the US Military Academy, third Chaplain of the US Senate, and first Bishop of the great State of Ohio wrote in His "Oxford Movement Compared" - written contemporaneous with the Oxford Movement and Tractarians:

The doctrine of Justification by Faith was the master-principle of the Reformation. " Therefore by a contrary way (said the chief Theologians of the Council) he that will establish the body of the Catholic doctrine (in other words, he that would re-instate Indulgences, Penances, Purgatory, the opus operatum of the Sacraments, the authority of the Priest's absolutions, the Sacrifice of the Mass, &c.) must overthrow the heresy of Justification by faith only." In all this, there was the soundest view of the relation of cause and effect. And therefore have we no question, that now, while Oxford Divinity is fast developing its real character, in divers ramifications of overt Romanism, and exhibiting the strongest tendencies to do so, more and more; the only explanation needed is to be found in its entire defection from the Scriptural doctrine of how a sinner can be "just with God;" and the only antidote required is the clear understanding, the faithful teaching, the full carrying out of that same great doctrine, so mighty in the war of the Reformation, so feared and hated and libelled in the Councils of the Church of Rome, Justification, by the Imputed Righteousness of Christ, through the alone agency of a living faith.*

He goes on to add:

They compass sea and land to make one proselyte. They creep in everywhere, like the Egyptian frogs, and leave no stone unturned, in the palace or the workhouse, to promote their cause, (b) It has been furthered immensely by the proceedings of the Ritualistic party in the Church of England. That energetic and active body has been vilifying the Reformation and sneering at Protestantism for many years, with only too much success. It has corrupted, leavened, blinded, and poisoned the minds of many Churchmen by incessant misrepresentation. It has gradually familiarized people with every distinctive doctrine and practice of Romanism-the real presence-the mass-auricular confession and priestly absolution-the sacerdotal character of the ministry-the monastic system-and a histrionic, sensuous, showy style of public worship-and the natural result is, that many simple people see no mighty harm in downright genuine Popery! Last, but not least, the spurious liberality of the ay we live in helps on the Romeward tendency. It is fashionable now to say that all sects should be equal-that the State should have nothing to do with religion-that all creeds should be regarded with equal favour and respect-and that there is a substratum of common truth at the bottom of all kinds of religion, whether Buddhism, Mohammedanism, or Christianity! The consequence is that myriads of ignorant folk begin to think there is nothing peculiarly dangerous in the tenets of Papists any more than in the tenets of Methodists, Independents, Presbyterians, or Baptists-and that we ought to let Romanism alone and never expose its unscriptural and Christ-dishonouring character.

Are simply to give up on Scripture and follow the traditions of man? As for me, as long as I stand, I will stand on God's Holy Word.

An Ashless Ash Wednesday for Anglicans

<http://theheritageanglicannetwork.blogspot.com/>

In the sixteenth century the English Reformers abolished the imposition of ashes on the heads of parishioners on Ash Wednesday due to the superstitious beliefs that had become associated with the practice. The practice was too closely tied the Medieval doctrines of attrition, auricular confession, contrition, priestly absolution, and penance.

The imposition of ashes was not reintroduced into the Church of England and her daughter churches until the nineteenth century and then by the Ritualists. It was one of the errors in doctrine, practice, and ritual the Romeward Movement revived to make the Anglican Church more like the Roman Catholic Church in the hopes they would help to affect a reunion between the Church of England and the Church of Rome.

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer popularized the practice in the Episcopal Church in the closing decades of the twentieth century.

The following articles on Ashes, Ash Wednesday, Fasting, and Lent are taken from *A Protestant Dictionary*, which was published under the auspices of the Protestant Reformation Society in 1904, and was compiled for Evangelicals in the Church of England and the Church of Ireland.

Ashes Used for sprinkling persons by the Romish Church. Before use, the ashes are dedicated previously by a special prayer offered by a bishop. In that prayer, invocation is made to God "that whosoever shall sprinkle themselves with these ashes for the redemption of their sins may obtain health of body and protection of soul."

Ash-Wednesday A mediaeval title given to the first day of Lent. It had formerly two names: (1) "Caput jejunii," the "head of the fast," and (2) "Dies cinerum." The forty days of Lent, being appointed in memory of our Lord's fast in the wilderness as a season of abstinence, date from the Wednesday of the first week, because it was never the custom to fast on Sundays, and in this way the full number of forty is made up. The name of "Ash Wednesday" was given in reference to an ancient discipline, described by Gratian, according to which penitents had to appear before the Bishop and Clergy clothed in sack cloth. The seven penitential Psalms were then sung, after which ashes were thrown upon them, and they covered their heads with sackcloth. The Church of England, however, has in no way retained or sanctioned those superstitions. By the Scriptures appointed to be read and the prayers to be used, she has rather exhibited the true ideal of a fast. The old title of Ash-Wednesday is only employed as an alternative for the "first day of Lent," because before the Reformation it was "commonly so called." The revival of such practices is therefore entirely foreign to her prescribed ritual and is illegal.

Fasting There is no command to fast in the New Testament. In the Sermon on the Mount our Lord, speaking to Jews who were then accustomed to fast, says : "When thou fastest, anoint thine head and wash thy face ; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret ; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly (Matt. vi. 17, 18). Under the Old Testament there was

but one fast distinctly enjoined namely, "the fast" on the great day of atonement (Lev. xvi. 29-31), which is referred to in Acts xxvii. 9. Other fasts were, however, enjoined on special occasions by the direction of the civil or religious authorities (e.g. Jer, xxxvi. 9). After the destruction of the Jewish State fasts became more numerous (Zech. vii. 5). But when the Lord was inquired of concerning those fasts, the answer given by the prophet Zechariah showed that those fasts were neither enjoined nor forbidden, and that persons were at liberty to make use of such days or not, according as they found fasting beneficial or otherwise to themselves; such acts not being regarded as in themselves meritorious in the sight of God (Zech. vii. 5/.). The Lord, by the mouth of Isaiah (ch. Iviii. 5-7), asks, " Is it such a fast that I have chosen ? a day for a man to afflict his soul ? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him ? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord ? Is not this the fast that I have chosen ? to loose the bands of wickedness ; to undo the heavy burdens? . . . Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house ? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him ; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh ? "

Our Lord' s teaching concerning the times most suitable for fasting is set forth in the following passage: " Can the children of the bride-chamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them ? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast" (Matt. ix. 15), which passage has been explained by the Church of England in her Homily of Fasting, Part II., as follows: "Ye shall note, that so long as God revealeth His mercy unto us, and giveth us of His benefits, either spiritual or corporal, we are said to be with the Bridegroom at the marriage. . . . But the marriage is said then to be ended, and the Bridegroom to be gone, when Almighty God smiteth us with affliction, and seemeth to leave us in the midst of a number of adversities. So God sometimes striketh private men privately with sundry adversities, as trouble of mind, loss of friends, loss of goods, long and dangerous sicknesses, & c. Then it is a fit time for that man to humble himself to Almighty God by fasting, and to mourn and bewail his sins with a sorrowful heart. . . . Again, when God shall afflict a whole region or country with wars, with famine, with pestilence . . . and such other calamities, then is it time for all states and sorts of people . . . to humble themselves by fasting, and bewail their sinful living before God."

The principle here laid down can be exemplified from Scripture histories. David fasted when his child was sick (2 Sam. xii. 16) ; Esther, with her maidens, fasted ere she went in to Ahasuerus (Esth. iv. 16) ; Ezra fasted at the river of Ahava (Ezra viii. 21); Daniel set himself to seek the Lord by prayer and fasting (Dan. ix. 3). Christ said of certain demons, "This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting" (Mark ix. 29), but the oldest MSS. omit the words "and fasting." (See R.V. and marginal note on Matt. xvii. 21.) And prior to the solemn ordination of elders, Paul and Barnabas "prayed with fasting" (Acts xiv. 23).

Our Lord Himself fasted forty days and forty nights, but during that time He did not experience the pangs of hunger. The Gospels which record the Temptation, all call attention to that fact. St. Matthew says, " He was afterward an hungered " (Matt. iv. 2). St. Mark does not mention the fasting (Mark i. 12, 13). St. Luke says of those days, "And when they were ended, He afterward hungered." The forty days appear, therefore, to have been spent in rapt ecstasy and contemplation. The actual temptation occurred at the close of that period.

Fasting, therefore, appears to be of value only when employed for the purpose of giving oneself up to continuous prayer, while abstinence from special kinds of food is nowhere enjoined or recommended in Scripture, although Daniel, in his penitential sorrow of three weeks, abstained from all pleasant food (Dan. x. 2, 3). St. Paul alludes to the "commanding to abstain from meats" as a mark of the apostasy (1 Tim. iv. 3), and a sign of weak faith in persons who attached importance to such trifling matters. "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom. xiv. 17, and the whole of that chapter). In fine, when fasting is employed in order to be able to spend the time in prayer, it may be recommended; but abstinence from food as a means of punishing the body and laying up "merit" is to be strongly condemned. An abstinence from certain food may be useful for "bodily exercise" or discipline "bodily exercise profiteth a little," or "for a little while" (1 Tim. iv. 8) such exercise has occasionally been useful, but is not to be regarded as really a spiritual work.

The prohibition to eat meat on fast days, prescribed by the statute 2 & 3 Edward VI., c. 19, which may be alluded to in "the Tables and Rules" attached to the Book of Common Prayer which mentions "the Fasts, and Days of Abstinence to be observed in the year," is further dwelt on in the Homily on Fasting, Part II., which states that the statute of Edward VI. referred to, was framed for political reasons. It was "in consideration of the maintaining of fisher-towns bordering upon the seas, and for the increase of fishermen, of whom do spring mariners to go upon the sea, to the furnishing of the navy of the realm. . . . Such laws of princes and other magistrates are not made to put holiness in one kind of meat and drink more than another, to make one day more holy than another, but are grounded merely upon policy," namely, as afterwards explained, for the increase and support of the English navy, and "for the sooner reducing of victuals to a more moderate price, to the better sustenance of the poor." [C. H. H. W.]

Lent The word is derived either from the A.S. *lencten* (spring), or from the Dutch *lenten* (to make mild), the severity of winter being then relaxed. Lent is a period of forty days in the spring, immediately before Easter, prescribed as a time of fasting. The Greek and Latin names for Lent simply indicate the number of its days. Lent is asserted to have been of early, and even of Apostolic origin, but, had the latter been the case, some allusion would have been made to it in the New Testament. But in the New Testament there is no fast prescribed, nor even a positive exhortation to fasting (see FASTING). Our Lord's declaration in the A.V. concerning the boy possessed with an unclean spirit, is often quoted that "this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting" (Matt. xvii. 21; Mark ix. 29). All the best MSS., however, omit the entire verse in the account in St. Matthew, and the word "fasting" in that of St. Mark (see R.Y.). The same omission is made by the R.V. on MS. authority with regard to the word "fasting" in two other verses, viz., Acts x. 30; 1 Cor. vii. 5. That the oldest MSS. should agree in omitting all reference to fasting in four passages in the New Testament, where fasting was supposed to be mentioned, is highly suggestive of interpolations made in the sacred text to suit the ideas of a non-Apostolic Age.

The forty days of Lent are often said to have been instituted as a fast in memory of our Lord's "fast" of a similar period in the wilderness. But the Lord passed that period in a state of exalted spiritual meditation or ecstasy, for St. Matthew distinctly states that Christ's hunger was subsequent to the forty days, "When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred" (Matt. iv. 2). Lent had originally no real

connection with the forty days fast in the desert. Lent seems to have been first established by a Pope, about AD 130, to be a tithe of the year (thirty-six days only), and was for centuries confined to that period. When the additional four days were added is not certain, probably not till the time of Pope Gregory II., who died in 731.

Our Lord, in Matt. ix. 15, indicated that the providential circumstances of life were the true guide as to seasons of fasting. Cassian, a disciple of Chrysostom in the fifth century, contrasting the Primitive Church with that of his own day, said, "It ought to be known that the observance of the forty days had no existence so long as the perfection of that Primitive Church remained inviolate." Lent helped in later times to increase the power of the priests. For in the Roman and Eastern Churches dispensations which permit the eating of meat on fast days may be obtained for a money payment, and fines are levied on those who break the Church law by eating meat on such days without a dispensation.

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 *Lencten*, 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.

Jesus told us that if we fast 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 13 February 2013; Easter Sunday is 31 March 2013. 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.



First Sunday in Lent

Sunday Report

Today was the First Sunday in Lent. Sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was a lovely 42°F under bright blue skies. By the time church started, the temperature had climbed to 54°F. The nice weather brought the usual three people to church.

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.



Amazing Grace is always in season, so to speak, but for this First Sunday in Lent, the hymn seems even more appropriate than usual. As we look forward to the coming of our Lord, we see how much we need His Amazing Grace!

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 125-127, with the Collect first:

The First Sunday in Lent.

The Collect.

O LORD who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

And due to the rubric, the Collect for the Day is followed by the Collect for Ash Wednesday, which is found on Page 124:

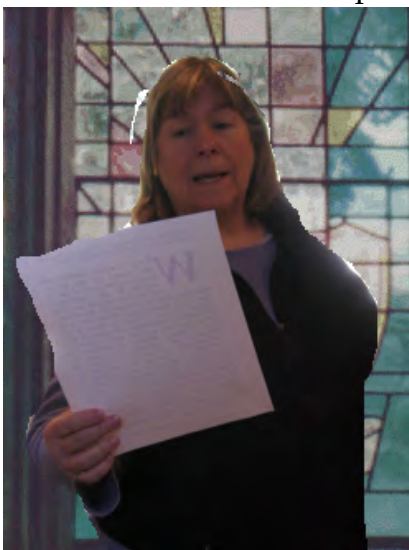
The first day of Lent, commonly called Ash Wednesday.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, starting at the First Verse of the Sixth Chapter. In what at first appears to be an



incomprehensible single sentence, Paul asks us to be worthy of the grace that God has given us. He tells the people when they needed him, he was there. They need to be there for those around them. They must not frustrate God's work by showing up late, or not at all. Those around us are watching our actions in the time of testing. We have been given eternal salvation by Jesus' sacrifice, the understanding of the Gospel by the Holy Ghost. We are at this time dying here on earth, yet progressing towards eternal life in the next world, in Jesus' world with His help. While we may never be wealthy here on earth, our actions can make our fellow Christians wealthy in spirit beyond measure.

If you claim to be a Christian, you know what is right. If you are a Christian, you do what is right, you don't take a vote to see what the right course of action might be. Right does not change with public opinion and we must do the right thing. It is our actions that count, in good times or bad. We are Christ's ambassadors to this world, unfortunately we do not have diplomatic immunity.

WE then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain; (for he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation;) giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: but in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Hap Arnold read this morning's Holy Gospel which comes from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, starting at the First Verse of the Fourth Chapter. This portion of the Gospel tells the story of the temptation of Christ. In many respects, it shows how little the devil understands of Christ, and through Him, of us. If you understand how little the devil really offers you and how much Christ offers, the temptation is ever so much less. The devil is often referred to as the deceiver or dissimulator. His forte is deception, he seems one thing, is another. Offers what he has no intention or ability to deliver. Ignores the inevitable result of accepting his proffered help or inside track.



He clearly knows Jesus is the Son of God. There is no doubt in his mind. So, having understood that, consider what he offers Jesus in temptation.

Remember, Jesus has fasted 40 days OF HIS OWN CHOICE; he who has no real power asks Jesus to turn stone into bread to show His Power. This to the Son of He who delivered manna daily to the Jews in the wilderness for 40 years.

Cast thyself down and let angels catch thee; this to He who walked on water.

Up to the mountain lookout – Here is it all yours if you worship me. This to He who as it says in Psalm 95:

In his hand are all the corners of the earth; * and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it; * and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, * and kneel before
the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God; * and we are the people of his pasture, and the
sheep of his hand.

The devil promised Jesus nothing that was his to give, nothing that would help Jesus in the real world beyond the Shadowlands. He never does. The devil is all about shortcuts. Remember, if the shortcut was the best way, it would not be a shortcut

Like the temptation of Jesus, the devil never delivers what we need, only what we may want short term. Remember as little as the devil understands of Christ, so he understands little of us. He will never offer you real help. Remember that and the temptation is ever so much less.

This morning's Gospel comes from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, starting at the First Verse of the Fourth Chapter. This portion of the Gospel tells the story of the temptation of Christ. In many respects, it shows how little the devil understands of Christ, and through Him, of us. If you understand how little the devil really offers you and how much Christ offers, the temptation is ever so much less.

THEN was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - 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:

... Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory ...

In the Collect, we ask God to help us to subdue our natural evil tendencies so that we can live life here His way and honour His wishes so we can be truly happy. Without His help, we end up with what we want, not what we need. We are asking him to help us fight our human nature and follow His divine nature, we are attempting to replace our nature with that of God's. It will be a long and difficult road that we must travel, doing this, but we

are going to be much happier in the long run if we at least try. Do or do not, there is no try, Yoda is quoted as saying, and I have found it applicable here and in my own life.

Want and Need; two words, used interchangeably in both our speech and thought that do not mean the same thing. Think about that!

Following the thought of the Collect, Paul asks us to be worthy of the grace God has given us. He tells the people when they needed him, he was there. They need to be there for those around them. They must not frustrate God's work by showing up late, or not at all. We are outnumbered fiercely in this world, by the enemies of God. We are like the men in the Battle of Ia Drang (also related to being Paul's message, the sacrifice of Kenneth Ogles and his fellow men in the Vietnam theatre, as well as those in WWI, WWII and before, and now.), fiercely outnumbered by the enemy, they did not just sit on their hands and wait for the enemy to come. They did something about it, they took action, otherwise they were going to be overrun by the North Vietnamese. Like them, we cannot just sit and wait, else we will be overrun by the Forces of Satan.

Those around us are watching our actions in the time of testing. We have been given eternal salvation by Jesus' sacrifice, the understanding of the Gospel by the Holy Ghost. We are at this time dying here on earth, yet progressing towards eternal life in the next world, in Jesus' world with His help. While we may never be wealthy here on earth, our actions can make our fellow Christians wealthy in spirit beyond measure.

If you claim to be a Christian, you know what is right. If you are a Christian, you do what is right, you don't take a vote to see what the right course of action might be. Right does not change with public opinion and we must do the right thing. The truth does not change, as it is the constant that never changes. God is the Truth, The Word and the Life of this universe. It is our actions that count, in good times or bad. We are Christ's ambassadors to this world; unfortunately we do not have diplomatic immunity.

When the devil attempted to tempt Christ, he shows how little he knows of Him. If we emulate our Lord, it shows how little the devil will be able to tempt us with his deceit.

Consider how little the devil really offers you and how much Christ offers, the temptation is ever so much less. The devil is often referred to as the deceiver or dissimulator. His forte is deception, he seems one thing, is another. He offers what he has no intention or ability to deliver. He ignores the inevitable result of accepting his proffered help or inside track.

He clearly knows Jesus is the Son of God. There is no doubt in his mind. So, having understood that, consider what he offers Jesus in temptation.

Remember, Jesus has fasted 40 days OF HIS OWN CHOICE; now comes the devil daring Him to show His Power by turning the stone into bread. This to the Son of He who delivered manna daily to the Jews in the wilderness for 40 years.

Cast thyself down and let angels catch thee; this to He who walked on water.

Up to the mountain lookout – Here is it all yours if you worship me. This to He who as it says in Psalm 95:

In his hand are all the corners of the earth; * and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it; * and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, * and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God; * and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

The devil promised Jesus nothing that was his to give, nothing that would help Jesus in the real world beyond the Shadowlands. He never does. The devil is all about shortcuts. Remember, if the shortcut was the best way, it would not be a shortcut

The temptation of Jesus is no different than his attempt to tempt us! The devil never delivers what we need, only what we, in our imperfect want. Remember as little as the devil understands of Christ, the same way, as we are in God, so he understands little of us. He will never offer you real help. Remember that and the temptation is ever so much less.

Or, as my grandfather said, "Keep your eye on the donut, not on the hole"

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

Sermon - Rev Ken Howes - Ken is a Lutheran who should be in the AOC! This sermon was posted on the AOC Message Board and has been recommended by many of our member, including, but not limited to, Bishop Jerry. So, because this is his first guest sermon, Ken gets to go first!



This Sunday is one of the great penitential Sundays of the church year. The Gospel text is the story of Christ's temptation at the hands of the devil. The devil offered him first physical necessities, then a chance for Jesus to show off His power and divinity, then rule over the world. For us as preachers and teachers of the Church, this is a particular day of reflection.

The whole point of Christ's going into the desert was to be tempted by the devil, and to withstand it. You and I are very bad at withstanding temptations. Even as Christians we succumb to the devil's temptations with horrifying frequency. Any time we take the easy, comfortable way that evades the uncomfortable demands of our Lord, we turn the stones to bread, as He would not.

The dreadful temptation for Christians is that of pride in our supposed goodness, manifested in various forms of boastfulness that amount to throwing ourselves off the Temple roof to be caught by angels. It can manifest itself in gaudy showmanship, either of the Roman sort or of the Church Growth sort. Traditional Protestants, be they Lutherans, Anglicans or Reformed, don't usually fall into that one. We stick to those things that the Church has always done since ancient times, so far as they have Scriptural warrant, rejecting errors both ancient and modern.

But we have our own pitfalls. We can become so proud of our scholarship, the way we have studied the Bible so much and mastered the doctrines of our traditions, that we stop really hearing God speaking in His Word. We can go beyond a condemnation of false doctrine or sinful conduct--which God commands us to do--to a condemnation of persons, which God has commanded us not to do.

We can become so proud of the purity of our church services, whether those in the Lutheran service books, those in the Book of Common Prayer, or those prescribed by the various Reformed churches, that we, instead of earnest reproof of the errors of Church Growth services or Roman masses for the benefit of our brothers in those churches, engage in an ungodly mockery of what goes on in such churches. I have rather unkindly mimicked the preaching style of Arminian evangelical preachers on numerous occasions. I will not do that any more, because it is wrong. It is right to correct their theological errors; it is not right to make fun of things that they have said in well-meaning but erroneous sermons.

When we don a purple stole, the penitence that inheres in this season of Lent, and notably on this Invocavit Sunday has to begin with us. If the pastor will not repent of his sins, how will his flock repent of theirs?

The last of the temptations in the wilderness was the offer of the kingdoms of the world. How many people, including Christians--including Christian churchmen--have turned away from a right practice in order to enjoy power, admiration, and glory? How has "purple fever" hurt not only the "official" Anglican churches but the traditional ones as well? How many Lutheran pastors have diluted their doctrine in order to be well-liked and become district or even synodical presidents?

What sacrifices of doctrinal purity and even of simple ethics have Catholic priests and bishops made in order to become archbishops, cardinals and popes? The popes just before the beginning of the Reformation were regularly gaining that office by bribery at the conclaves. Many, once in those various offices, used the offerings of pious Catholics not for the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments but for their own power and luxury?

What heresies have evangelical preachers gone into as they elevated themselves to pulpits for which they were not prepared, in order to keep the offerings coming? Prosperity gospel; social gospel (both the liberal kind and the conservative kind--neither is better than the other, as either involves distortion of God's Word to serve one's political beliefs); denials of the Trinity; teachings of immediate grace; claims to be "anointed" (are they really saying they are the Mashiach, the Christos?); claims to be prophets.

We will not likely engage in those heresies--but how easy it is for otherwise orthodox churchmen to fall into heresies! Andreas Osiander was a leading reformer. His brother was and remained another prominent reformer, and his nephew and grandnephew were orthodox theologians in the following generations. His brother-in-law was none other than ++Cranmer. But when he went to bring the Reformation to East Prussia, where the Teutonic Knights ruled, he tempered his theology to what would be favorably received by the Knights and especially by their Grand Master. That theology became full of errors, bordering on heresy. A great education and a great family did not keep him safe from the temptation of the favor of the Grand Master, which he indeed

gained. It was another generation until the Reformation in East Prussia recovered from his errors.

No, we Christian churchmen have not done nearly as well in the wilderness, confronted with the devil's temptations, as our Lord did. In this season, we do well to remember the admonition of the prophet Joel:

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Let us turn to our Lord in true repentance of our own sins, as we prepare to teach others of repentance, and hear His Word speak, that we may speak it truly in our pulpits and classrooms. We cannot feed His sheep with His Word, till we ourselves are fed with it. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. That means us.

May God bless us with His Holy Spirit in our preaching and teaching in this Lenten season.

Ken Howes

Bishop Ogles' Sermon

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

Sermon Notes

The First Sunday in Lent
17 February 2013, Anno Domini

The First Sunday in Lent.

The Collect.

O LORD who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.



The first day of Lent, commonly called Ash Wednesday.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hastest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, *It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, *Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.* 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. (Matt 4:1-11)

The Collect for today aptly points out the cardinal principle of Lent – a time to abstain from the material blessings to which we have become so accustomed in order to focus on that Passover sacrifice which Christ made of us on Good Friday. A staff officer to General Robert E. Lee once asked, "General, how oft ought a man to fast from eating?" to which General Lee responded, "If a man will but fast from his sins, he may eat what he pleases." Simple enough, but who is able to keep that fast from sins? The Collect reveals not only that we should fast from time to time, but also it informs that our fast is personal and not public. Holiness is a personal quality and not one of which we should boast. Once we begin to boast to others of what we forego during fast, we have lost whatever blessing God would grant and have opted for the reward of a good opinion from our fellows. I urge each of us to read the Gospel for Morning Prayer today from Matthew 6:1-16 for a deeper understanding of Christ's counsel on fasting and the means by which we are to keep our fast secret as we do our personal prayers. In this way, we will avoid the sin of the Pharisee in boasting of his better worth than the publican at the Temple.

So now is the time to enter upon the Lenten Season with earnest. Is it a time of sorrow and remorse? Yes, it is such a time. But it is also a time of deep love and joy that you are so much loved that a Personage so great as the only Begotten Son of God loves you so much as to die such a horrible and humiliating death for you. As the Epistle for today reads: "...*behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation;*) giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: but in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (2 Cor 6:2b-10) Do we even imagine what riches are made available to us through the privileges merited for us by Christ?

Being covenanted as infants into the Kingdom of Heaven through Baptism, many of us may not recall that work of grace performed on our behalf; however, did we not seal those promises and that grace at the time of our Confirmation? In the years of our lives before Confirmation (or even adult baptism) did we not grow in, as did Jesus from twelve years of age, wisdom and favor with God? *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.* (Luke 2:52)

Today's Gospel from St Matthew IV: 1-11 contains some cardinal truths that should aid us in keeping a Christian witness as well as in overcoming temptation.

1) We must remember that Christ was forever sinless though subject to temptation just as you or I. Could Jesus have sinned? Of course, Jesus COULD have sinned, had He succumbed to temptation, else there could have been NO temptation to sin. But Jesus did not sin, though tempted in every way as you and I are tempted. *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.* (Heb 4:15) So how did Christ OVERCOME temptation? This we shall learn from today's text. If you have read it thoughtfully, you will already have discovered the Approach Christ took to temptation.

2) We should note, secondly, that, though Christ was forever without sin, His ministry did not begin until the moment of His Baptism in Jordan Waters. Following John's Baptism of Christ, confirmed and attested by the Voice of God and the Holy Ghost, there was a great CHANGE in the direction of His life. This was the point in time that the ministry of Christ began in earnest. The Holy Trinity, it will be acknowledge, was present at the Baptism of Christ just as with your own. Baptism and confirmation in the Gospel of Christ should result in a change of our behaviors. Has it done in your life?

3) We must, thirdly, observe that the same Holy Spirit that witnessed the Baptism and glorious recognition of God of Christ was the same which drove Christ into the wilderness (a place of private fasting). *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil* The day that we agreed, with our eyes open, to follow Christ was a wonderful day in our lives and one which was worthy of celebration, was it not? At that hour, did not the Holy Spirit attest to us in our heart of the greatness of our calling in Christ? But, that same Spirit will, at times, drive us into the Wilderness of our Christian walk. Like Job, we shall undergo want and testing. If we falter not, we shall overcome to the joy of the angels in Heaven.

4) Can we agree that the Wilderness of life can be a place of great want. When our souls and our flesh are in great want, we are made our weakest. When is it that Satan considers the moment most opportune to tempt us? At our moments of weakness. So he tempted Christ when He was in want of bread and water. You will note that Satan did not approach Christ at the beginning, or at the middle of His forty days and nights, but at the end of that period when Christ would have been most susceptible to temptation. So Satan deals with us. *2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him.....*" Satan knows you. He watches day and night. He knows your moments of weakness, and he strikes at those moments whether it be moments of great loneliness, sickness, financial loss, or even success and opulence. He cannot read your heart as does God, but he has witnessed your actions. He will always come to you in the Wilderness as well as on the high mountain.

5) Fifthly, we must note that Satan loves to initiate his temptation with a question. *"Yea, hath God said..."* (Gen 3:1) Absolute truths have never been Satan's strongholds, but if he can only create doubt and question, then he knows he is on fertile ground to turn our hearts from righteousness. As Satan approaches Christ, he opens his deleterious argument with a cunning question: *"If thou be the Son of God."* There was no question in Satan's mind as to whom he was speaking, but the "if" is uttered to tempt the pride of Jesus. "IF" you are the Son of God, PROVE IT! Pride is the devil's axe

handle. So Satan loves to create doubt and question. When you have served God faithfully, and the storms of life descend, and thunder booms down from Heaven in response to your prayers, do you not wonder, "Does God really care for me? If so, why do I suffer, as did Job, these terrors?" When you ask the question, you are simply falling for Satan's trap.

6) Please observe with me how Christ handles the temptation of Satan: ***If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*** Christ is literally famished for hunger. Bread would be such a delight at this moment, but not at the terrible cost Satan would exact. So Christ is tempted three times during this confrontation. What is the common thread that runs through all three responses of Christ? **IT IS WRITTEN!** When this nine-tailed fox confronts you with a question, where can you find the answer for his question? In God's Word – **IT IS WRITTEN!** This was the response of Christ in all three temptations of the Adversary. When men and society tempt us to compromise on lifestyles and values, where do we find the answer for our retort? The Bible! ***It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** No we do not live by bread alone, but the Bread of Heaven! We cannot pick and choose which counsel of God to obey. We must obey ALL of God's counsel! We live "...***by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** Any questions Mr. High Churchman? Any questions, Higher Critics? Any questions, revisers of God's Word (NIV, NASB, ESV, TEB, etc)? But couldn't we accommodate those two men who wish to be in a "meaningful relationship?" What saith God's Holy Word throughout both Old and New Testament – it is abomination before the Lord! So what of abortion for the sake of saving a young unwed mother a lot of grief? What of God's counsel against adultery, or murder? Shall we obey God or man?

7) It must be known by the people of God that Satan not only twists Scripture, but also quotes it accurately at times with a twisted meaning. ***5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*** Please note the correct quote of Psalms 91:11-12. How many devils have we in the pulpit today doing the devil's service by misapplication of Scripture via the name-it-and-claim-it so-called gospel? In this particular instance, Satan is tempting, not only Christ, but God the Father as well. Have you ever tempted God? "O, Lord, if you are truly there, please give me this one desire of my heart." Does this prayer not tempt God to prove Himself. If we pray in such a manner, it is likely that God will, indeed, prove Himself; but in a way that we would rather He not do. ***7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*** Even the Son of God did not tempt the Father, and neither should we!

8) In the next passages, in the final temptation, we learn that Satan will promise ANYTHING – even that which he is unable to deliver – to cause us to sin. ***8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*** If we lose our souls to the devil, does it even matter if we inherit the kingdoms of this world, and even if Satan cannot deliver them? ***For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*** (Matt 16:26 (KJV) There is no quicker, or surer, way to lose your soul than to bend the knee to Satan. With the loss of soul goes all other possessions (including kingdoms). ***10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve***

9) What did we learn from this last temptation of Christ in the Wilderness Fast? Even good friends, such as the disciple Peter, may act and speak the devil's part. *Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*** (Matthew 16:23) Our very best friends are capable of tempting us as Satan does. Whether spoken by friend or foe, we must rebuke the devil's temptations with the Word of God. We learn also from this last temptation that the Christian is sanctified, by and by, by the Word of God. He grows stronger in the face of temptation. The devil values his time highly for he is anxious to find other souls to lead astray. If we constantly rebuke him with the Word of God, he will finally give up this moment of temptation and come to us less often to tempt us. **11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.** The devil will leave off tempting those who stand staunchly by the Word of God. Then what? God will comfort us in the joy of our faith.

So we have learned from Christ today that there is a time given over for private (wilderness) fasting. The Wilderness is just as much of God as is the Green Pastures. We learn further that the devil will always come to us in our times of stress and need. We learned that he loves to cause doubt and question in our hearts. We learned that we are defenseless before Satan unless we resort to that mighty Sword of the Lord – His Word. And finally we learned that every time we resist temptation, we grow stronger – so much so that each succeeding temptation becomes less of temptation to us, and the devil will tempt us less as a result. How about you, friends, are you very often tempted, or have you discovered that temptations come less often when you rebuke the devil to his face with God's Word?

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



True Holiness

Psalm 50, Isaiah 58, Matthew 6:1-18

First Sunday in Lent

February 17, 2013

One of the wonderful things about having a lectionary is that it takes us through the Bible every year, and it does so in a way that combines our daily readings with the readings, prayers and sermons on Sundays. And this cycle of prayer and worship is purposeful and assures that we will be led into the great doctrines of the faith, and the great principles of the Christian life in an orderly and understandable fashion every year. I promise that if you pray the prayers and read the daily Bible passages, and attend the worship and the sermons on Sunday, you will grow in the knowledge of the content, meaning, and application of the Bible. I also promise that the more years you do this, the deeper your understanding will grow, and the greater your faith will grow, for faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

There is, of course, a caveat. It must be done with the intention of seeking and obeying God. It must be done in faith. In the time of the prophet Isaiah, about 740 B.C., the Jews, who only enjoyed peace and prosperity because God had delivered their

ancestors from slavery in Egypt, brought them safely into the Promised Land, and preserved their peace and freedom, had drifted into a casual and mechanical observance of the Old Testament means of grace. I say their observance was "casual," because very few of them were serious about knowing or loving God. They went to "prayers," they read the Scriptures, they offered the sacrifices, they kept the feast days, and they even fasted, but their hearts were not in these things. They had become merely the rituals that identified and unified them as a nation. I say their observance was "mechanical" because they believed that observing them guaranteed God would bless them with continued peace and prosperity. If you put the gear lever of a running automobile in "Drive" and push the gas pedal, it will move forward. That is the mechanical view the Jews had of prayer, and worship.

So when their enemies suddenly became powerful enough to threaten them, they faced a spiritual crisis, as well as a national security crisis. In their minds, they were the good people. They kept the ceremonial worship laws of the Old Testament, therefore, God owed them peace and prosperity. But here were these heathen nations, who never even heard of the worship laws, rising up against them and threatening to overpower them. How could God allow that? Hadn't they done everything God expected of them?

In a word, no. The Psalm for this morning says God had stopped accepting their sacrifices (Ps. 50:9). Why? Because they were not offered with the right understanding. They thought they were feeding God and giving gifts to Him. But God says He already owns the animals: he does not need to have them sacrificed to Him by the Jews. If we look at Psalm, 51:17 we see God telling Israel the real sacrifices He desires are a humble spirit and contrite heart. I am reminded here of Samuel's words to Saul, "to obey is better than sacrifice." In other words, God wants our hearts to enthrone Him above all things. Our hearts, our loving obedience, are the real sacrifices He wants. Devotion to Him in such a way that we become what Romans 12:1 calls, "living sacrifices" is the sacrifice that is acceptable unto God. The other sacrifices are expressions of our living sacrifice, not replacements for it.

In Isaiah 58 God addresses the insincerity of worship and life that prevailed in the days of Isaiah. He recognises their daily devotions and national religiousness. "They seek Me daily," He says, "and delight to know My ways as a nation" (Is. 58:2). But look what He says in verse 4. "Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist." He is saying they are using their religion as an offensive weapon. They fast in an effort to get God to enable them to cheat in business, and to harm people they don't like. They have attempted to use prayer as a magic spell to cause God to do their will. Listen, please, this is important. It is a good thing to pray for the downfall of evil. It is good to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." It is good to ask God to "beat down Satan under our feet." To do so is a prayer of love, asking God to deliver all people from oppression, violence and strife. Let us pray for this every day. But that is not what Israel was doing here. Israel was praying that God would do evil things to people for them. Rather than combat evil, they wanted Him to join it, just on their side.

I doubt anyone hearing or reading this sermon prays for personal revenge or success in wickedness. I do think there is another application to this passage of Scripture that could apply to us. I refer to the practice of doing Christian things, like praying and reading the Bible, yet not applying ourselves to Christian living. I refer to hiding from our responsibilities in life by pretending to apply ourselves to holiness. You have heard

the saying that someone is so Heavenly minded he is no earthly good. I think it is possible to be that way, and to be so intentionally. There is a story line that has many variations in details, but always the same point. It tells of a minister who works diligently on his sermons, studies his Greek and Hebrew, memorises Bible passages, ensures that he understands every point of doctrine correctly, and spends hours each day in the Bible. Yet, while doing these good things, he neglects his church and home, so his congregation and family fall apart. In other words, his faith has become disconnected from his life. Like the gurus of some of the other religions, he is trying to retire from life. Instead of going to a mountain in Tibet, he retires to his study, but the same principle motivates him and the monk. He fails to love and support his wife. He fails to guide and teach his children. So they grow emotionally distant from him, and even angry at him. One day, the children grow up and leave physically as they left emotionally years earlier. One day he notices that his wife is just a person who lives in the same building, as though they were strangers in the same motel. The spiritual climate of the church declines, because the people are not taught that doctrine and life are as vitally connected in the Church as oxygen and blood in the body. And the minister, call him The Reverend Good N. Tentions, begins to realise he should have spent more time in the family room and less time in the study, and more time showing the Christian life to his congregation by example and less time writing scholarly papers about it. In other words, he should have put more of his faith to use in life.

This story is very flexible. We can take Reverend Good N. Tentions out and replace him with Mr. I. M. Bossy, a hard driving supervisor at work who neglects church and family to make more money. Or Mrs. Sue Per Christian, who is always bragging her prayer life or arguing about doctrine. Whatever name gets placed in the story, I pray it will not be yours, or mine.

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+Dennis Campbell

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Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

We are fortunate to have Bryan's Sunday Sermon. If you want people to come to The Truth, you have to speak the truth, expound the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



Sermon for First Sunday in Lent

In the Gospel for today we find our Lord being tempted by our adversary in the wilderness. The Synoptic Gospels have this account in some form with St. Mark's account (1:12-13) having the fewest details, while St. Luke's (4:1-13) contains the most. St. Matthew's account falls in between (4:1-11) the others and is closer in content to St. Luke than to St. Mark. It should be understood at the outset that each gospel writer was given of the Holy Ghost to record only those items which they were to inscribe and this accounts for their variations.

But that has not deterred the various critics of Scripture from pitting the gospel writers against each other in hopes of convincing as many souls as they can that God's word is nothing more than a vague and contradictory religious text. For if they can win the "conversation" on the origins of Scripture— that they are nothing but the specious impressions of a group of closed-minded individuals from long ago— then they can offer other more "rational" or "appealing" interpretations of the Bible to suit their particular lifestyle choices and beliefs. Of course, our adversary, the devil, is behind these so-to-speak "learned scholars" because he is in the business of casting doubt on God's word. One need only consider his subtle question to Eve: Yea, hath God said... (Genesis 3:1).

The Rev. E. M. Bounds offers us a telling description of the devil's efforts to tempt different people in different times: "The devil's assault on Christ is in striking contrast to his temptation [of] Eve [or that of Job]. Satan cast no suspicion on God's goodness...He caused no terrific consuming sorrow as he did [for Job]. Instead, everything was friendly, sympathetic and inviting." If the devil is anything, he is slick. He knew that he was dealing with the only begotten Son of the Father. He likely wanted to see just what the Son would do now that he was clothed in a mortal body. At what he thought would be the weakest moment, Satan sought to blemish the Lamb of God and thus prevent him from serving as that holy and acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world.

The three temptations of Christ in the wilderness proved to Satan that he would not be an easy mark. Now let us examine each temptation in turn. Once again, we will turn to the Rev. E. M. Bounds for his observations on this subject. Bounds said that the conflict in the wilderness revolved around three points:

1. Fleshly
2. Presumptuous
3. Worldly.

In the first, Bounds noted that the devil approached our Lord, "with an air of concern. How innocent is [his] suggestion that Jesus use his power to relieve his hunger! What could be more permissible than to use his spiritual power for physical purposes? Whenever faith is used to serve the natural, the source is always evil...The devil's main business— to materialize religion, to get man to live for bread alone, to make earth bigger than heaven, to make time more intriguing than eternity... It is a struggle between God's religion and the devil's religion." And our Lord's response was straight out of the Scriptures, It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3).

In the second temptation, Satan sought a display of godly power. He was expressing the mean view of unregenerated men who might have said, "I mean, if you are the Christ why not show me something of your abilities like tempting God to help you if you cast yourself from a building?" Bounds noted that, "Satan used all the methods of sensational and abnormal religious practices. He tempted Jesus to take the shortcut by which the principles of genuine faith are set aside and superficial substitutes are brought in to make faith more attractive and popular. Presumption seeks to take man-devised methods, which are easy, sentimental and material instead of God's lowly way of godly sorrow, strict self-denial and prayerful surrender." God did not intend for Satan to chalk up an easy victory in the wilderness over his Christ. And God the Son

did not succumb in his mortal flesh for note his reply again from Deuteronomy (6:16), It is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

The third temptation of Christ is the one which every unregenerate person desiring power would blindly accept. Satan is the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4) and he offers its power and pleasures to whom he wills with one important proviso. Examine St. Luke 4:5-7, And the devil taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And...said unto him, all this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will give it. If thou wilt worship me, all shall be thine. Bounds said of this temptation, "the world with its kingdoms and its glory... are the rewards for devotion to Satan and worship of the devil... How [he had] massed all of his forces! Religion invoked. The world and the flesh conspired under Satan's power, to tempt the Son of God." But our Lord did not fail. His response was plain, simple and scriptural (Deuteronomy 6:13), Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. At that moment, Satan left him and angels came and ministered unto him.

Thankfully, our Lord Jesus Christ overcame the world, the flesh and the devil, and so this event was set forth within the scriptures for not only our eternal good, but to give glory to the Godhead because he cannot be triumphed over by the evil one. The devil sought to impugn the word of God in his encounters with Eve, and Job. Still, winning against mortals is one thing; but there has not been, nor ever will there be, a victory by Satan over the Godhead.

So what should we take away from our gospel lesson today? Since our Lord is a conqueror, we are as well through faith in his blood. St. Paul reminds us concerning the temptations we face in this life that, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (I Corinthians 10:13). The temptations of our Lord highlight the current spiritual war we are involved in every moment of every hour of every day; and until our Lord returns for us, his church, we will have to face many trials and temptations perpetrated by our adversary. What we can count on, as Christians, is the strong arm of the LORD to sustain us and help us through those times for as our Lord Jesus said to close the Gospel of St. Matthew, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world (St. Matthew 28:20).

Let us pray,

FATHER God, assist us in this our spiritual warfare; that we being so guided and governed by the Holy Ghost, will avoid the temptation and snare of sin and claim that victory which thy Son claimed not only in the wilderness but at the cross; for this we ask in his name, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a blessed week,

Bryan+

New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

Sadly, no after church snacks. The same story every week, is it not? The fact is that we are supposed to be on a low carb diet and there really aren't any low carb snacks that appeal to us. So, with no fatted dog nut in sight, we were out of luck! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
24 February 2013	Opportunity Available – Second Sunday in Lent
3 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Third Sunday in Lent
10 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Lent
17 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Fifth Sunday in Lent
24 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Palm Sunday
31 March 2013	Opportunity Available – Easter Sunday

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

Carol is in Australia to be with her family as they adjust to the loss of their mother. Please pray for her safe travel and return home.

Loss of Home

Sarah who lost her home and all the contents when her house caught fire and burned to the ground near the end of January 2013. Her beloved dog was taken in the fire. Please pray for Sarah as she has many decisions at this time and help her to know Jesus will be with her to help to make the "crooked road straight."

Move

Ryan Hopkins has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2013. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies. Help him to see where God would like him to go from here and how he should get there.

The Thomas Family is on a short tour assignment in Guam through August 2013. 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 schoolmates 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

Dru Arnold celebrated her 58th birthday 2 February 2013. It should be noted while it was a pleasant day, 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.

Marriage

Elizabeth and *Gunnar* were married on 17 November 2012. They ask that you pray for God's guidance in their lives as they move from being two individuals to a single unit and help them to form their new family.

Departed

H. Eugene Risch, of Clarkdale, Arizona, passed away recently, we were notified of his departure on 7 February 2013. A minister with the Anglican Episcopal Church, he had waged an ongoing battle with life-threatening illness over a period of, yet he never has allowed the pain and suffering to stop him from continually serving the Lord. He used the experience of his suffering to magnify the glory of God to all who would hear. He was a man gifted with a rare and extensive knowledge

and love of Holy Scripture. His wife, who remains behind, is a lovely lady worthy of the title. Please join us in commending his soul to our Lord and praying for comfort and succor of his loved ones, in particular his dear wife.

Richard Campbell passed away early the morning of 5 February 2013, after a heart attack and relatively brief illness. The last of his generation, he leaves an awesome legacy of good. Please give thanks for Richard's time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those he leaves behind.

Ed Rasimus made his last takeoff at 1045L 30 January 2013, after a really tough fight with cancer. Ed, who everyone called Raz, was a retired Air Force major and flew over 250 combat missions into North Vietnam in both the F-105 and F-4. More than that, Raz was a true patriot and gentleman. He will be missed by all who knew him. Please give thanks for his sacrifices on behalf of our country and pray for comfort for his family who remain behind, in particular his wife Carol.

Nearing the end of their time here on earth

Julia has cancer, which has spread through her body, further treatment seems impossible. She is preparing to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for her faith to build and the transition to be good. Pray also for those she leaves behind.

Polly is in hospice care with dementia and spinal stenosis. Please pray for her as she prepares to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for the faith of her family to build and the transition to be good.

Homebound or Infirm

Lou has aspiration pneumonia. Please pray for the infection to be knocked down and for her continued recovery.

Frank has been coping with various ailments from older age. He is in his 90s and it has been a difficult year. Pray he will find comfort in God, that those who provide care to him will pay attention to him, do their best and give him the love we all desire. Pray that the coming year will provide relief to him.

Norma, Sara's mother is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both onset dementia and Alzheimer's. She is slowly drifting away, though she still recognizes Sara and prayer gives her a sense of peace. Please pray 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.

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

Becky has fourth stage metastasized lung cancer and is not doing well with chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for Becky and her husband as they are together during this difficult time in their lives.

Eugene (in his 80s) was recently admitted to the hospital for pneumonia where they found he had Stage 4 lung cancer. Please pray for the medical team treating Eugene to pay attention and do their very best; pray for Eugene and his wife Gladys to let God carry their worries and cares and to help them keep their physical strength and put all their trust in Him.

Larry Howes suffered a fairly severe stroke. 4 December 2012, doctors replaced a valve in a shunt that had been put in about two weeks ago, and Larry responded very well. He was able to go home. He is now back in Mass General hospital. Please pray for the medical team treating him to pay attention and do their very best;

pray also for confidence in our Lord for Larry and his family. Larry needs a miracle, pray for one. Please.

Colleen has been battling pancreatic cancer over the last year and it has now spread to one of her lungs. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Christine has cancer of the colon, which spread to her liver; she is receiving chemotherapy and is having difficulty eating. Please pray for the medical team treating her to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for Christine and her family.

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.

Colonel Bud Day's cancer has returned. The outlook is not favorable. Bud has been an inspiration to all of us for years, this changes nothing. He is well at peace with our Lord and we all hope he stays with us for a while longer.

Treatment

Brian has had lung problems for a while. Recent tests found small cell cancer in the upper lung and bronchial area. It appears not to have spread. Brian began radiation and chemotherapy on 26 December 2012; that seems to be going pretty well. He has had some breathing issues, which seem to be under control right now; he asks you pray for no more of that. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Brian so he can rest and gain strength; pray for the medical team treating him that they pay close attention and do their very best; pray also that he can quit smoking.

Surgery

Mike is in the hospital for emergency Rotator Cuff surgery. Please pray for the medical team treating him that they pay close attention and do their very best and that he will have a rapid recovery.

Ralph who recently had surgery on his sinuses, he is without faith in our Lord and Savior and is fairly naturally feeling fearful and depressed. Please pray for his physical recovery and that he might come to know our Lord and gain complete spiritual health more importantly.

Thanksgiving and Continued Healing

Dick's left arm was amputated after treating for Merkel Cell carcinoma over a year. He is now believed to be cancer free and is waiting to be fitted with an artificial arm. Please join Dick and his family in giving thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his recovery as well as for their trust in God.

Sasha a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer whose cells were thought to have spread to her spine. After radiation and chemotherapy, which is continuing through the end of January 2013, she is regaining her stamina and does not have any detectable cancer activity. The tumors in her skin are gone and the large tumors in her breasts are gone. She and her family ask that you give thanks to our Father in heaven. She also gives thanks to all who have prayed for her.

Traci had surgery colon cancer on 27 December 2012. The surgery went very well and she appears to be cancer free. But, she had a pulmonary embolism and another

clot in the artery to the spleen which will keep her in the hospital for at least several days. Traci is beginning to be weary of her medical situation. Please pray that she will not become despondent. Pray that she will open her heart to God's Grace that He might enter in to her heart and strengthen her.

Liz Strauch had surgery for a pineal cyst on 4 December 2012. The surgery was very successful, she was having nausea and pain from the surgery, which has now subsided. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the successful surgery and the cessation of the nausea and for continued recovery.

Bob Smouse had shoulder surgery on 28 November 2012. He would appreciate your thanksgiving prayers. While the surgery apparently went well, he is still in pain and would also appreciate prayers for continued healing and the pain to subside. He promises to work very hard on recovery therapy.

Tore, of Oslo, Norway recently had a kidney transplant. Unfortunately his body rejected the kidney, infection had set in. Without God's healing touch he would soon die. According to his wife Inga, shortly after the prayer request, he began a prompt recovery and is now home. Tore and Inga give thanks for God's Grace and your prayer.

Carol Stone, the sweet wife of Mike Stone, seems to have recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed. She thinks she can walk, etc., even though she cannot. She has improved and is nearly able to stand up by herself; this makes it almost certain that she will have another fall. Presently she can stand and walk a little with a great deal of assistance. Hopefully this means she will ultimately be able to walk, at least with the aid of a walker or cane. What's holding her back at the moment is her cognitive deficits and they are trying to find a place to get her more therapy

Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, guidance for the medical team treating Carol and strength for Carol as well as faith and trust. No one can ever understand the why of these things here on earth. Sara who passed this request on asks that you pray in both faith and hope.

Muriel Pappin broke her hip in a fall and had surgery on 21 November 2012. Muriel was home, but has had complications and went back in the hospital. She is now back home. Please give thanks for her return home and pray for her continued recovery.

Healing

Linda has been hospitalized for several days with a gastrointestinal problem. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Linda.

James had surgery the afternoon of 10 February 2012, to remove two small, but cancerous tumors, from his intestines. On 14 January 2013, James was found to have bladder cancer. On 28 January 2013, he underwent surgery. The doctor felt she got all of the tumor. They still are waiting on the results of the tissue samples she removed. The result of the report will decide the treatment options. Please pray that the cancer was confined to the tumor alone and that it has not invaded the bladder walls. James is a minister with the AOC in Savannah, Georgia. He made it through the first hurdle, he and his family ask your prayers for this second trial. Please pray for the medical team treating him to do their very best and pay attention, pray for the treatment to go well and result in remission. Pray

that James and his family will be able to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders during this trying time.

Richard an elderly gentleman has severe pneumonia. Please pray for the medical team treating him to do their very best and pay attention, pray for the treatment to go well and result in recovery.

Dester is suffering from unknown skin and diseases. Please guide the medical team treating him to find out what the problem is and cure it. Pray also for Dester to trust in the Lord.

Lee has Arterial Fibrillation; the medical people are not sure how to help her. Please pray for guidance for the team treating her and for Lee and her family to make the right decisions regarding treatment.

Nell recently adopted two children and has just been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Sarah is recovering from a stroke, but fell and broke bones. Please pray for her peace of mind and rapid and full recovery. Pray for trust in God for her and her family.

Inez' blood pressure is back down, but she needs surgery for a torn leg muscle. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating her, as well as peace of mind and trust in God for her and her family.

Kathleen has spent the last two weeks in the hospital. She has been diagnosed with colitis, shingles and possibly colon cancer. Pray she will be comfortable and begin to heal.

Rachel has Mitochondrial Myopathy. This is a hereditary disease of the muscles and they do not have a cure for it. Part of her pain is her family does not believe she is indeed ill, as she appears to be just fine. Please pray her family will learn the truth and be supportive of her; pray also the medical people treating her will find the right measures to minimize the disease. Most particularly pray for Rachel's trust in God.

Donald went into ICU the night of 22 December 2012, for unknown reasons.

Mrs. Tucker has had recent surgery as a result of bleeding on the brain. Please pray for trust in God and a full and rapid recovery.

Jesse a 27 year old man from Nebraska has had emergency brain surgery for bleeding in the brain. Please pray for trust in God and a full and rapid recovery.

Zoie a little 10 year old girl is having problems with one of her kidneys. Please pray that she will be comfortable soon.

Nicolas is in the hospital with serious symptoms of a heart disorder. Please pray for peace of mind for him and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

Mrs. Baek an elderly women fell and injured her spine. Doctors cannot repair the spinal injury due to her age. She fell again the morning of 12 December 2012, breaking her collar bone which is also untreatable. Mrs. Baek is in severe pain and will appreciate your prayers.

Gil Garcia is hospitalized with a slow healing skin injury at the Long Beach Veteran's Spinal Cord Injury Center. Please give thanks for Gil's incredible attitude, as well that of his wife Mary and their family. Pray for the rapid healing of the skin

injury so Gil can go home soon.

Juanita is a young girl who was in a coma because of a blood disease. She has not come out and is gaining strength. They are awaiting results from blood samples. Her family thanks you for your prayers and asks that you continue.

Barbara had a accident while cooking and the pressure cooker blew up in her face, causing second and third degree burns over her face and upper body. Because of this she has incurred kidney problems and may need a transplant.

George had foot surgery. Please give thanks for the surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

Nellie is in the emergency room of a hospital in a great deal of pain. Please pray for peace of mind for her and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

Lauralee Meade 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.

Kevin Gerhart discovered cancer on his neck. He underwent radiation and chemotherapy. Please pray for the medical team treating Kevin that they might pay attention, do their very best and find the source; that the treatment might be successful and he might live a long and healthy life to His honor and glory. Pray also for trust in God and peace of mind for Kevin, his wife and family.

Bill, Sara's husband, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011, to remove a tumor. Bill is doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, including taking chemotherapy once a day for two more years. He has radically decreased the consumption of alcohol and eating at least mostly properly. Please pray for help for him to continue do all this. Please pray also that Bill might turn his heart outward to help those around him, as well as 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.

Kay Denton (Mrs. Kay) hip has deteriorated to the point walking is a slow and painful process, but she manages. Please pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

Steve Sundberg had a heart attack after Easter 2011. 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 and his mom just came back from Houston at the Cancer Center for what was hoped to be a routine every four month bone scan. The scans were done on schedule, but a couple of new spots showed up. After Matt's San Diego doctors conferred with the Houston doctors

to figure out what these spots mean, it turned out they are new and old injuries with no bad meaning. In effect they are CLEAN SCANS. Matt and his family ask you to give thanks for the super results. Please also give thanks 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.

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.

Business

Mark's business is in difficulty. He works in a shrinking field, of which he is one of the country's true masters, but there is little work available. He asks that you pray that he can find a way to survive in his industry, which he loves and needs his talents. Pray he can find new sources of business and new ways of doing things, perhaps someone to partner with to better use his talents. Pray also for those who work for and with him that they might do their best to help.

Employment

Lori is considering a potential change in her employment. Please pray for God's guidance in considering all aspect of her potential work.

Rodriguez Family are looking for work. It seems many obstacles have been put in their way of finding employment. Please pray they will find employment with a firm that will be able to use their considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

Sarah is concerned about the future with her company. She would appreciate prayers for her continued employment and that her firm might find more and better ways to use her considerable skills.

Financial Guidance and Healing

David and Lorna are having financial problems. They are trying to find a smaller home

which may be more affordable. *Lorna* has had an ongoing battle with brain cancer, her trips back and forth to the hospital have drained their finances to the point they sometimes struggle to have enough food in the house. Please pray for *Lorna's* healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

Guidance

Christy just lost her sister in an automobile accident; this follows closely the loss of two family. Please pray she can let our Lord Jesus Christ carry all her sorry, worry and care at this extremely difficult and stressful time.

Dr. Elizabeth Raj is teaching a biblical approach to the psychological problems facing many in our society today. She is battling against the growing influence of worldly psychology adopted by the churches themselves. Elizabeth constantly stresses answers are found between the covers of that precious Book, the Holy Bible. Please pray for encouragement, strength, fortitude and courage for her.

Daniel and Danielle are experiencing family strife as a result of custodial issues with a daughter. Please pray they and those they strive with might look to the child's best interests in their time of difficulty and disagreement; to work for her best interests and not use her as a weapon amongst themselves.

Abigail is a teenager who has behavior problems. She feels she is in an area of mental darkness. Please pray that she might look to God for help and not within herself.

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. She asks for God's help to grow her business while keeping up with the needs of her mother and husband and healing her own problems.

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.

New Congregations

New AOC congregations have been established in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands. This is in the Eastern end of the Islands and a ways away from the established congregations in these islands. Please pray for them as they bring souls to Christ as they establish His Church.

Guidance for Ministers

Rev LTC Al Ryan has been appointed Deacon-In-Charge of the mission parish of St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, Anglican Church in America (ACA) parish in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. It is a small but growing mission, which has been plagued by clergy change. Al, the diocesan pilot, has been appointed for one year, during which time he is to help them identify what their needs are for a vicar. He has done this before and asks you to pray for God's help one more time; not only for himself, but for the parish.

Armed Forces & Contractors

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Japan), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), 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.

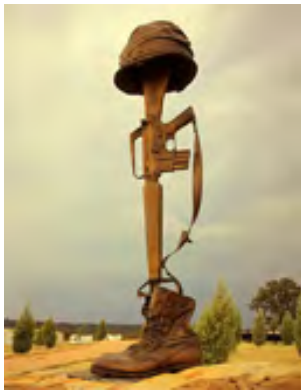
Various Special Requests

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.

Remembrance of those who have gone before us

Kenneth Wayne Ogles was killed in action on 16 February 1967, in the Ia Drang Valley, in the Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, with the First Platoon of C Company, the First Battalion of the 8th Cavalry, First Cavalry Division at the age of 19. Kenneth joined the National Guard at age 17 and immediately transferred to the active Army’s First Cavalry Division. He wanted to make a difference, to do his duty to God and Country and protect the innocent people of South Vietnam. He gave all that we might be free. Please join us in remembering his service and sacrifice, as well as the hurt that it cost the entire Ogles family, the sacrifice and pain is no less 46 years later. Remember Kenneth the next time someone wants you to give a little freedom for the promise of safety or comfort.



Requiem to the American Soldier

**Mine eyes have searched the battlefields, two hundred years ago,
And fixed upon my Fathers...with crosses row-on-row.
Their blood has nourished Courage and Ardent Virtue bought.
They stood in battle bravely - and fought the wars they fought.**

**The mist of years have softened, but the battle’s heat I feel:
Their lines sway like a banner as they charge up San Juan Hill.
In timeless sleep they stagger, beneath a khaki sky,
But stand forth ever ready, to fight, to win, or die.**

On Chickamauga’s creek beds, and Santiago’s slopes

**They fought as ones be-knighted, defending cherished hopes.
From the Ardennes' bloody contest, to the walls of old Bastogne
American blood and courage Have gained the Heights alone.**

**The shots at Concord township, join those of Gettysburg,
And those fired at Fort Sumter, around the world were heard.
The beaches red at Normandy, and those of Inchon's shores
Were bought and paid by courage, yet still the battle roars.**

**The Marines on Iwo Jima, and Troops at Kasserine Pass,
Gave force to Freedom's mandate, that right prevail at last.
The Airmen over Bremen, and Naval Guns at Guam,
Brought thunder out of Heaven, ere Peace could bring the Calm.**

**On Mekong Delta's paddies, and Khe Son's rugged slopes
The Grand Old Flag was lifted, with clear and crispy notes.
America's youth and valor, were tested, tried and torn
But pressed on proud and bravely, despite the Traitor's scorn.**

**To you, you Knights of Valor, Press on the torch of Right.
Reclaim the trailing Ensign, Restore the Shining Light.
The Light of Freedom's promise, The hope of present years,
Are now the struggle's object, Though won through Sweat and Tears.**

**A City, Bright and Gleaming, stands grandly on the Rise.
The blood-bought fruits of Freedom beneath the Azure Skies,
Are all our Fathers fought for, and freely bled and paid
So you and I could know them, before the glory fades.**

**With God our hope established in pastures Green with Love
And all our National Treasures, a gift from Him above,
We have no right to wander from Truth or Light or Trust,
But to the Throne of Mercy, our March is Good and Just.**

***~Jerry Ogles, Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Church
To the soldier-patriot everywhere***

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.

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
24 February 2013	Dru Arnold – Second Sunday in Lent

3 March 2013 Dru Arnold – Third Sunday in Lent
10 March 2013 Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday in Lent
17 March 2013 Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday in Lent
24 March 2013 Dru Arnold – Palm Sunday
31 March 2013 Dru Arnold – Easter Sunday

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

24 February 2013 – 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**

3 March 2013 – 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**

10 March 2013 – Fourth 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**

17 March 2013 – 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**

24 March 2013 – 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**

31 March 2013 – 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**

7 April 2013 – 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**

14 April 2013 – 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**

21 April 2013 – 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**

28 April 2013 – Fourth 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**