



*This Sunday at St. Luke's Blue Ridge
August 20, 2017*

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity



Alexander Louis Leloir, *Jacob Wrestling With the Angel*, 1865

Jacob wrestles all night with a stranger who attacks him at the ford of Jabbok. The "stranger" turns out to be God's Messenger. The contest leaves Jacob permanently crippled; henceforth he will have to rely on God's strength and not on his own impaired abilities.

The Collect for the 10th Sunday after Trinity

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)

The Spirit's varied gifts

12 Now I want to give you some further information in some spiritual matters.

²⁻³ You have not forgotten that you were Gentiles, following dumb idols just as you had been taught. Now I want you to understand, as Christians, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God could call Jesus accursed, and no one could say that he is the Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁻⁷ Men have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all. Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may make the most of it.

⁸⁻¹¹ One man's gift by the Spirit is to speak with wisdom, another's to speak with knowledge. The same Spirit gives to another man faith, to another the ability to heal, to another the power to do great deeds. The same Spirit gives to another man the gift of preaching the word of God, to another the ability to discriminate in spiritual matters, to another speech in different tongues. Behind all these gifts is the operation of the same Spirit, who distributes to each individual man, as he wills.

NOTE: Paul first reminds his readers that in their heathen days they had listened to the "messages" or "oracle" supposed to come from speechless idols, but now, through the Holy Spirit, they expressed their faith in the words "Jesus is the Lord" (words which formed the first Christian Creed). God had claimed them for Himself, through Jesus Christ, and so they implicitly trusted and obeyed Him.

Secondly, Paul shows that the varied talents and abilities men possess are all gifts of the Holy Spirit and a trust from God. To such generosity there could (and can) be only one Christian answer: "Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may use it for the common good." (H.W. Dobson)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Luke 19:41-47 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus weeps over the blindness of Jerusalem

⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ And as he came still nearer to the city, he caught sight of it and wept over it, saying, “Ah, if you only knew, even at this eleventh hour, on what your peace depends—but you cannot see it. The time is coming when your enemies will encircle you with ramparts, surrounding you and hemming you in on every side. And they will hurl you and all your children to the ground—yes, they will not leave you one stone standing upon another—all because you did not know when God Himself was visiting you!”

⁴⁵ Then he went into the Temple, and proceeded to throw out the traders there.

⁴⁶ “It is written,” he told them, “‘My house is a house of prayer’, but you have turned it into a ‘den of thieves!’”

Jesus teaches daily in the Temple

⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸ Then day after day he was teaching inside the Temple. The chief priests, the scribes and the national leaders were all the time trying to get rid of him, but they could not find any way to do it since all the people hung upon his words.

READINGS FOR 10 A.M. SERVICE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Genesis 32:22-31 (ESV)

Jacob Wrestles with God

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children,^[a] and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷ And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,^[b] for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel,^[c] saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Footnotes:

- a. [Genesis 32:22](#) Or sons
- b. [Genesis 32:28](#) Israel means He strives with God, or God strives
- c. [Genesis 32:30](#) Peniel means the face of God

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON -- 2 Corinthians 4:-7-18

We experience death—we give life, by the power of God

⁷⁻¹³ This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar—to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us. We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out! Every day we experience something of the death of the Lord Jesus, so that we may also know the power of the life of Jesus in these bodies of ours. Yes, we who are living are always being exposed to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be plainly seen in our mortal lives. We are always facing death, but this means that you know more and more of life. Our faith is like that mentioned in the scripture: 'I believed and therefore I spoke'.

¹⁴ For we too speak because we believe, and we know for certain that he who raised the Lord Jesus from death shall also by him raise us. We shall all stand together before him.

We live a transitory life with our eyes on the life eternal

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ We wish you could see how all this is working out for your benefit, and how the more grace God gives, the more thanksgiving will redound to his glory. This is the reason why we never collapse. The outward man does indeed suffer wear and tear, but every day the inward man receives fresh strength. These little troubles (which are really so transitory) are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward out of all proportion to our pain. For we are looking all the time not at the visible things but at the invisible. The visible things are transitory: it is the invisible things that are really permanent.

NOTE: In the middle of 2 Corinthians there is a long parenthesis describing the apostolic ministry (2:14-6:10). This reading is a section of this passage. Paul tells us that God sustains His ministers in their wearying work. (William Sydnor)

SERVICES ON TRINITY 10

- **8:15 a.m.** – Holy Communion (said service)

A quiet meditative service

Preacher: The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Celebrant: The Rector

Lector: Pat McConnell

Acolyte / Server: Judy Evans

- **10:00 a.m.** – Morning Prayer and Sermon (choral)

Classic Anglican morning service with hymns and exposition of the Scriptures

Preacher: The Rector

Acolyte: Ruth Johnson

Lay Reader: Roger Johnson

Ushers: Don and Sally Hess

Theme: God is our strength

SAVE THAT DATE!

The next concert in St. Luke's "Classics by Candlelight" series will be held **Saturday, Oct. 7**, at 7 p.m. The concert is entitled "**100 Years of Musical Theatre!**" and will feature Atlanta soprano Mary Fullerton and Atlanta pianist / organist / choral conductor Randall F. Romig.

REGISTRATION BEGUN FOR GEORGIA ANGLICAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

Registration has begun for the 6th annual Georgia Anglican Men's Conference set for Oct. 13-15 at St. Luke's Church, Blue Ridge. This year's theme is "Christianity: What's in it for *me*?". Registration forms are located in the Narthex.

This year's event will include a "Bishop's Dinner" open to all. Following the dinner, the Rt. Rev. Dr. William W. Millsaps will speak on "The Persecuted Church: An Anglican Response". Cost for the dinner is \$15 per person.

For additional information, contact: Roger Johnson, Tony McConnell, the Rev. Ron Wikander or the Rector.

REMEMBER THE NEEDY

EVERY TIME YOU COME TO CHURCH



Please bring one or more item for the needy -- paper, soap products, tinned and dried food, etc. Leave in Narthex. Items will be distributed through North Georgia Community Action Agency



A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2017.
Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

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