



*This Sunday at St. Luke's Blue Ridge
July 22, 2018*

The Eight Sunday after Trinity



Peter is saved from the hand of Herod

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands. *Acts 12:7*

The Collect for Trinity 8

O GOD, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – Romans 8:12-17 (J.B. Phillips)

Follow the spirit, as God's sons and daughters

¹²⁻¹³ So then, my brothers, you can see that we have no particular reason to feel grateful to our sensual nature, or to live life on the level of the instincts. Indeed that way of living leads to certain spiritual death. But if on the other hand you cut the nerve of your instinctive actions by obeying the Spirit, you are on the way to real living.

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, "Father, my Father". The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory.

NOTE: The whole of Romans 8 deals gloriously with life in the Spirit. To have the Spirit of the family makes us true sons even though we are adopted. The true son honours his father; he seeks to know his father's will and to do it. (William Syndor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Matthew 7:15-21 (J.B. Phillips)

Living, not professing, is what matters

¹⁵⁻²⁰ "Be on your guard against false religious teachers, who come to you dressed up as sheep but are really greedy wolves. You can tell them by their fruit. Do you pick a bunch of grapes from a thorn-bush or figs from a clump of thistles? Every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree is incapable of producing bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. The tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and burnt. So you may know men by their fruit."

²¹ "It is not everyone who keeps saying to me 'Lord, Lord' who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the man who actually does my Heavenly Father's will.

NOTE: Those who belong to the Lord hear His word and live by it. They are like good, fruit-bearing trees.

READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

*During Trinity-tide, our Old Testament lessons tell the story of the last of the Judges of Israel and introduce the period of the Kings. Our New Testament lessons, meanwhile, tell the story of the young Church as told in the Acts of the Apostles. Thus, both sets of lessons are **course** readings rather than **topical**.*

FIRST LESSON – 1 Samuel 26:1-7, 12-17, 21-25 (ESV)

David Spares Saul

26 Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?” ² So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. ³ And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon. But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, ⁴ David sent out spies and learned that Saul had come. ⁵ Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped round him. ⁶ Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab's brother Abishai the son of Zeruiah, “Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?” And Abishai said, “I will go down with you.” ⁷ So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him.

¹² So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

¹³ Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. ¹⁴ And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Will you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner answered, “Who are you who calls to the king?” ¹⁵ And David said to Abner, “Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. ¹⁶ This thing that you have done is not good. As the Lord lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head.”

¹⁷ Saul recognized David's voice and said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And David said, “It is my voice, my lord, O king.”

²¹ Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake.” ²² And David answered and said, “Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take

it. ²³ The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed. ²⁴ Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the Lord, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation.” ²⁵ Then Saul said to David, “Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them.” So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

NOTE: This is one of the stories about David during the time when he was a fugitive from King Saul's anger. Amazing human magnanimity is always worthy of our praise to God. Here we see it in him who was to become the greatest royal name in Israel's history. (William Syndor)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Acts 12:1-17 (J.B. Phillips)

Herod kills James and imprisons Peter

12 ¹⁻⁵ It was at this time that King Herod laid violent hands on some of the Church members. James, John's brother, he executed with the sword, and when he found this action pleased the Jews he went on to arrest Peter as well. It was during the days of unleavened bread that he actually made the arrest. He put Peter in prison with no less than four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. So Peter was closely guarded in the prison, while the Church prayed to God earnestly on his behalf.

Peter's miraculous rescue

^{6-8a} On the very night that Herod was planning to bring him out, Peter was asleep between two soldiers, chained with double chains, while guards maintained a strict watch in the doorway of the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly.” His chains fell away from his hands and the angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.”

^{8b-15a} And he did so. Then the angel continued, “Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.” So Peter followed him out, not knowing whether what the angel was doing were real—indeed he felt he must be taking part in a vision. So they passed right through the first and second guard-points and came to the iron gate that led out into the city. This opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and had passed along the street when the angel suddenly vanished from Peter's sight. Then Peter came to himself and said aloud, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel to rescue me from the power of Herod and from all that the Jewish people are expecting.” As the truth broke upon him he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John surnamed Mark where many were gathered together in prayer. As he knocked at the door a young maid called Rhoda came to answer it, but on recognising Peter's voice failed to open the door from sheer joy. Instead she ran inside and reported that Peter was standing on the doorstep. At this they said to her, “You must be mad!”

^{15b} But she insisted that it was true. Then they said, “Then it is his angel.”

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But Peter continued to stand there knocking on the door, and when they opened it and recognised him they were simply amazed. Peter, however, made a gesture to them to stop talking while he explained to them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. Then he said, “Go and tell James and the other brothers what has happened.” After this he left them and went on to another place.

NOTE: The whole Bible sings out praise to God because he saves and delivers. He saved his people from the hand of Pharaoh. Here God saves Peter from the hand of Herod and, no doubt, a death similar to that of James (v.2). Acts 16:16-40 is another example. (William Sydnor)

Services on the Trinity 8

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

A quiet meditative service.

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Lector: Sam Sartain

Acolyte / Server: Finn Thoresen

•10:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon

Classic Anglican morning service with hymns and exposition of the Scriptures.

Officiant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rev. Victor H. Morgan

Acolyte: Sheila McConnell

Lay Reader: Rodney Allen

Usher: Dick Gensel and Dewey Cates

Theme: The girl who doubted and the God who saves

Holy Communion (from the Sacrament reserved from the 8:15 a.m. service) is administered following the 10 a.m. service in the Jennus Chapel. The service lasts approximately 7 minutes.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ONE SERVICE AND POTLUCK ON JULY 29

On the fifth Sunday in July, there will be a common service at 9:30 a.m. A potluck will follow. The liturgy of the Anglican Church of Nigeria will be used with the Rev. Justice Jananwa, a Nigerian American, as the celebrant.

The 'price of admission' to the potluck is a penny for each year of your life. If you are 15, then bring 15 cents. All money collected will go to retire the debt fund. In addition to a casserole or desert, please bring a recipe.

New Christian education opportunity beginning in July *How Firm a Foundation: God, Christianity in America*



Pat Dearing has prepared an informative five-week series of classes on God, Christianity and key documents in American history. The classes will begin on Tuesday, July 10, and will be held in the Yellow Room. Time will be at 10 a.m. Topics include:

- God, Christianity, and the Declaration of Independence
- God, Christianity, and the Constitution of the United States
- God, Christianity, and the Bill of Rights
- God, Christianity, and the Twenty-Eight Principles of Liberty
- God, Christianity, and The Confederation of States in Perpetual Union (our first and mostly forgotten Constitution)

An optional video, "*A More Perfect Union*", is a feature length docudrama about the Great Convention (the first Constitutional Convention) as seen through the eyes of James Madison, and how disparate, self-serving, state factions, through the grace of God, came together as one mind to create the Constitution and the United States of America.

Course materials include: a booklet containing all the pertinent documents referenced in the courses, and a CD with a digital library of other related documents, articles and books, plus links to many additional resources available on the Internet.

Mr. Dearing needs a count of who is planning to attend so he can prepare the right number of handouts. Please email or call the church office if you plan to attend one or more of these sessions. You might also write on a piece of paper your intent and put it in the alms basin at Sunday's service.

"American government rests on the consent of the people; and, according to natural right, the consent must be given formally [to change it]. In fact, it must be given in a written compact entered into by the people." - Alexander Hamilton

OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2018

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2018

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him to store, as God has prospered him.

1 Corinthians 16:2

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



NEW SIGN-UP SHEET FOR 2018 IS AVAILABLE

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2018. Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

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