



*This Sunday at St. Luke's Blue Ridge
July 1, 2018*

(Holy Communion, both services, first Sunday)

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity



Being a disciple

The call to be a disciple was a serious matter in the first century. It is a serious matter today. Everyone, as he enters the Christian fellowship, promises faithfully to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour (Prayer Book, pp 278 and 297).

The Collect for Trinity 5

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – St. Peter 3:8-15 (J.B. Phillips)

Be good to each other—and to all

⁸⁻¹² To sum up, you should all be of one mind living like brothers with true love and sympathy for each other, generous and courteous at all times. Never pay back a bad turn with a bad turn or an insult with another insult, but on the contrary pay back with good. For this is your calling—to do good and one day to inherit all the goodness of God. For: ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking guile: let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil’.

Do good, even if you suffer for it

¹³⁻¹⁶ After all, who in the ordinary way is likely to injure you for being enthusiastic for good? And if it should happen that you suffer “for righteousness’ sake”, that is a privilege. You need neither fear their threats nor worry about them; simply concentrate on being completely devoted to Christ in your hearts. Be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any man who wants a reason for the hope that you have within you. Make sure that your conscience is perfectly clear, so that if men should speak slanderously of you as rogues they may come to feel ashamed of themselves for libelling your good Christian behaviour.

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Luke 5:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)

Simon, James and John become Jesus’ followers

⁵ ¹⁻³ One day the people were crowding closely round Jesus to hear God’s message, as he stood on the shore of Lake Gennesaret. Jesus noticed two boats drawn up on the beach, for the fishermen had left them there while they were cleaning their nets. He went aboard one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to push out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and continued his teaching of the crowds from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Push out now into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon replied, “Master! We’ve worked all night and never caught a thing, but if you say so, I’ll let the nets down.”

⁶⁻⁸ And when they had done this, they caught an enormous shoal of fish—so big that the nets began to tear. So they signalled to their friends in the other boats to come and help them. They came and filled both the boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, “Keep away from me, Lord, for I’m only a sinful man!”

⁹⁻¹⁰ For he and his companions (including Zebedee's sons, James and John, Simon's partners) were staggered at the haul of fish that they had made. Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid, Simon. From now on your catch will be men."

¹¹ So they brought the boats ashore, left everything and followed him.

READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

These are the readings which would had been read at Morning Prayer had the 10 a.m. service been Morning Prayer rather than Holy Communion. They are printed here for those who wish to follow this sequence of lessons uninterrupted. 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.

FIRST LESSON – 1 Samuel 11 (ESV)

Saul Defeats the Ammonites

11 Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you." ² But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel." ³ The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days' respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you." ⁴ When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud. ⁵ Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, "What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?" So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh. ⁶ And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. ⁷ He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man. ⁸ When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. ⁹ And they said to the messengers who had come, "Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have deliverance.'" When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad. ¹⁰ Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you." ¹¹ And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the

morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

The Kingdom Is Renewed

¹² Then the people said to Samuel, “Who is it that said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring the men, that we may put them to death.” ¹³ But Saul said, “Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel.” ¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.” ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

NOTE: This is a continuation of the Samuel-Saul saga which began on Trinity I. In today’s reading, the nation accepts Saul as king.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Acts 9:1-20 (J.B. Phillips)

The crisis for Saul

9 ¹⁻² But Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest and begged him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he should find there any followers of the Way, whether men or women, he could bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners.

³⁻⁴ But on his journey, as he neared Damascus, a light from Heaven suddenly blazed around him, and he fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice speaking to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” he asked.

⁶ “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,” was the reply. “But now stand up and go into the city and there you will be told what you must do.”

⁷⁻⁹ His companions on the journey stood there speechless, for they had heard the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. There he remained sightless for three days, and during that time he had nothing either to eat or drink.

God’s preparation for the converted Saul

¹⁰ Now in Damascus there was a disciple by the name of Ananias. The Lord spoke to this man in a dream, calling him by his name. “I am here, Lord,” he replied.

¹¹⁻¹² Then the Lord said to him, “Get up and go down to the street called Straight, and enquire at the house of Judas for a man named Saul from Tarsus. At this moment he is praying and he sees in his mind’s eye a man by the name of Ananias coming into the house, and placing his hands upon him to restore his sight.”

¹³⁻¹⁴ But Ananias replied, “Lord, I have heard on all hands about this man and how much harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem! Why even now he holds powers from the chief priests to arrest all who call upon your name.”

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ But the Lord said to him, “Go on your way, for this man is my chosen instrument to bear my name before the Gentiles and their kings, as well as to the sons of Israel. Indeed, I myself will show him what he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

¹⁷ Then Ananias set out and went to the house, and there he laid his hands upon Saul, and said, “Saul, brother, the Lord has sent me—Jesus who appeared to you on your journey here—so that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

^{18-19a} Immediately something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got to his feet and was baptised. Then he took some food and regained his strength.

Saul’s conversion astounds the disciples

^{19b-21} Saul stayed with the disciples in Damascus for some time. Without delay he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues declaring that he is the Son of God. All his hearers were staggered and kept saying, “Isn’t this the man who so bitterly persecuted those who called on the name in Jerusalem, and came down here with the sole object of taking back all such people as prisoners before the chief priests?”

NOTE: This is a continuation of the Acts sequence. Today’s episode tells the story of how Saul (Paul) went from being a persecutor to a believer. (William Sydnor)

Services on the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

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

A quiet meditative service.

Celebrant: The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Preacher: The Rector

Lector: Sam Sartain

Acolyte / Server: Judy Evans

- **10:00 a.m.** – Holy Communion and Sermon

A joyful celebration of the Supper of the Lord with hymns and exposition of the Scriptures.

Officiant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Acolyte: Stan Wyllie

Lay Reader: Kim Such

Usher: Ruth and Roger Johnson



**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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