



*This Sunday at St. Luke's Blue Ridge
July 15, 2018*

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity



David prepares to do battle with Israel's enemy

David responded to the Goliath's taunts lodged against God's people and their God. By going onto the field and facing Goliath, David was representing Israel. In defeating the giant, he brought about a victory for the whole nation. In the future one of David's offspring – Jesus – would do the same thing, but on a much larger scale. By going to the cross, Jesus did battle not with an earthly enemy but with Satan and all the forces of evil. His victory now belongs to everyone who confesses Jesus as their King and Saviour. So, David is Christ figure before the coming of Christ.

The Collect for Trinity 7

LORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – Romans 6:19-23 (J.B. Phillips)

The new service completely ousts the old

¹⁵⁻²¹ Now, what shall we do? Shall we go on sinning because we have no Law to condemn us any more, but are living under grace? Never! Just think what it would mean. You belong to the power which you choose to obey, whether you choose sin, whose reward is death, or God, obedience to whom means the reward of righteousness. Thank God that you, who were at one time the servants of sin, honestly responded to the impact of Christ's teaching when you came under its influence. Then, released from the service of sin, you entered the service of righteousness. (I use an everyday illustration because human nature grasps truth more readily that way.) In the past you voluntarily gave your bodies to the service of vice and wickedness—for the purpose of becoming wicked. So, now, give yourselves to the service of righteousness—for the purpose of becoming really good. For when you were employed by sin you owed no duty to righteousness. Yet what sort of harvest did you reap from those things that today you blush to remember? In the long run those things mean one thing only—death.

²² But now that you are employed by God, you owe no duty to sin, and you reap the fruit of being made righteous, while at the end of the road there is life for evermore.

²³ Sin pays its servants: the wage is death. But God gives to those who serve him: his free gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

NOTE: The apostle Paul contrasts the “servants of sin” and the “servants of God.” The wages if sin pays are death. God gives his servants eternal life through Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Mark 8:1-9 (J.B. Phillips)

He again feeds the people miraculously

8 ¹⁻³ About this time it happened again that a large crowd collected and had nothing to eat. Jesus called the disciples over to him and said, “My heart goes out to this crowd; they have been with me three days now and they have no food left. If I send them off home without anything, they will collapse on the way—and some of them have come from a distance.”

⁴ His disciples replied, “Where could anyone find the food to feed them here in this deserted spot?”

⁵ “How many loaves have you got?” Jesus asked them. “Seven,” they replied.

⁶⁻¹⁰ So Jesus told the crowd to settle themselves on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves into his hands, and with a prayer of thanksgiving broke them, and gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people; and this they did. They had a few small fish as well, and after blessing them, Jesus told the disciples to give these also to the people. They ate and they were satisfied. Moreover, they picked up seven baskets full of pieces left over. The people numbered about four thousand. Jesus sent them home, and then he boarded the boat at once with his disciples and went on to the district of Dalmanutha.

NOTE: The servants of God know that the servant is not above his Lord. The latter always went the second mile in his concern for people. Here we see this concern again: Jesus has compassion on the fatigued crowd of people he has been teaching, and feeds them.

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 17:1-11, 32, 40-50 (ESV)

David and Goliath

17 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on the mountain on one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six^[a] cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels^[b] of bronze. ⁶ And he had bronze armour on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

³² And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield bearer in front of him. ⁴² And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.”

⁴⁸ When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. ⁵² And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath^[e] and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. ⁵³ And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. ⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armour in his tent.

NOTE: King David, even as a young man, was one who trusted and fearlessly served God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Acts 11:19-30 (J.B. Phillips)

Persecution has spread the gospel

¹⁹⁻²⁴ Now those who had been dispersed by the persecution which arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, giving the message as they went to Jews only. However, among their number were natives of

Cyprus and Cyrene, and these men, on their arrival at Antioch, proclaimed their message to the Greeks as well, telling them the good news of the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church in Jerusalem and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this working of God's grace, he was delighted. He urged them all to be resolute in their faithfulness to the Lord, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. So it happened that a considerable number of people became followers of the Lord.

Believers are called "Christians" for the first time

²⁵⁻²⁶ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Saul. When he found him he brought him up to Antioch. Then for a whole year they met together with the Church and taught a large crowd. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first given the name of "Christians".

The young Church and famine relief

²⁷⁻³⁰ During this period some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them by the name of Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there was to be a great famine throughout the world. (This actually happened in the days of Claudius) The disciples determined to send relief to the brothers in Judea, each contributing as he was able. This they did, sending their contribution to the elders there personally through Barnabas and Saul.

NOTE: The Book of Acts narrative continues with Barnabas seeking out Saul,, who became his partner in spreading the Gospel.

Services on the Trinity 7

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

A quiet meditative service.

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Lector: Gail Lyons

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: Don Hess

Usher: Neil and Priscilla McDonald

Theme: Let courage rise with danger

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.

St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821),
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; Telephone (706) 632-8245;
www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.