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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Applying the Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist forms the center of our life as a Christian Community. Joining with each other week by week to eat and drink of the Body and Blood of Christ is not only essential for our individual lives as Christians, but for our communal lives.

Contrary to what we might hear among the popular preachers of our day, there are no solitary Christians. We are never saved by ourselves or singularly. We are saved in being united in the Body of Christ. We are saved together. Christians need to gather together. Of course, there is more to this than Sunday worship, and even "fellowship" times.

Part of this "more" is seen by the character, and action, of St. Paul in his letters. In Philemon 1.4, Paul states, "I give thanks to my God always when I remember you in my prayers." He also uses similar language in Philippians 1.3, 1 Corinthians 1.4, and Romans 1.8. Following St. Paul's example, we should be giving thanks to God in our prayers for each other as members of the Body of Christ. Why? Because each of us is a gift of God to the Body, and share a common purpose (a fellowship if you will) of worship, discipleship, and evangelism for the Glory of God.

How does this relate to applying the Eucharist? Simply that the same word that comes to us as the name of the Holy Communion is used by Paul in his remembrance and thanksgiving for the members

The Good News

September 7, 2018



Temporary Parking Situation (Update due to delays)

BEGINNING SOON at St. Matthews-parking will be limited: all of the east side spaces (all the spaces facing the parish hall) will be reserved for the roofing work. Please plan accordingly for your events and meetings.

Coffee of the Week

Last week's service of Ethiopian Sidamo was very well received. This week we will be serving a Kenya AA. Again, all coffee served in the month of September will be direct trade from Hemisphere Coffee Roasters.

If you would like individual 1lb packages, please let the office know.

Christian Formation

Will resume on September 5th. We will meet for Eucharist at 5:30 with study to follow. Our topic for the fall is "Paul's Greatest Hits". We will follow a seminar format that includes a study guide published before each session.

A New Year for Children's Formation

Christian formation for children at St. Matthew's is growing! This year, not only will we offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) on Wednesday nights, but we are also offering Sunday School following our second service. Immediately after receiving Communion, the children will proceed to their classroom for a 50 minute session. Keep in mind, this isn't your mother's Sunday School! Our curriculum will help the children explore the Mass readings more deeply, but we will play together and pray together, too. In time, the

of the Body of Christ.

As we receive the Eucharist in thanksgiving for what God has done for us in Christ, so we are to give thanks throughout the week for what God is doing for us all in our community, and the blessing that each of us is to the Body of Christ.

Pray for me, as I give thanks for you.

In Christ,

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

older children will be able to coordinate their own prayer services-developing the habit of prayer, along with meditation and a lot of fun.

The Children's Sunday School will have its first session Sunday, September 9th, immediately after Communion. CGS will begin again on Wednesday, September 12th at 6pm!

Confirmation/Inquirers Class (Time change, by request)

St. Matthew's is offering a Confirmation/Inquirers class for anyone interested in the Theology and History of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. Sessions will begin on Sunday, September 9 at **11:15AM** and run through the Fall Quarter.

Theology Uncorked

Will meet at 6PM on 9 September.

Tuesday Morning Quilters

Fall meetings will be delayed by one week. Due to the roofing (over the Parish Hall) the Quilters are delaying the start of their schedule by 1 week. See everyone on Tuesday, September 18th at 10 AM.

Outreach Opportunities

REMINDER: next committee meeting is 9 AM, September 9

During the months of August and September, the Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies for needy children at Oakland School. Items are needed for Grades K-5. Some examples of school supplies include:

- #2 pencils (sharpened)
- erasers
- regular sized crayons
- Elmer's glue (bottles or sticks)
- boxes of facial tissues
- backpacks without wheels

A list of many other items is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please put your school supplies in the baskets in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the parish hall.

In addition, we continue to collect "Boxtops for Education," The PTO newsletter for Oakland School reads: "Simply save the boxtops from General Mills products." Collection boxes

are in the narthex and attached to the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you for helping the Outreach Committee with these important projects.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

9-September

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Robin Levine & Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Dedee Champion & Janet Hoffman

16-September

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Kathryn Morris

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

Thurifer: John Stoffer

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Sandy Kohlhase & Danielle Ward

St. Matthew's Schedule beginning September 9th

Coffee hour follows 10:00 worship in the Parish Hall

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

9:00 a.m.-Outreach Committee meeting

10:00 a.m.-Rite II (& Children's Sunday School after HE)

11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

11:15 a.m.-Confirmation Inquirers

6:00 p.m.-Theology Uncorked

Monday-IL Symphony Auditiona

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Holy Eucharist followed by Adult Formation
6:00 p.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast
Friday -7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Men's breakfast

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings for September 9, 2018

Hymns: #8, #567, #171, #53

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

Psalm 146

Lauda, anima mea

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
*

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had

an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Birthdays & Anniversaries September 9-16

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jim Cooper

Ray Durham

Bella Levine

Lamp Dedications for this week:

Collect for Sunday, September 9th

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

