

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

November 13, 2011

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

COMPASSION, MERCY, AND PITY

(From Fr O' Brien's sermon for Trinity XVI)

"In Christ and through Christ, God... becomes especially visible in his mercy". It is this divine attribute of mercy, compassion, pity that is held out to us by the Church today, whereby we are (in the words of the Collect) cleansed, defended, succoured, and preserved. God "lays everything aside", writes Jeremy Taylor, "that he may serve his servants; heaven stoops to earth, and one abyss calls upon another, and the miseries of man, which were next to infinite, are excelled by a mercy equal to the immensity of God."

It is this mercy, pity, and compassion that moves Jesus to raise the dead man (Luke 7:11ff). Two processions intersect: one, representing the miseries of man, which are "next to infinite", the procession leaving the city of Nain, following the body of "a dead man, the only son of his mother, and", as if this were not miserable enough, "she was a widow". To this pathetic spectacle carried out, the headlong march of sorrow that is the condition of humanity thrall to sin and death, comes another procession. This one is of Jesus and his companions entering the city from the other direction of the cortege of death. As they meet, "heaven stoops to earth", and "one abyss calls upon another". No one asks Jesus to act. It is rather from the depths of that divine nature united to ours in the sacred heart of Jesus that he has compassion on her and

Very well, you say, for the widow of Nain. But what of the rest of us confronted by the loss of a loved one and the encroaching destitution of loneliness and despair? Where is the mercy, pity, compassion for us who have seen no such miracle?

In St. John's Gospel, miracles are called *signs*. As signs they are always much more than the extraordinary act accomplished. For those with eyes to see, they point to and make visible that Jesus himself is sovereign over life and death. The miracles of Jesus are signs of the 'decisive matter': the awakening and liberating of men from the spiritual death caused by sin. The young man of Nain was delivered alive to his mother, but would live to die again. The 'decisive matter' is that though Jesus could act majestically over the physical order in healing sickness and raising the dead, it is decisively through what he has done on the Cross, that he can forgive sin, the cause of death, and in so doing transform us from the inside out, "that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to ... to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fulness of God." We must die to attain such fulness, first to sin and then in that death Jesus endured in us and for us, that we might be with him in his resurrected and ascended glory. This is the true compassion, mercy and pity of

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found on our web site:
www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Edwin H. Culver

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. W. Barron Crawford III

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of King and Lisa Simkins by Marshall, Lynah and Wesley.

And in loving memory of Julia Floyd Smith, Sanford G. Simmons and John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller and loved ones by Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. David A Young, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. W. Lee Belford
Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Max Cooper

ACOLYTES

8:00 Clayton Compton
10:30 Lawson Turner, Kameron Sallee
Chris Dixon, John Osborne
Peter Stein, Mikel Kelly

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Pride Sheahan

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast & Study (with Mike Chastain), Parish House.

Thursday Rector's Bible Study 7:00 a.m.
Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

Thursday Men's Forum—12:00 -1 p.m.

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

Wednesday: 10:45 a.m.-Noon Bible Study
Thursday: 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

PARISH HOUSE GUIDES AND DOCENTS

There are five or six openings for Docents at the Green-Meldrim House. If you are able to helping in keeping the House open to the public, please make contact with Martie Campbell (598-4299)

BAZAAR THANKS

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2011 Holly Days Bazaar! Another year of delicious food, fellowship and fun was enjoyed by all. Please pick up your **Silent Auction** items during Coffee Hour. *Items remaining will be offered to the next-highest bidder.*

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

God visible in Christ. Grace is first in the spiritual life, and that grace (the unmerited, un-asked for compassion of God) is the remission of sin.

What a marvelous thing it is, that God is most visible to us not in what we take to be the greatest moments of our lives, our self-vauntings and successes, but in our sadnesses and lack. For in those moments of penitence and faith stripped of all ulterior motive, we know his mercy, pity, and compassion not as sterile emotion but as the power to be cleansed, ennobled and transformed.

“Each man in his darkness goes towards the light”. These words of Victor Hugo led Julien Green to this meditation in his *Journal*: “The life of each one of us has a meaning which escapes us... That which appears to us today to be perplexing, obscure and confused shall reveal itself under a harmonious aspect. Each one of us despite difficulties, vacillations and failures, moves nevertheless through a suffocating obscurity towards peace. The day shall finally come when, as it is written in the Scriptures, God shall wipe away the tears... Certainly, we do not know how our salvation is brought about, and our life appears to be like a novel for which we can’t find a title; but God finds the title.”

May the novels of our lives be titled under the Divine Mercy. May we look on the lives of others with that same optic of compassion through which Jesus saw the widow of Nain. So may these things be, if we humble ourselves in penitence, in Christ and through Christ, where even the darkness is true light. CO'B

The Book of Common Prayer: a 350th Anniversary Celebration is the title of a collection edited by Prudence Dailey, President of the English Prayer Book Society, with contributions from P. D. James and the Rector, among others. \$13.43 (Paperback) or \$9.99 (Kindle).

CHOIR NEWS

All choirs rehearse at their regular times this week. **Next Sunday** the Boys and Girls Choirs will sing a concert at St. Peter’s Church, Skidaway Island, at 4:00 p.m.

E. Y. C. S.

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

The annual “ingathering” of donations for the Episcopal Youth and Children’s Services. will be made Sunday November 20th. The EYCS (a local, not a national, church organization supported by St. John’s) provides financial support to college students and campers. Please give generously. Donations may also be made on-line at www.eyecs.org.

PUBLIC LECTURE ON STAINED GLASS

Mr. H. Thomas Kupper, an artisan in stained glass at Lincoln Cathedral, will give a free public lecture on the preservation and restoration of stained glass **Friday November 18th at 7 p.m.** in the Ralston Room on the third floor of Cranmer Hall. Mr. Kupper is a guest of Savannah Technical College in their Visiting Artisan Series. Admission limited to 100 persons.

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday- Friday (Chapel)

8:15am & 5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer

Wednesday (Chapel)

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

5:30 Evensong, Supper (6 p.m.) & Class (6:30 p.m)

Epistle to the Galatians

Thursday

10:30 a.m.—*Holy Communion*

NOON MEN’S FORUM

Why Men Should Pray and How
(The Rector)

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL218
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 a.m. — 12 Noon NURSERY (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 A.M.—ADULT, YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S CLASSES (*CRANMER HALL*)

10:30 a.m.—Pre-School Worship Hour—3 year olds through Kindergarten (*Cranmer Hall*)
Jr. Choir—1st through 4th Grade (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #271 *Come thou Almighty King*..... Moscow
Sentences, Confession, Absolution, & Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book p. 3-7
Versicles, Responses 7-8
VENITE (Hymnal #609) 9
Psalm #144.....519
First Lesson: Ephesians 6:10.....219
BENEDICTUS ES DOMINE(Hymnal #623).....10
Second Lesson: St. John 4:46.....219
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #634).....15
Apostles’ Creed15
Versicles and Responses16
Collect for the Day218
Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace..... 17-20
HYMN #243 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* Grand Isle
Children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.
THE SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *My Eyes for Beauty Pine* Herbert Howells
Mr. Lowell Roberts, Bass

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #562 *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* Webb

ORGAN: *Toccata for Organ* John Weaver

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service
If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*
