

The Weekly Word

"Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word." (Psalm 119:114)

The Third Sunday after Trinity



THE COLLECT.

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE. 1 St Peter 5. 5.

ALL of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,

walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. And the God of all grace, who hath called you into his eternal glory in Christ, after that ye have suffered a while, shall himself restore, stablish, strengthen you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE GOSPEL. St Luke 15. 1.

THEN drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and Scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, **What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.**

A Word about the Readings:

The Sunday Scripture readings for the first part of this Trinity season challenge us with a patient and faithful consideration of our human condition in all of its mortal and sinful frailty. This is by nature counter-intuitive for us, as we face a world bent on independence and self-promotion. The devil, for instance, who is the prince of that fallen worldly view of things, St. Peter imagines 'as a roaring lion' in our epistle. That we find in stark contrast with Christ's image of the lost sheep, representing our spiritual condition and need for conversion, in the Gospel. He is our Good Shepherd, as we were reminded in Eastertide, and so we must commit ourselves to His oversight as a faithful and humble flock that follows its Master. "Be clothed with

humility,” says St. Peter, and in such a spirit God will come to our aid and uplift our human struggle with His ‘mighty hand.’ Gradually we learn what it means to bear with one and other, to uphold one and other in prayer, ‘casting *all* our care’ on God, and so to discover how we are each dear to our Father.

This process, the reconciling of our hearts and souls to God, comes at the cost of a certain kind of suffering—‘*after* ye have suffered’, says St. Peter, not *if*. What kind of suffering can this be? It encompasses a variety of experience, and is common to every soul that repents of its vanity: there is the suffering of embarrassment that we have lied to ourselves rather than admit our ignorance. There is the suffering of confusion and heartache once that ignorance has been accepted. There is the suffering of struggle and frustration as we strain to set aside old habits of the vain world, and the humiliation of our failure, and the sweat and toil needed to learn the new habits of the kingdom of God. And there is the suffering of loss, loss of worldly comforts, and even at times, loss of past relationships that we believed were true but cannot comprehend or endure our new life with Christ. And all these things are unavoidable dimensions of our Christian journey, and in many respects, remain with us throughout our earthly life. So from this point of view, we might be tempted to ask, where is the Good News, then?

The answer is in our Lord’s parable. “**What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.**” It is certainly true that we must accept, and accept with faith and humility, that our conversion bears within it the real suffering of death and rebirth; but this is also true: as difficult as our experience may be, and as much courage as we may need to face the day, it is Jesus, Himself, who labours on our behalf, and He Himself who comes, to find us who are lost, and to bear us who are broken. We are not called to save ourselves, but to accept the loving purpose of Him Who saves us. In that is all our hope, and all the source of our life and blessing. Our labour, therefore, though expressed in different ways, is fundamentally the labour of prayer, to cast our cares upon Him, to call out to Him in the midst of our sorrows, and so “He shall himself restore, stablish, strengthen you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*”
-Fr. Gethin+

In our Prayers this week:

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India, and for Prem, their bishop

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Mark MacDonald, our National Indigenous Archbishop

Those in need of our prayers: Quinlyn, Terry, Bob, Grace, Gabriel, Nettie, Deb, Loretta, Liz, Paxton, Sharon, Ken, Fern, Marion, Anna, Darryl, Azoria, Clare

Readings for the coming week:

		First Lesson	Second Lesson
Monday	MP	Prov. 1. 1 - 19	1 John 3:1-12
	EP	Prov. 1. 20 - end	Mark 11:27-12:12
Tuesday	MP	Prov. 2	1 John 3:13-4:6
	EP	Prov. 3. 1 - 26	Mark 12:13-34
Wednesday	MP	Prov. 3. 27 - 4. 19	1 John 4:7-end
	EP	Prov. 4. 20 - 5. 14	Mark 12:35-13:13
Thursday	MP	Prov. 6. 1 - 19	1 John 5
	EP	Prov. 8	Mark 13:14-end
Friday	MP	Prov. 9	2 John
	EP	Prov. 10. 1 - 22	Mark 14:1-26
Saturday	MP	Prov. 11. 1 - 25	3 John
	EP	Prov. 12. 10 - end	Mark 14:27-52

Parish News and Notes:

Fr. Gethin will be on vacation from **July 2 till August 1**. During that time, in case of pastoral emergency contact **Fr. Jordan Draper in the parish of Birch Hills, 306-749-2229.**

The church will continue to be closed until after vestry has met, later in the summer.

Our mailing address is:

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