



Trinity Topics

May 2017

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***“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open unto their cry.” - Psalm 34:15***

The maxim that communication is the key to a healthy marriage is as prosaic as it is true. This same maxim is, in fact, true of any relationship, and that includes our relationship with God. This communication is prayer—time we set aside to speak to God and to listen for his voice. As the father of two young sons, I know as well as anyone how difficult it is to set aside time for prayer. Yet even a few words of gratitude to God as your head hits the pillow each night can be a new opportunity to know God and to feel his power in your life.

In prayer, we look for God’s work in the Bible and in our lives and express our gratitude for his mercy. We yearn to restore our relationship with Him when we don’t understand his work or we have gone astray. We trust God enough to petition him for our daily needs and the needs of others. Prayer is a time to be “real.” We have no secrets before our Lord, so all parts of lives, from our desires and joy to our hate and sadness can and must be offered to God with complete genuineness.

There are many ways to pray, from the rosary, to meditation, or even sacred dance if that’s your thing, but the form of prayer I would like to commend for your edification this month is the *Daily Office*, contained in the *Book of Common Prayer* on pages 36 through 102. These services of Morning and Evening Prayer (in either traditional or contemporary language according to your taste) were originally composed during the Reformation by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and based on the monastic cycle of daily prayers. It was his intention to make these daily services a frame on which the whole Christian life, for clergy and lay people alike, could be built.

We offer the service of Morning Prayer at church every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, which is open to all, but these services can also be used for personal devotion. They include daily scripture readings that go through the whole Bible in 2 years, as well as going through all the psalms each month. These services take about 15 minutes each. A shorter alternative to the *Daily Office* can be found on pages 136 to 140 under the heading “Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families.” These are four quick prayers appointed throughout the day in a fashion more closely resembling the medieval cycle of prayer.

Like all good habits, prayer takes practice. As summer arrives, it is time to start considering what your “summer project” will be—why not make your relationship with God your summer project by adopting the ancient and beautiful tradition of the *Daily Office*?

Father Zachary Brooks +

Note: We have extra copies of the *Book of Common Prayer*, if you would like to take one home.

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Time For God

I give God my yesterdays.
May these be washed clean,
And laid away in some holy place.

I seek God for my todays.
May they be new and shining,
Open and useful to God in all ways.

I think with God of my tomorrows,
Of what these are likely to be.
Please tell me, Lord, what it is you
Would have me do and be.

I say to God praise each day
For His love and peace and mercy great.
For my yesterdays, todays,
and all He has planned for our
tomorrows
Thanks be to God, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Donald R. Eldred
June 2011
Revised in 2013*

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – May 31

After the angel Gabriel had announced to Mary that she was to become the mother of Our Lord, Mary went from Galilee to Judea to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth, soon to be the mother of John the Baptist. This visit is recorded in Luke 1:39-56. Elizabeth greeted Mary with the words, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary burst forth with the song of praise which we call the Magnificat, beginning, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." We are told that even John the Baptist, still unborn, leaped for joy in his mother's womb. Thus we are shown, side by side, the two women, one seemingly too old to have a child, but destined to bear the last prophet of the Old Covenant, of the age that was passing away; and the other woman, seemingly not ready to have a child, but destined to bear the One Who was Himself the beginning of the New Covenant, the age that would not pass away. It is this meeting that we celebrate on May 31.

Father in heaven, by whose grace the virgin mother of thine Incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping thy word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. BCP, page 189.

News & Announcements

The Heifer Project International

The Church School would like to announce that they exceeded the goal they set at the beginning of Lent. They raised **\$2,691.01** for *The Heifer Project International*. This enables them to buy an irrigation pump, 3 flocks of chicks, a camel, a rabbit, 2 lambs, a llama, a water buffalo, fish, a cow, and a goat. The teachers and children met on April 26 to finalize their choices, in addition to planting flowers and eating pizza, veggies, and cookies!

Thanks to all the members of the Parish who contributed throughout the Lenten season. Without your generous donations, this would not have been such a great success and learning experience for the children.

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches

In cooperation with Faith Lutheran Church, the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is focusing on the *Storybook Project*, an innovative program, during the months of May and June. Each month volunteers visit the Jacksonville Correctional Center where inmates can select a book to read and record. These items are then sent to their children and grandchildren. This valuable ministry encourages an important emotional connection between families through reading. You can help by donating: manila or white mailing envelopes 9x12 or larger; recordable audio CDs and sleeves; AAA batteries; and new or very gently used children's books. There is a box for your donations in the upper hallway.

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 22 – 26. Please contact Adah Mitchell to let her know when you can help.

Trinity Fellowship

On Tuesday, May 2, members of Trinity Fellowship will gather for a potluck supper at 6:00 pm. **All are invited.** There is a sign-up sheet next to the kitchen counter.

Church Women United

Grace United Methodist Church will host the May fellowship coffee at 9:00 am, on Friday, May 12. It would be good if some of us attend. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested.

Summer Children's Church

This summer, we will offer an opportunity for children to continue being engaged by the Christian story with Summer Children's Church. Starting on May 28, through the Sunday School kick-off in the Fall, children will meet in the basement of the parish hall for a Bible story, an activity, and a light snack before joining the rest of the congregation in the church after the sermon. Of course, this will be provided as an option for children and their parents—children are always welcome to stay with their parents in our services. Volunteers are welcome to lead classes. Leading classes will require no prep time—activities and supplies will be provided. Please find the sign-up sheet on the credenza in the lobby.

Summer Bible Study

Fr. Zach will offer a summer Bible study course in the lounge at 7 pm every first and third Wednesday in June, July, and August. Classes will last approximately one hour, with light refreshments provided. The class will begin with the book of Genesis. Contact brooksz@gmail.com for more details.

***If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.**

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Trinity Fellowship

Tuesday, May 2, 6 pm

Please join us for our annual potluck supper.
A sign-up sheet is by the kitchen counter.

ECW

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.

Monday, May 8
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Vestry

Tuesday, May 16

7:00 pm.

Sunday, May 21

Last day of regular Church School

Sunday, May 28
at 10 o'clock

(and every Sunday until Church School resumes):

Bible Stories and Activities
for children
in the basement of the Parish Hall

Children will join their families in church
after the sermon.

SERVICES IN MAY 2017

Monday, May 1:
St. Philip & St. James
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 3:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 7: EASTER IV
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 10:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 14: EASTER V
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 17:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 21: EASTER VI
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 24:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 25:
ASCENSION DAY
5:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 28: EASTER VII:
The Sunday after Ascension Day
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 31:
The Visitation of the BVM
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist