



# Trinity Topics

**September 2019**

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**“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”—2 Tim. 3:16-17**

We begin our Eucharistic service with what is called the *Summary of the Law*, a short statement of the life that is compatible with the mystery of God we encounter in the breaking of the bread. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.” The first part of Christian life is reaching up to God not only spiritually or with our feelings, but intellectually. We know this well enough when we love our friends or family. When we love another person, facts about them are important to us. A loving husband, for example, is filled not only with affection and passion for his wife—he also wants to learn everything about her, from her birthday, to her favorite dessert, to her most cherished memories. Should we not, therefore, apply this same zeal for knowledge to God?

We learn about God in many ways in Christian life, from prayer, to works of charity, to fellowship and worship in church. The beginning and foundation of all of this, however, is the work of God for us in Jesus, whom we encounter in the pages of Sacred Scripture. Continual study of the Bible is an essential part of faith in God, when we seek to know intellectually the work of God for us and His commandments. This, in turn, instills in us the comfort, faith, and gratitude that make the hard work of Christian living possible.

I know this isn't the first time that I have exhorted you to the study of Scripture, and it won't be the last. All of us, priests included, need to be reminded from time to time to study the Bible. Life is busy and stressful, and it can be difficult to make time for it. Yet the Bible is God's gift to humankind, a source of comfort and joy. It is the Bible that can give beautiful language to our joy and our sadness. It is the Bible that can guide us when we are confronted with difficult decisions that keep us awake at night. In the Bible we find hope in a world that seems to be ever spinning out of control. We find all these things in the Bible because that is where we find the Living God ever reaching out to us to offer us new life.

In my short time as priest I have heard many people say that they cannot hear God speaking to them and they cannot feel that God is in their lives. So many Christians today say that Christian faith no longer makes sense to them and that they are not sure it's even true. The answer to these doubts is to read the Bible! Read it every day. Read it over and over again, knowing that there is always more to find in its pages. Even the same passage of Scripture can mean different things to us at different times in our lives.

It must also be said that there is more than way of reading the Bible. One learns a very particular way of reading the Bible in seminary called the historical-critical method. You learn Greek and Hebrew to pick out the original nuance of the words. You learn of the sources of the text and put the text in its original context. This mode of study takes years to learn. It's a worthwhile way to read the Bible to be sure. I encourage anyone to learn it, but it's not the only way and not even the most important way to read the Bible. The Bible is not only an ancient text, and it's not a mere connection of isolated verses; the Bible is alive with grace. The Bible is for us and about us living today the 21<sup>st</sup> century America. The most important way to read the Bible, I believe, is sit down to read it every single day, even if you only have a few minutes to spare, and to pledge yourself to believe and obey whatever you find there.

This is not a project we have to undertake alone. Please join us for this year's Fellowship group, which will study the Bible with *The Bible Project*. This is a collection of high-quality videos, available online, that summarize the themes of the text and connect them to the greater story of God's work in Jesus.

*Fr. Zach Brooks*

*A Course in Anglican History: Part XV*

Protestant Reformers saw deep problems with the liturgy of the Catholic Church. It had become so disconnected from the laity that it wasn't even necessary for a priest to have a congregation to celebrate the Eucharist. Services were conducted in a language the people could not understand, and hidden from their view by a partition, surmounted by a crucifix, called a rood screen. Many critical parts of the Eucharistic service were whispered by the priest alone at the altar; the Reformer John Calvin wrote indignantly about the priest "preaching to a piece of bread." It was common for a layperson to catch only a fleeting glimpse of the Eucharist during the elevation of the Host on most Sundays, and to actually receive Holy Communion only once a year. Popular piety focused instead on the veneration of holy images and relics, recitation of easily memorized prayers like the rosary, and celebration of saints' festivals with grand processions, dances, and games—practices seen by Protestants as non-biblical and superstitious corruptions of the biblical faith.

Under King Edward VI, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer was finally able to compose liturgies that could, he hoped, provide a proper focus for the piety of the English people. This first *Book of Common Prayer* was made the official liturgy of the Church of England with the Act of Uniformity of 1549. When writing it, Cranmer had on hand several German Protestant liturgies, liturgical writings by the early Church Fathers, and the Sarum Rite, a uniquely English variation of the practice of the Roman Church. For the first time, all services of the Church were found in one book, available to all. Services of Morning and Evening Prayer turned the monastic Daily Office into services for the people. Congregational responses became a central part of the Eucharist, which was to be celebrated with the people kneeling around a communion table. It was a moderate document with both Catholic and Protestant influences that made basically no one happy, and work on a more Calvinist version was begun almost immediately.

*This column is the fifteenth in the monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.*

***The Readings for the Sundays in September***

	<b><i>Old Testament</i></b>	<b><i>Psalm</i></b>	<b><i>New Testament</i></b>	<b><i>Gospel</i></b>
<i>September 1</i>	Jeremiah 2:4-13	81:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
<i>September 8</i>	Jeremiah 18:1-11	139:15,12-17	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
<i>September 15</i>	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
<i>September 22</i>	Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1	79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
<i>September 29</i>	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

***Ministers Needed!***

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Oblationers, Ushers, Church School Teachers, and Nursery Helpers are needed. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please talk to Fr. Zach or contact the Parish Office.

## News & Announcements

### ***Choir***

Choir has resumed rehearsals on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. All are welcome to join. Talk with Mary Wilson for more details.

### ***Trinity Fellowship***

All are welcome to attend Trinity Fellowship. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, September through May. From 7 until 7:30 p.m., dessert is served. Then from 7:30 until 8:30, there is a study. This year we will be following *The Bible Project*.

### ***Doorbell Dinners***

Members of Trinity Church delivered dinners the week of July 30 – August 3. Thanks to all who helped: Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, Jim & Janet Cisne, John Clancy, Mia DeGroot, Bruce & Melissa Evans, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Donna Metcalf, Maryjane Million, Hilda Radcliffe, Don & Alice Tracey, and Ginda Woodruff.

Our next week of duty is **October 14 – 18**. Please mark your calendars now and let K-Lou Ashmore know if you can help.

### ***Food Collections***

Our regular donations to the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center since December have sent over 320 pounds of food. Thank you for your continued support. The collection box is in the upper hallway.

### ***Be Thankful!***

The aim of the United Thankful Offering is for us to make an offering in thanksgiving for the blessings in our life. Traditionally, one takes home a box and makes regular offerings throughout the year in thanksgiving for the blessings and then brings the amount of money collected on the twice yearly Ingatherings. The funds collected are then used to help others in need. Boxes and envelopes are provided on the table in the foyer. Please consider making an offering on Sunday, September 29.

### ***Prayer Lists***

It has been a long tradition at Trinity Church to mention by name people who need and/or request our prayers. We have two prayer lists: a short one on Sundays and an extensive one on Wednesdays. First of all, it makes it easier for us if you submit a name in writing. It has been customary to leave names on the Sunday list for six weeks, unless a special request is made. There has been no designated length of time to have a name on the Wednesday list; however, if you request prayers for a person, we hope that you would keep us updated on his condition or situation.

### ***Congratulations!***

Welcome to the world, **Prairie Herget Schnitker!** Prairie is the daughter of Mollie Herget & James Schnitker and the granddaughter of Jim & Paula Herget. She was born on July 27, weighing 9 pounds!

### ***Deaths***

**Isaac Newton Mitchell** died on August 4, 2019. His funeral was here at Trinity Church on August 10. Newt was a loyal servant to Trinity Church and will be dearly missed.

**Wanda Mayberry**, mother of Michele Quinones, died on August 12, 2019. Fr. Zach officiated at a service for her on August 24.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

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

**Trinity Fellowship**

This year we will follow  
*The Bible Project*

**Tuesday, September 3  
7:00 pm**

**Church School & Choir  
will resume on**

**Sunday, September 8**

**ECW**

**Build Your Own Salad Supper**

**Monday, September 9  
5:30 pm**

**Vestry Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 17**

**7:00 pm**

The Fall Ingathering of the  
**United Thank Offering**  
will be on  
**Sunday, September 29.**

*Make an offering in thanksgiving  
for something or someone in your life.*

**SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2019**

**SUNDAYS:**

September 1:

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

September 8:

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

September 15:

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

September 22:

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

September 29:

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

**WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am**

Wednesday, September 4

Wednesday, September 11

Saturday, September 14:

**Holy Cross Day**

Wednesday, September 18

Saturday, September 21:

**St. Matthew**

Wednesday, September 25

Monday, September 30:

**St. Michael & All Angels, tr.**