



Trinity Topics

August 2021

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“I saw water flowing out of the Temple, from its right side, Alleluia: And all to whom this water came were saved, and they shall say: Alleluia, Alleluia.”—The Vidi Aquam

My recent monthly columns have been about the nature of Christian life. Christian life is putting others above oneself. Christian life is bearing the fruit of good works. Christian life is continual exploration of the world of the Bible. All of this, and much more besides, is the consequence of our baptisms. It is the sacrament of Baptism that makes us Christians, and the rest of our life afterward is the growth of that grace in our hearts, in our souls and in our minds. Which is why I write to you this month to explore the meaning of Baptism.

According to our Catechism, (page 854 of the *Book of Common Prayer*), a sacrament is an “Outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace.” Baptism requires the outward signs of water and the Word of God: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” In ages past (and in Baptist churches today!) baptism involved being dunked entirely in water as a symbolic burial, and coming out of the water again was a symbol of rising from the grave a new person. The water washes away our old lives of sin and death and leaves our souls pure for the coming Kingdom of God. Yet the fact that Baptism is deeply symbolic does not mean it is merely a symbol. When the outward signs of the Baptism ceremony are present, God promises there is a miracle happening in our souls—the miracle of God’s love giving us forgiveness of sins and new life.

In the words of the Articles of Religion (BCP page 872), as a sacrament Baptism is a sign of “God’s favor toward us.” This means that that Baptism is, first and foremost, a work of God in our lives. This is why we baptize babies in the Episcopal Church rather than waiting for adulthood for a “believer’s baptism.” A baby can be baptized because baptism is a matter of God’s faithfulness toward us and not of our often-wavering faith in Him. Being a Christian is not a matter of believing hard enough, of being worthy enough, or of praying and going to Church enough. We are Christians because God chose us in Baptism, and nothing we human beings can do can get in the way of God’s will. No matter what we do, no matter what happens, no matter how far we stray, God’s grace is in our hearts calling us to the resurrection life of Jesus again. I can and do doubt that I am truly worthy of God’s grace, but I cannot doubt that I am baptized, and baptism is a sign of God’s love for me.

Baptism is a work of God, and we can only have gratitude for that. That is nothing more and nothing less than the summary of Christian salvation itself; it is already accomplished in Jesus’ work for us. The joyful gratitude of a Christian for Baptism is a thing to be celebrated for the rest of our lives. This becomes the basis of Christian belief and morality. When that joy is in our hearts, we can’t help but to let it out both in our words and in our actions. So, the Baptism ceremony has always included a proclamation of our beliefs (in the form of the Apostles’ Creed), and solemn promises to lead a new life compatible with this Baptismal joy. The waters of baptism washed away the things that divide us from others; therefore, we promise to love our neighbors as ourselves. Baptism has buried the old self obsessed with things that do not matter; therefore, we promise to keep our minds on the things that do matter such as scripture and the worship of God on Sunday. Baptism is the gift of new life; therefore, we put away sin and death and always repent when we fall short of the commandments of God.

Not all of us remember our baptisms, but Baptismal life is something we can come back to again and again. Every moment is a new opportunity to turn to Jesus and start baptismal life again, and this is because no matter what, God does love us. Amen!

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXX

The King James Bible (more properly known as the Authorized Translation) is, without any doubt, the most important work of English prose ever. It standardized the English language, it taught the English people to read, and to this day it has no parallel among English translations of the Bible for its beauty and poetry. It has been so central to the liturgical life of English-speaking Christianity that it was long referred to as simply “The English Bible.” For all the Reformation’s emphasis on the people’s ability to read the Bible for themselves in their own language, before King James Version was authorized for the English nation, there was no official English translation available. Most English translations in circulation were the result of independent efforts. These translations often let theology guide translation, rather than the other way around. King James I, at the prompting of religious leaders, aimed to remedy this situation soon after taking the throne. This great and noble task was assigned to 47 scholars under the supervision of Archbishop Richard Bancroft. They largely built on the work of previous translations, carefully adjusting the text for better accuracy or to update the language. They worked for 5 years, concluding in 1609. The centrality of their work to English language and culture can be seen from the everyday phrases that originated from it: “At their wits’ end” (Psalms 107:27). “A drop in the bucket” (Isaiah 40:15). “The ends of the earth” (Zechariah 9:10). “A thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7). “Fall from grace” (Galatians 5:4) “A labor of love” (Hebrews 6:10). And many, many more.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

Founders’ Day

One hundred eighty-nine years ago, on August 11, 1832, Trinity Parish, Jacksonville, was organized, making it the oldest parish in Illinois.



Stained Glass Window Reminder

Be sure to look closely at the window above the east entrance as you enter the sanctuary. In the Stained Glass Window book, it is described in detail as *The Coming of the Church to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1832*. The center lancet has a representation of our church building. In the left lancet you will see the cornerstone of our church.

News & Announcements

Help Needed!

After Labor Day regular church school will resume. We are blessed at Trinity Church to have dedicated teachers lead our children in worship and study. It takes many hands to conduct weekly lessons. There is a wide range of ages of our children. Our teachers want to be able to meet the needs of them all.

How can you help? Volunteer to be a teacher or teacher's aide. Volunteer to stay in the nurse's office with our youngest ones while the teachers conduct lessons. All extra hands are welcome. Although weekly help is needed, you can also offer help one or two Sundays a month. Let the Parish Office know how you can help.

These children are the hope that this church will continue to be filled for years to come.

Wardens' Report

The handrails around the buildings have been repaired and repainted. We are on a list for masonry repairs as needed, including the handrails. The wardens are working with Jamie Cosgriff, architect, to determine the best solution for water issues around the chimney. Lastly, Green Works has removed the overgrown arborvitae at the west end of the church and contracted with a tree service to remove the lower branches on the linden tree at the corner of Church and State St.

Choir

Choir Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 2, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join! Contact Mary Wilson. Sunday, September 12 will be their first Sunday to sing at the 10 o'clock service.

Forward Day By Day

The latest issue is now available. Let us know if you want one, and we will mail it to you.

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Forrest Keaton on his retirement, after over 38 years with the law firm of Rammelkamp Bradney. We appreciate all that he does for our Trinity Church parish. Thank you, Forrest, and enjoy your retirement!

The Readings for the Sundays in August

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
August 1	2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a	51:1-13	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 8	2 Samuel 18:5-9,15, 31-33	130	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35,41-51
August 15	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14	111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 22	1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43	84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 29	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45:1-2,7-10	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

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

Lectors

August 1 Alice Tracey
August 8 Forrest Keaton
August 15 Cathy Nelson
August 22 Nancy Taylor Porter
August 29 Paula Woods

Acolytes

August 1 Bruce Evans
August 8 Clayton Robb
August 15 Bruce Evans
August 22 Clayton Robb
August 29 Bruce Evans

Ushers

August 1 Chuck Crim
August 8 John Clancy
August 15 Chuck Crim
August 22 Rob Haley
August 29 John Clancy

Join us in the churchyard for a reception after the 10 o'clock service on **August 15**, as we celebrate our **Founders' Day**.

Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, August 17
7:00 pm

Rites of Initiation:

Please let Father Zach know if you would like to be baptized or received into the Church, or if you have children you would like to be baptized or confirmed. Contact: brooksz@gmail.com

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2021

SUNDAYS:

August 1:

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 8:

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 15:

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 22:

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 29:

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS AT 10:00 am:

Wednesday, August 4

Friday, August 6:

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday, August 11

Monday, August 16:

St. Mary the Virgin, tr.

Wednesday, August 18

Tuesday, August 24:

St. Bartholomew

Wednesday, August 25

MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:

On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays