

Lower School Chapel Readings September 2006

Note to the reader: The Bible passages are from the New Revised Standard Version. The Psalms are from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. At times, the words and texts are edited to make them appropriate for chapel. And portions of the original text are sometimes omitted for length. Therefore, please use the following texts.

Note to preachers: Suggested themes are asterisked. These are offered as preaching aids. Text and words are edited at will.

September's themes: Chapel Introduction, Prayer & Worship, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Maxims, and the Holy Eucharist.

Future themes will be tied in with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum.

September 6, Wednesday
Chapel Introduction: Finding Jesus
Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the book of Luke

41 Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when Jesus was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

September 7, Thursday

Chapel Introduction: Sanctuary

Last chapel before Grandparent's Day (Sunday)

Genesis 8:6-12

A reading from the book of Genesis

6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; ¹¹and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

September 11, Monday
Sunday's Gospel
Matthew 7:24-37 (Proper 18 B)

“Ephphatha” is pronounced [EHF-uh-thuh](#)

A reading from the book of Mark

They brought to Jesus a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

September 12, Tuesday

Prayer & Worship: Seeking God First in our day, week, and life

Matthew 6:24-34 (Proper 3A)

A reading from the book of Matthew

Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you-- you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

September 14, Thursday

Prayer & Worship: The power of routines and patterns

Luke 18:1-8a (Proper 24 C)

A reading from the book of Luke

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

September 18, Monday
Sunday's Gospel
Mark 8:27-38 (Proper 19 B)

A reading from the book of Mark

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

September 19, Tuesday

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-16 (Easter 4 B)

A reading from the book of John

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away-- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

September 21, Thursday

Maxims: The Great Commandment

**Last Chapel before Rosh Hashana (Friday) and Ramadan
(Sunday)**

Matthew 22:34-46 (Proper 24 A)

A reading from the book of Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

September 25, Monday
Sunday's Gospel
Mark 9:30-37 (Proper 20 B)

A reading from the book of Mark

Jesus and his disciples came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

September 26, Tuesday

The Holy Eucharist: The Feeding of the 5,000

Matthew 14:13-21 (Proper 13 A)

A reading from the book of Matthew

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

September 28, Thursday

The Holy Eucharist: The Last Supper

Matthew 26:26-30

A reading from the book of Matthew

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you;²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.