



HARK! THE HERALD

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA

March 2018



From the Pastor's Desk

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:1-4

The experience of Jesus in the wilderness shapes our practice of Lent. His forty days of fasting, were also days of prayer and meditation on Scripture. When He rebukes the devil's temptation with a passage from *Deuteronomy*, He is not merely giving a clever answer. He is describing a practice that He has been living out. Jesus quotes from a few chapters of *Deuteronomy* throughout this story. Each quotation is not only relevant to the temptations being thrown at Him. They are brief sections of a longer passage that is relevant to His purpose in the desert and mission after the wilderness. He has clearly been thinking about this passage, in which the people of God in the wilderness are given the Law and directed in how to serve God. Jesus likely spent 40 days meditating on this passage of Scripture, the Word of God Jesus meditating on the word of God found in words.

We too are called to live by "every word that comes from the mouth of God." Perhaps this Lenten season, you might begin a practice or even form a lifelong habit of living with and by God's word. Here are a few ideas:

1) Study long pieces of Scripture. Too often we read only short pieces of Scripture and even try to interpret individual verses in isolation. If you want to understand the Bible, read longer pieces. Always read at least a paragraph. However, in Lent, why not try studying longer sections? Read whole epistles in a single sitting. These are letters meant to be listened to from start to finish. Try to figure out what the main argument and topic of the author is. Read a book

like *Ephesians* once a day for a week. You'll discover new things and see the Bible differently when you discover more of how the pieces fit together.

2) Memorize a passage. Try a paragraph or even a chapter. It will become a gift as you are able to remember it throughout the day. Speak the passage in the shower, while stuck in traffic, or on a walk. Let it become part of you. If memorizing a passage seems too long, start with a single verse. Write it on an index card or a post it note. Look at it many times each day. When you learn one verse, then add the next one. Memorizing a passage becomes a means to meditating on it, as Jesus did with passages from *Deuteronomy*.

3) Pray a passage of Scripture. We already do this with the Lord's Prayer often. Try another prayer from the Bible. The Apostle Paul often prays for his audience, including blessing their churches. Choose one of those prayers, and pray it for St. Luke's each day. Or choose a psalm to be your daily prayer. There are psalms for suffering, psalms for rejoicing, psalms for times when you are in trouble, and psalms for thanking God. Pray the same one each day, or choose a different one each time. Try going beyond just reading the passage though. Pause, adding your own words to the prayers. If you read about thanking the Lord, add what you are thankful for. If you read a verse asking the Lord to rescue, tell Him what you need rescuing from. If you read Paul's blessing that his audience would grow in godliness, pray the names and picture the faces of people in our church and ask God for their growth.

I pray that you will experience God's word as the gift that it is this season, and in every season of your life.

Blessings,
Fr. Ryan



February 21-March 21

Bible Study with Soup, Salad, & Bread

Location: The Bankson's, 3255 Leaf Dr. Merced @ 5:30 PM

Men's Night Out

Hosted by George Parker and Paul Strong on March 13th from 6—8 pm .

2240 Golden Oak Lane at the Sierra Portal Clubhouse, Merced.

RSVP to George, 722-3448



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 5:30 PM

Good Friday 5:30 PM

Easter Sunday 10:00 AM

Up-Coming Events

Mar 4—Sisters of Prayer

Mar 13—Men's Night Out
at Sierra Portal Club
house 6-8 pm

Mar 15—Vestry 5:30 pm

Mar 30—Good Friday



See Cheryl Mayo
to coordinate
bringing food for
coffee hour.

Tote Bags

St. Luke's tote bags
are available for \$10
each. Contact Nancy
384-8034,
nanmausmith
@gmail.com

Weekly Services

Sundays
10:00 am Holy Communion

Church Staff

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop,
Anglican Church in North America
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric Vawter Menees, Bishop
The Rev. Ryan Bradley, Rector, E-mail: rector@stlukesmerced.org
Mrs. Mady Montague, Choir Director; Mrs. Marian McFarland, Organist
Mrs. Patti McClain, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2018
Mrs. Kathy Hill

Class of 2019
Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Sr. Warden, Treasurer; Mrs. Cheryl Mayo, Jr. Warden;
Mrs. Victoria Schuller; Darby Minturn

Class of 2020
Mr. Fred Dutton, Mrs. Sylvia Bankson

Mrs. Nancy Tapia, Clerk

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Mike Waite, Victoria Schuller; Karlyne Paul, Alternate

Contact Us

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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M - Th 8 am - 2 pm
Friday 8 am—Noon

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www.stlukesmerced.org

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ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR
HARK! THE HERALD IS THE
20TH OF EACH MONTH.

Send articles to:
office@stlukesmerced.org

A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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