

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ:

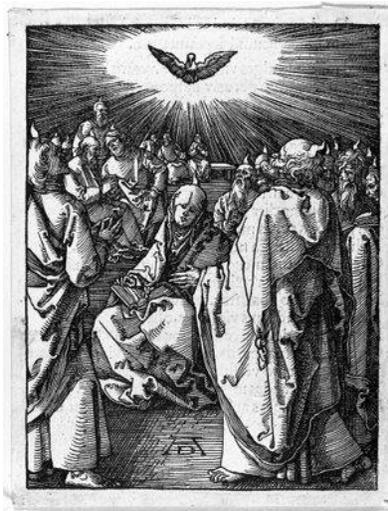
June 2017

Our Scripture meditations in the first half of the Church's year (from Advent to Whitsunday) constitute a recollection of the history of our salvation in and through Jesus Christ: the goodness of our creation, our fall from Grace, the establishment of the Old Covenant with Israel as the means of establishing the New Covenant with the world in the blood of Christ, His birth, teaching, suffering, dying, rising and ascending for us. Now the Church having been reminded of the nature of its creation at Pentecost, asks us to turn those lessons from Christ into our own lives. The second half of the Church's year, Trinity season, begins with Christ's call to Nicodemus in *St. John* chapter 3, to be "born again." We must put on the Christ we have learned; we must do the will of the Father, as taught us by the Son, in the power of the Holy Ghost. Our old ingrained habits of vice, so comforting to us in our sinfulness, must be replaced by habits of virtue; of faith and hope and charity. And they will be, if we humble ourselves to God, acknowledge our need for Him and earnestly call on His aid of His Spirit, the Comforter. Trinity season is intended by the Church to be a season of growth. As we clothe our Church in the season's color, green, we do well to turn our attention to that which the color evokes, nature. See how the simplest of God's creatures give him glory in obeying the rules set for them, in following their own virtuous habits. If he allows them to give Him such glory, as Christ has taught us, how much more must He want us, the crown of His creation to glorify Him, and how much more grace must He be offering us to do so. The lessons and examples of Christ are before us, the comfort, the strength of the Spirit is ours. In that Spirit we commend your prayers for Ruva (daughter of Memory Mlilo, one of our newest members) who is to begin her life of grace through Baptism on Sunday, June 11th, and for the repose of the soul of Roy Heymann (one of our oldest and dearest members) who died in March and whose funeral will be on Friday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m. Let us strive to grow in godly habits, this season of Trinity and until our lives' ending.

Yours in Christ, Edward L. Rix

WHITSUNDAY, SUNDAY SCHOOL AWARDS & BBQ- JUNE 4th

Our annual celebration of Mother Church's Pentecostal birth on Whitsunday will be kept with Communion Services at both 8:00 and 10:00 on June 4th. As this is our last Sunday School day of the year, time will be given at our 10:00 Festal service to thank our faithful Sunday School and Child-care staff and to congratulate our scholars on a year of study and growth in things concerning our Lord. Afterward all are invited to a BBQ picnic at the Rectory (723 Braeburn Lane in Penn Valley) where salads will be welcomed contributions (brisket, ribs, burgers, hotdogs, cake and cold drinks provided).



LAST CHOIR SUNDAY

June 4th also marks our last Sunday, until September, with our full choir. Individual choristers will, as they have in past years, join us in June, July and August to sing solo anthems; a volunteer service for which we are most grateful. Do thank our Organist and Choirmaster, Dr. Radu, our Assistant Organist, Mrs. Fix-Keller and all the members of the choir for the 'joyful noises' they have made in adorning our worship for the last nine months.

SUMMER SCHEDULES, VACATIONS, ETC.

Confirmation Class will meet on the first two Sundays in June and then take a break until September. Thursday Bible Study breaks for June, July and August (with a few exceptions, the Tuesday Morning Group generally continues to meet). Father Rix will be on Study Leave from June 17th to 26th. During that time all regular services will be held with the exception of the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist (Saturday, June 24th): there will be no 10:00 a.m. Eucharist that day.



"The kingdom of God... is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." *St. Luke 13:18-19*