



The Shepherd's Voice

By Fr. Joe Rees

October 29, 2013

'Salvation In Your House'

"Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

Luke 19: 9-10.

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Come down for I must stay at your house today." (v.5) Imagine Jesus coming to your house and saying that to you today...are we prepared? Now I don't mean is the floor vacuumed and the tables dusted. I mean is your home a home Jesus would be glad to share with you, and you with Him? This Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was rich the text says. He was seeking to see Jesus. He even climbed a tree, since he was vertically challenged, in order to get a full view of Him as he entered into town. But, Jesus knowingly, spots him and says, 'I need to come to your house today'. Now that would startle anyone, including the chief tax collector!

Zacchaeus recognizes that he is not in the presence of any ordinary man, nor even a prophet. He is with the company in his own home with the Son of Man. He would know that Jesus was the one and only Messiah, 'the' Son of the Creator, the heir of God's throne, the King of the Jews. He unhesitatingly humbles himself and knew he was guilty before the most holy Son of God. He says, "Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." The realization of

his sinful state of being compels him to offer to God his act of contrition, in hope that he could make amendment with God for the life he had lived. And Jesus had mercy...and proclaimed salvation for him.

Isn't it true for us as well? When we finally realize in this life that our ways of doing things have not been true to the Lord's ways; that we have sensed in our spirits an unworthiness to be in God's presence; that we have sinned and gone astray; that then God in His mercy can come into the house of our minds and bodies to proclaim "You are saved!" We simply have to be open to it. Zacchaeus could have chosen to say to the Lord, "no, don't come to my place." But, he didn't. He was open to Jesus.

Next week, all across our land, Christians will be opening their homes up to Jesus. Yes, the 'My Hope America' program with Billy Graham will be showing in living rooms filled with guests. The hosts, called 'Matthews', will provide a showing of the DVD and give a testimony of their faith in Jesus. We are praying for those who will realize, just like Zacchaeus, that they need Jesus. We are praying that salvation will come to each of these homes and into the hearts and minds of the guests who come. Please pray with us for the eight different venues in homes where people will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

This is the most important work we can do as a church. It was Jesus' most important work. For He came...for the sole purpose..."to seek

and save the lost!" On the following Sunday, Nov. 10th, at 9am, we hope to welcome whoever may be coming to this 'house of Jesus' to worship Him. It's a fellowship Sunday as well so be ready to meet and greet a new person with warmth and love. It's vital to us that when people do make a decision for Christ that when they come to church they are 'received'. So, if someone is sitting in a chair in which you usually sit, please don't ask them to move...yikes! Please sit with someone you don't know and get to know them, help them through the worship service and befriend them. We need to help them find Jesus here so that in the saving process of Jesus we are His agents of assistance, not roadblocks. I will be welcoming anyone to church that Sunday with a special prayer.

Salvation will come to many of our Matthews' homes this next week. Let's rejoice that Jesus

will be entering into these people and bringing them eternal life. Their lives will change just like ours have...and are continuing to do...'cause we're not finished yet...but still under the Master Potter's hands. Remember too, if you want to see the TV presentation of Billy Graham's "The Cross" it will be on local Fox channel 5 at 7:30pm on Nov. 9th. All over the land, we are praying for a harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God throughout this week. Make it your prayer too, please.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Joe

Angel Tree

Sunday, November 3rd

Please be ready to choose the name of a child whose parent(s) are in prison so that child can have a happy Christmas. You will receive the name, age and what the child wants for Christmas. All you have to do is go out and buy gift, wrap it and bring it back to the church so the child can receive it at the special Christmas party at Grace on December 15th. If you would like to help with the party or donate money towards the cost of the party, please call the church office.

Save the Dates!

SMILE! We are having our pictures professionally done for the new pictorial directory at Grace. The photographer will be here on December 5, 6, & 7th You will be called to make an appointment or check our website for a link to make your appointment online.

Operation Christmas Child



"The Shoebox Ministry"

Fill a shoebox with small gifts for a boy or a girl and mark the box with the age group of the selected items. There will be more information available on Sunday. If you cannot fill a shoebox, please consider donating money towards the \$7.00 per box that it costs to ship the boxes. Every bit helps.

This Week at Grace

October 29—November 5, 2013

Tues. October 29

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer and Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Wed. October 30

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. October 31

Fr. Richard's day off
7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri. November 1

Fr. Joe's day off
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at CHC
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing
6:30 p.m. Reconciliation Teaching with
Bishop Bill Atwood

Sat. November 2

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Reconciliation Teaching with
Bishop Bill Atwood
1:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

Set your clocks back 1 hour tonight!

Sun. November 3

24th Sunday after Pentecost

7:30 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Children's Church
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Praise Team

Mon. November 4

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Tues. November 5

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer and Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Reminder—The time changes on Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 a.m. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, Nov. 2 before you go to bed.

Bible Readings this Weeks

Isiah 1:10-20
Psalm 149
Revelation 7:2-17
Matthew 5:1-12

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

Upcoming Events

Oct. 31 Br. Benno's 5th Thursday Team , 6:10 am
Nov. 1 Reconciliation w. Bishop Atwood, 6:30 pm.
Nov. 2 Reconciliation w. Bishop Atwood, 9-noon
Nov. 3 Angel Tree Sunday
Nov. 13 Soaking Prayer, 6:30pm
Nov. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation, 7:00pm
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Service at Grace, 10:00am
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace, 11:30am
Nov. 29 Church Office Closed.
Nov. 30 Decorate the church, 10am
Dec. 1 Advent Lessons & Carols, 4:30 pm
Dec. 5,6 & 7-Pictures taken for new directory.
Dec. 15 Angel Tree Party—2:00pm
Dec. 22 Children's Christmas program & Party
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services—5 & 10 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day service—10:00am

Pledge Cards

If you haven't already done it, please turn in your anonymous pledge card on Sunday so we can have some basis on which to plan next year's budget.

Angel Tree Ministry

Next Sunday, November 3rd, the names of children of incarcerated parents will be available for you to buy gifts for the child.

We will have a party for the children as they come to pick up their gifts on December 15th. Your help with the party is needed. See Tina Murphy for more information.