

in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily
to be written

**Addresses
 for
 Morning and Evening Prayer**

**according to the
 1943 Lectionary
 of the
 USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer**

**Intended for use
 by Layreaders
 in the absence of a priest**

**by Ed Pacht
 Rochester NH**

Trinity 5

Trinity 5 (There are three choices of propers for each office this week)

Homilies are provided for Morning Prayer A and for Evening Prayer B. Others are to be written.

Morning Prayer A

First Lesson: Eccles 2:1-11, 18-23

Here beginneth the second chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes.

1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

2 I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7 I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights

unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee

13 And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

14 Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

15 And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Acts 9:1-20

Here beginneth the ninth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said

of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

19 And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.

21 For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil.

22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?

23 For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Matt 19:16-30

*Here beginneth the sixteenth verse
of the nineteenth chapter
of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.*

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

5 And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What aileth the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

6 And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

11 And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

12 And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily
to be written

Evening Prayer C

First Lesson: 1 Sam 11

Here beginneth the eleventh chapter of the First Book of Samuel.

1 Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.

3 And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if there be no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

4 Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily

No one really likes to hear
what we heard in today's lessons.
It all goes so very much against the grain
of all our earthly strivings and self-image.

King Solomon had it made.

*"I sought in mine heart," he said,
"to give myself unto wine,
yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom;
and to lay hold on folly,"*

That sounds like a wonderfully balanced life.
He's talking about "going for the gusto",
and he's talking about wisdom
-- fun and seriousness mixed,
how could you have a fuller life than that?
Furthermore he had purpose in living that way

*"... till I might see what was that good
for the sons of men,
which they should do under the heaven
all the days of their life."*

He was looking for the best way.
Remember that Solomon, as a young king,
had asked God for wisdom,
and had received it,
being accounted the wisest man of his generation,
and yet ...

He built, and he planted,
filling the land from one end to the other with
beauty,
He hired servants, and wealth flowed into his coffers.
He surrounded himself with the best of music.

----- Second Lesson: Luke 5:1-11

*Here beginneth the fifth chapter
of the Gospel according to St. Luke.*

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed
upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the
lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but
the fishermen were gone out of them, and were
washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was
Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a
little from the land. And he sat down, and taught
the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto
Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down
your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we
have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing:
nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a
great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which
were in the other ship, that they should come and
help them. And they came, and filled both the
ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus'
knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful
man, O Lord.

9 For he was astonished, and all that were with
him, at the draught of the fishes which they had
taken:

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it.

20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

21 Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

"So," he said, "I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me."

But, he went on,
"I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. ..."
"... For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity."

Solomon's wisdom showed him that all his successes, even all his wisdom, had nothing of true fulfillment to offer him. What was missing?

We heard a story of a man that came to Jesus. This man also was very successful. He was rich while he was still young. Moreover, he seems to have been wiser than most people of his age, and seems to have been regarded as such by the Lord.

But all this did not satisfy him. He was not a happy man, and he walked out of the story still unhappy. What was missing?

Some of us have been pretty successful, and some, perhaps, less so,

but we've all accomplished something,
we've all gathered something together,
and we all cling to the things we have,
and yet ...

Nothing really satisfies us.

There's always something more we want.

We really aren't finding fulfillment, are we?

What's missing?

Well, Jesus quizzed the young man
about his keeping of the law,
and even this he seemed to have

*"The young man saith unto him,
All these things have I kept from my youth up:
what lack I yet? "*

What indeed? He had it all, didn't he?

*"Jesus said unto him,
If thou wilt be perfect,
go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor,
and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:
and come and follow me."*

Simple enough, it would seem

*"But when the young man heard that saying,
he went away sorrowful:
for he had great possessions."*

There it is.

Nothing on this earth can satisfy,
and the more we hold on to what we have here,
the less room we make for what we really need;
and what is that?

... God. ...

St. Augustine described
how every man has in himself

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most
gracious favour, and further us with thy continual
help,; that in all our works, begun, continued, and
ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and
finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayer B

First Lesson: Judges 6:11-23

*Here beginneth the eleventh verse
of the sixth chapter of the Book of Judges.*

11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat
under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained
unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon
threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from
the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him,
and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou
mighty man of valour.

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the
LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us?
and where be all his miracles which our fathers
told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up
from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us,
and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go
in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from
the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

If even the most beloved person in the world
stands between us and God,
the beloved has to go.
Many have been disowned by families
for following Him.
If to live means to forsake Christ,
well, then, life has to be laid aside.
Countless martyrs have known that.

Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.
To follow Him is to know life,
and to live it more abundantly.
To follow Him is to gain entrance
to the everlasting joys of heaven.
But there is a cost.
Count the cost.
It is more than any of us can pay.
Everything is not enough,
but Our Lord paid the price on the Cross.
When we do our unacceptable best
to fulfill all his commandments,
and still fail,
He claims us for His own.

*"Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to the Cross I cling,"*
as the hymn says.

He paid the price.
It is all His because he bought it.
Now let's consider it all spent,
and follow.

a God-shaped space that only God can fill,
and how we all spend our lives
trying to fill that space with anything but God,
and how that can never satisfy.

Ultimately, whatever it is,
you can't take it with you.
You've never seen a hearse with a U-Haul behind it,
You can't take it with you.
But your relationship with Jesus Christ
will not pass away,
but will endure through all eternity.
Hold lightly to this world
and everything in it.
Whatever it may cost, follow Jesus,
Whatever the cost, it is more than worth it.

"Leave what you have," He says,
"and follow Me."

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most
gracious favour, and further us with thy continual
help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and
ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and
finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning Prayer B

First Lesson: Prov 15:1-10, 26

*Here beginneth the fifteenth chapter
of the Book of Proverbs.*

1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

10 Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

The man building the tower
and the king preparing to invade
need to check their ability and act accordingly.

But Jesus, though using examples like these,
is not talking about contractors or generals.
He's talking about disciples.
He's calling us to follow Him,
and He's making sure we know what the cost is.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;"
we hear from the Book of Proverbs
"and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy paths."

"with all thy heart "
"in all thy ways"

That allows for no exceptions.
It's everything He wants.

Jesus puts it even more strongly.
He talks of bearing a cross,
a drastic idea if you think of it,
He says radical impossible things like

If any man come to me,
and hate not his father, and mother, and wife,
and children, and brethren, and sisters,
yea, and his own life also,
he cannot be my disciple.

Now, this isn't a command,
nor even permission,
to have a hateful attitude,
but rather a call to put Him first.

35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily

The words of Jesus:

"... which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish."

The Boy Scouts have a motto:

"Be Prepared".

Does anyone doubt that this is good advice?

It's only common sense, before getting into something, to know what it requires.

"Count the cost," He said, and we certainly should.

To sign a contract, or to begin a project without knowing what the costs will be, and whether you can pay them, is merely asking for trouble.

It's been said that not preparing is actually preparing to fail.

Second Lesson: James 3

Here beginneth the third chapter of the Epistle of St. James.

1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily
to be written

Second Lesson: Luke 14:25-35

Here beginneth the twenty-fifth verse of the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

Evening Prayer A

First Lesson: Prov 3:1-7, 11-12

*Here beginneth the third chapter
of the Book of Proverbs.*

1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart
keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall
they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them
about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine
heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understand-
ing in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean
not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall
direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD,
and depart from evil.

11 My son, despise not the chastening of the
LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even
as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Morning Prayer C

First Lesson: Gen 17:1-8

*Here beginneth the seventeenth chapter
of the Book of Genesis.*

1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine,
the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him,
I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be
thou perfect.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and
thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with
him, saying,

4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and
thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called
Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a
father of many nations have I made thee.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I
will make nations of thee, and kings shall come
out of thee.

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and
thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for
an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and
to thy seed after thee.

8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after
thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the
land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and
I will be their God.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Heb 11:1-16

*Here beginneth the eleventh chapter
of the Epistle to the Hebrews.*

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with

Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily
to be written
