



ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

11856 MAYS CHAPEL RD., TIMONIUM, MD 21093

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity, October 21st, 2012

O Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that, we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**✠ In The Name of The Father and of The Son
and of The Holy Ghost. Amen. ✠**

This Sunday's theme is cheerful obedience and service to God. The Epistle calls us to spiritual joyfulness: "...be filled with the Spirit...singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Christian joy is a great source of spiritual strength and progress toward our perfection. The Christian life is not a life of gloom but of cheerfulness. The connection between the Epistle lesson and the Collect is clear with the petition of the Collect echoing the teachings of the Epistle. We pray to be kept from all hurtful things which hinder our cheerful accomplishment of those things our loving Lord commands.

The Collect also takes meaning from the Gospel reading – the parable of the Marriage Feast of the King's Son. This parable sets forth the joys of the

heavenly life to which we are invited, and the danger of being too much absorbed in the cares and anxieties of the world. The invited guests refused their King's invitation and went their individual ways. In the Collect we pray that we will not be like the guests in the parable who refused to accept the invitation, but that we will accept the invitation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to come to him and receive his salvation: "that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest.

***To the Only Wise God, Our Saviour,
be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and
Power, Both Now and Forever.
AMEN.***