

*Good News Daily*

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**Sunday, August 23**

John 8:12-20 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (v.12 NIV)

During a recent vacation at the beach, I rose early most mornings to watch the light show on the sky. Every sunrise was wonderful, but one in particular was breathtaking—a special grace, an opportunity to experience Christ’s very presence in creation.

For nearly an hour, scattered patches of light heralded the great star expected at 6:33 a.m. At precisely that time, a ball of blinding light pierced the horizon. Almost imperceptibly, the remaining darkness simply disappeared. It’s one thing to anticipate the sun; it’s quite another to behold its arrival and its impact on the entire landscape. Every inch of space was enveloped by light, the darkness taken over. Overpowered. Gone.

“I am your light,” says Jesus. “Follow me, and watch me scatter your darkness.” As we anticipate Christ’s glorious return, we now see dimly. But we know he already defeated the darkness. Though at times, we barely perceive those scattered patches of light, glimpses of his glory, the Sunrise of Christ shines gloriously now—Light triumphant!—in the spiritual realm.

May we have eyes to behold his glorious light.

2 Samuel 24:1-2, 10-25; Psalms 146, 147; Galatians 3:23—4:7

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for San Diego – (Province IX, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd James Mathes

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Andrew’s Church, Edwardsville, The Rev. Dr. Ralph McMichael, Interim; Ndala Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Samwel Ivata; The Mission of St. Mary The Virgin, Villa Maria del Triunfo, Lima, Peru & supported missions, The Rev. Aurelio Rodriguez, Priest in Charge; Birthday of the Rev. Jeffrey F. Kozuszek, Centralia.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of John Stoffer.

**Monday, August 24**

Psalms 1 *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.* (vv.1-2)

Delight. What a wonderful word. It speaks of deep enjoyment. Contentment. Joy. Is this how we feel about God’s Word? If not, verse 2 holds the missing link between rote reading and joyful delight. We must *meditate*.

Thomas Watson said, “The reason we come away so cold from reading the Word is because we do not warm ourselves at the fires of meditation.” Reading the Bible must not be a box we check off each day. Christian meditation incorporates time for *reflection*, so the Word can penetrate our souls, hearts, and minds. Meditation gives God time to work out His truth in us. It is all about relationship.

Those who delight in God’s law have learned to abide in Him rather than visit from time to time. And the fruit of such abiding is obedience, for who can behold the Lord and sin in His presence? An abiding relationship with Christ protects us from walking in step with the wicked and joining the gossipers, slanderers, and mockers. Christ’s presence protects us from sin.

The one who loves to meditate on God's Word lives aware of His presence. The psalmist is right. This person is blessed.

1 Kings 1:5-31; Psalms 2, 3; Acts 26:1-23; Mark 13:14-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: San Joaquin – (IX, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Chester Talton; The Rt Revd David Rice

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Admission of Diocese of Illinois by General Convention, 1835; Feast of Title, St. Bartholomew's, Granite City; The Rev Jon E. Griffin, ordination to the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Pray for those who will teach and lead our children in education this year.

## **Tuesday, August 25**

Psalm 5 *But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.* (v.11)

The group 7eventh Time Down has a song titled *Just Say Jesus*. "When you don't know what to say," repeats the refrain, "just say Jesus. There is power in the name of Jesus. If the words won't come cause you're too afraid to pray, just say Jesus."

The apostle Paul ties Christ's humility to a reward that belongs only to the Son of God. Jesus "made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death...on a cross!" (Philippians 2:7-8). Because of Christ's humility, "God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

Jesus. His name has power. Power to create and resurrect. Power to heal. Power to save. When you don't know what to say, cry out the powerful, healing, saving name of Jesus. The God of all creation inhabits that name.

1 Kings 1:38—2:4; Psalm 6; Acts 26:24—27:8; Mark 13:28-37

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Santiago – (Philippines) The Rt Revd Alexander A Wandag

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord God, we ask for knowledge, but even more for imagination.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Andrew Ogunmokun.

## **Wednesday, August 26**

Psalm 119:1-24 *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.* (v.9)

This succinct verse leaves no room for substitutes, detours, or alternate routes. Obedience to God's Word paves the way to purity. Period.

So how can we follow the right path if we've not seen, studied, and understood the map? How can we obey commands we do not know? We can't.

I love the relationship that is evident between the psalmist and God. The psalmist acknowledges not only the supremacy of God and His Word but also his own need to rely on God's grace to accomplish all the Word commands. So he seeks God with all his heart and prays for help (v.10). He hides God's Word in his heart to avoid sinning (v.11). He asks God to teach him (v.12) and recites with his lips the truth he hears from God (v.13).

This exchange fills him with joy (v.14). He meditates on God's precepts and ponders His ways (v.15). The process changes him and he reaches the point of delighting in God's decrees,

and asserts, “I will not neglect your word” (v.16).

Are we ready for such a transformation? Looks like it requires our participation.

1 Kings 3:1-15; Acts 27:9-26; Mark 14:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sao Paulo – (Brazil) The Rt Revd Flavio Augusto Borges Irala

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Can. Robert B. Koehler, New Braunfels, TX.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of James Gardner.

### **Thursday, August 27**

Psalm 18:1-20 *I love you, LORD, my strength.* (v.1)

David wrote this psalm after God delivered him from his enemies, including King Saul. In his moment of need, David cried out to the Lord and God answered. David’s prayers were heard, and he lauded God as the one “who is worthy of praise” (v.3). He referred to God as his rock, his fortress and deliverer, his refuge, shield, and stronghold (vv.2-3), acknowledging it was God who rescued him and kept him safe.

The one who is worthy of praise, our Rock, is still stronger than any foe (v.17). Nothing is too strong or too difficult for Him. But David had to *take refuge* in Him. To be protected, David had to get under the shield of protection offered by God. He had to call out to Him and remain in relationship.

God’s attributes haven’t changed, and won’t. Like an open umbrella that will shield anyone who chooses to stand under it, our all-powerful God is ready to receive those who call on Him with faith and come to Him for refuge. Like David, we must participate.

1 Kings 3:16-28; Acts 27:27-44; Mark 14:12-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sapele – (Bendel, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Blessing Erifeta

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Mark Dirksen, husband of the Rev. Beth H. Maynard,

Champaign; Wedding anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Daniel H. and Brenda Martins of Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of Loren Dyson.

### **Friday, August 28**

Mark 14:27-42 *Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”* (v.29)

Like Peter, we overestimate our ability to obey God and underestimate God’s grace toward us. We share Peter’s spiritual DNA, which makes our spirit willing but our flesh weak (v.38). But this did not surprise Jesus. Jesus knew his enemy was not Peter, but the father of lies. Such an awareness of the spiritual war in which we are engaged as humans helps us when people hurt us.

We are to pray for those who wrong us, hurt us, and disappoint us because, *like us*, they are weak and broken people. They are actually not our enemy. Our enemy is the author of sin, the one who destroys relationships and life. But Christ came to give us life (John 10:10), and the life Christ brings comes through the Holy Spirit who helps us obey.

Without the Spirit’s power, we will fall away every time even while proclaiming our resolve to obey. As A.W. Tozer said, “We go astray when we attempt to do spiritual work without spiritual power.”

What I have learned is that everything is spiritual work, so in all things, every second, we need God’s Spirit.

1 Kings 5:1—6:1, 7; Psalms 16, 17; Acts 28:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Saskatchewan – (Rupert’s Land, Canada) The Rt Revd Michael William Hawkins;

Saskatchewan – Indigenous Ministry The Rt Revd Adam Halkett

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Donald H. and Rikke Langlois, Chandler, AZ; Birthday of the Rev. Gerald W. Raschke, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of Charlotte Casperson and Janet Hoffman; Anniversary of Robert & Sandy Kohlhasse.

### **Saturday, August 29**

Psalm 21 *Be exalted in your strength, LORD; we will sing and praise your might.* (v.13)

A Cursillo retreat changed my life. Of the many blessings I experienced, I found that praising God together was particularly joyful. Since those four days of daily singing to God years ago, I’ve never stopped praising God. From the moment I took refuge in Christ, I’ve continued to rejoice in Him.

Our son David just returned from his second mission trip to Costa Rica. Though he enjoyed the children’s ministry, VBS, and soccer outreach, he loved their team meetings. Two in particular stood out because of the transparency and honest sharing among team members seeking and offering forgiveness.

I had a similar experience at a high school retreat. God began a work in me then and built upon it at cursillo fifteen years later. God is always at work. He is not done with my children, you, or me! “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion” (Philippians 1:6).

What a joy to see my children share in the blessing of life in Christ. For this and much more, my God, I will forever praise You.

1 Kings 7:51—8:21; Psalm 20; Acts 28:17-31; Mark 14:43-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Saskatoon – (Rupert’s Land, Canada) The Rt Revd David Irving

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Arnold and Sharon Hoffman, Glen Carbon.

ST. MATTHEW’S: That we might have a day of rest in preparation for serving in the House of the Lord.

*by Amaryllis Sánchez Wohlever, MD*

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