

Good News Daily

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Sunday, December 13

John 5:30-47 *“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.”* (vv.39-40 NLT)

Jesus is confronting me with the truth that I often continue to search for answers in other places instead of turning to him. I believe that the life he is offering me is constant relationship with him by the power of his Holy Spirit. What does life (relationship) that he is offering me look like? It is a relationship that enables me to walk through every circumstance remaining in peace and joy. If I believe his assurance that he is with me at all times, I can continue to (1) turn to him for guidance in everything and then (2) actually receive it and (3) walk in his power to obey what he directs.

“Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up holy hands in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy” (Psalm 63:3-5).

Amos 9:11-15; Psalm 63, 98; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Windward Islands - (West Indies) The Rt Revd Calvert Friday

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Salem, The Rev. Canon David Bauman, Priest in Charge; Muungano Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Samson Yakobo, Vicar; The Mission of Santa Natividad, Yarabamba, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar; John David Richmond, Bartonville, Ordination to the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For our postulants for Holy Orders.

Monday, December 14

Revelation 3:7-13 *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.’”* (v.7b NKJV)

Of course, it is the authority of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that is being spoken of. If I have entered into his kingdom by the cleansing of his precious blood, then no one can snatch me out. He does not shut the door on me (and neither can anyone else) but continues to call me into his plans. No matter how wicked the trials, Jesus will hold me tight because ultimately he will prevail. As I stand in this powerful place with him, I am filled with joy. He doesn't need me but *wants* me. Lord, only you are all powerful!

“I am like an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. I will always trust in God's unfailing love” (Psalm 52:8a).

Zechariah 1:7-17; Psalms 41, 52; Matthew 24:15-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Worcester - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd John Inge; Worcester - Dudley - The Rt Revd Graham Usher

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, may we always walk in your light, be nourished by your food, sustained by your mercy, and warmed by your love.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For our Bishop and the clergy of the Diocese that they may preach the Word in such a way as draws people to Christ.

Tuesday, December 15

Matthew 24:32-44 *“And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven and with power and great glory.”* (v.30 NLT)

As we prepare to celebrate the first appearance of Jesus the Christ into the world, isn't it interesting that many of the readings of this week focus on the promise of his second coming? That promise causes me joyful anticipation. But the phrase "deep mourning" (from yesterday's Matthew passage) caught my attention. Why would we be mourning if our long awaited Savior were returning? Could it be that I would be mourning missed opportunities: to receive his love, to love him in return, to serve him, to introduce him to others? I commit to spend time basking in his love, serving where he directs, and telling his story and mine. He intervenes in my life everyday. I want to tell those stories everyday. Lord, I desire to make your name famous.

Lord Jesus, your love is passionate and strong. Please join me in praying that he will stir in us the passion and strength to respond to his love and share it with others.

Zechariah 2:1-13; Psalm 45; Revelation 3:14-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Wusasa - (Kaduna, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Ali Buba Lamido

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, help us to live each day with a sense of our true value: our value in your eyes, our Maker and our Redeemer.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Diana Holderby.

Wednesday, December 16

Revelation 4:1-8 *Then I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this."* (v.1)

John follows these words with, "And instantly I was in the Spirit." Jesus then shows him a heavenly perspective. There is a continuous need in my being to not look at life from this earthly point of view but through God's eyes. Then this life that sometimes presents overwhelming troubles begins to have purpose. Even the troubles themselves become occasions of thanksgiving because God is there. Often I am able to experience significant growth coming from those troubling experiences and God is glorified because of it.

Lord, Jesus, I want to count it all joy because you are faithful to show me your heavenly perspective.

Zechariah 3:1-10; Psalm 119:49-72; Matthew 24:45-51

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Wyoming - (VI, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd John Smylie

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, purify our conscience by your daily visitation.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those who teach and those who learn.

Thursday, December 17

Zechariah 4:1-14 *Then he said to me, "This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force or by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies."* (v.6)

When I try to figure life out instead of relying on the wisdom and direction of Holy Spirit, I am like a derailed train. Many Kingdom truths don't even make sense in my earthly understanding—like trusting in something you don't have any evidence of. The illusion of control separates me from knowing God, who is really the one in control.

Your Spirit, Lord, is the only power that can change me. Many hours, days, weeks have been wasted in trying to change myself. I confess my weakness to seek ways to control instead of relying on your Holy Spirit. Thank You, Father, for patiently revealing that to me.

"Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. And call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor and glorify Me" (Psalm 50:14-15 AMP).

Psalm 50; Revelation 4:9—5:5; Matthew 25:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Yambio - (Sudan) The Rt Revd Peter Munde Yacoub

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Maurice C. Lee, Atlanta, GA; and Thomas Larison Phillips, Champaign; Ordination to the Priesthood. Gerald W. Raschke, Springfield, Ordination to the Diaconate. Birthday of Sandy, wife of The Rev. John R. Henry, Carlinville.
ST. MATTHEW'S: For our county and our ministry to its people.

Friday, December 18

Psalm 40 *Then I said, "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart."* (vv.7-8)

Today I am considering what instructions are written on my heart. Some of them are as follows: Believe what I say. Be kind to one another. Love those who persecute you. Take care of widows and orphans. Meditate on my Word. Weep with those who weep. Follow me. Ask for wisdom. Be quick to listen and slow to speak. Love one another. It seems there is much on which to focus my spiritual and physical energy.

Jesus, by your power I will do your will joyfully.

Zechariah 7:8—8:8; Psalm 54; Revelation 5:6-14; Matthew 25:14-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon; Assistant Bishop of Yangon - The Rt Revd Samuel Htang Oak

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.
ST. MATTHEW'S: That we might walk in the way of the Cross.

Saturday, December 19

Matthew 25:31-46 *"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"* (v.40)

Many of the true "givers" that I know don't have a lot to give but they give from their hearts—pouring out all of their resources. Then the weak can be strong, the poor can be rich, and those with huge grief in their lives can be comforters. Those that have made big mistakes can be wise, pouring out for the King as the Holy Spirit leads. It is amazing how Jesus not only heals our brokenness but also uses it for his glory. I love that.

"Listen to my prayer, O God. Do not ignore my cry for help! Please listen and answer me, for I am overwhelmed by my troubles. Give your burdens to the LORD and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall" (Psalm 55:1-2, 22).

Zechariah 8:9-17; Psalm 55; Revelation 6:1-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Yei - (Sudan) The Rt Revd Hilary Luete Adeba

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Father, help us to discover the realms of your love and to show this love daily in our labor for thee.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of John Larson, Eric Owens, and Jack White.

by Charlene Laird

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