

Good News Daily

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Sunday, February 4

Psalm 96 *Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.* (v.2 NAS)

What a great verse for a Sunday morning! As we enter our places of worship this verse should be on our minds and hearts. God loves the praise of His people and we have so much for which to be grateful.

Remember how He answered your prayer on Tuesday, how He protected you in that highway incident on Wednesday, how He solved that financial issue for you on Thursday? His mercies are new every morning! That is truly good news. As my young friend says: God is large and in charge.

Thank You, Heavenly Father, for all Your help, blessings, and kindness.

Genesis 24:50-67; Psalm 93; 2 Timothy 2:14-21; Mark 10:13-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Anglican Church of Burundi; The Most Revd Martin Nyaboho Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Christ Church, Springfield, The Rev Dr Gregory Tournoux, Rector; Mbugani Parish: Rev. Leonard Birusha, Tabora, Tanzania; The Parish of Jesus the Saviour, Villa El Salvador, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Carlos Quispe, Priest in Charge.

Monday, February 5

Hebrews 13:1-6 *"I will never desert, nor will I ever forsake you."* (v.5b)

Jesus has promised to be with us always. As the writer of the letter to the Hebrews says, "The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid" (v.6). We can go forward in confidence and faith.

The enemy (Satan) is the author of fear; God is the author of trust and hope. As proclaimed in the 23rd Psalm, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." That is truly good news!

Thank you, Jesus, that you are the friend we can always depend upon.

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 80; John 7:37-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Arochukwu/Ohafia - (Aba, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Johnson Onuoha

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, Sean D. Ferrell, Champaign.

Tuesday February 6

Hebrews 13:17-25 *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.* (vv. 20-21)

God gives us His grace so we can take Christ-like actions. Loving is not just giving a large gift to a “Go Fund Me” account or writing a big check to your favorite charity. It is also the little acts of kindness: holding the door for a mother pushing a stroller, bringing in the trash cans from the curb for a handicapped person, tossing the newspaper by the front door for a senior citizen, helping load groceries into the car for an elderly gentleman and, for those of you living in a northern climate, cleaning the snow off the sidewalk and driveway of someone who cannot do so themselves.

Open my eyes to see the ways I can serve You and other people, dear Lord.

Genesis 26:1-6, 12-33; Psalm 78:1-39; John 7:53—8:11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Aru - (Congo) The Rt Revd Georges Titre Ande

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Anniversary of the Consecration of The Rt Rev Donald M Hultstrand, IX Bishop of Springfield. Birthday of Brenda, wife of the Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, Bishop of Springfield; Wedding anniversary of The Very Rev. Sean D. and Kiezha Ferrell, Champaign.

Wednesday, February 7

Psalm 119:97-120 *Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* (v.105)

Truly God’s word is like a giant flashlight showing us the way through life’s hard decisions—leading us to honesty and integrity, kindness and helpfulness. Many young people wear the WWJD bracelet to remind them to consider what Jesus would do in a tough situation. It’s a good question for all of us to consider.

Too often I jump into a mess with both feet rather than stopping first to pray and search God’s word for direction and guidance. And then perhaps also seeking the counsel of a trusted Christian friend.

Forgive me, Lord, for not seeking Your wisdom before acting. Guide me to do the right thing.

Genesis 27:1-29 ; Romans 12:1-8; John 8:12-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Asaba - (Bendel, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Justus Moge kwu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, bless the work that we do.

Thursday, February 8

Psalm 146 *Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!* (v.1)

The Psalms are full of reminders to praise the Lord: “How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God., who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them” (vv.5-6a).

It is important to cultivate the attitude of gratitude. God loves to hear the praises of His people. Each day we need to remember our blessings and give Him thanks. It is so easy to fall into grumbling and complaining, so as an act of our will we need to praise the Lord each morning and all through the day.

Thank You, Lord, that because of You we can sing, pray, and love!

Genesis 27:30-45; Psalms 83, 147; Romans 12:9-21; John 8:21-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Asante-Mampong - (Ghana, West Africa) The Rt Revd Cyril Ben-Smith

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev Brian T. Kellington, The Villages, FL; Wedding Anniversary of The Venerable Shawn W. and Mary Ann Denney, Springfield.

Friday, February 9

Genesis 27:46—28:4, 10-22 *As he (Jacob) slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway. At the top of the stairway stood the LORD.* (vv.12-13a NLT)

Jacob had cheated his twin brother Esau out of the birthright and in anger Esau vows to kill Jacob. So, Rebekah urges Isaac to send Jacob away to her brother’s home to find a wife.

Despite being a cheater, God forgives Jacob and promises to bless him and bring him back to the land promised to Abraham and Isaac. After having the dream in our reading for today, Jacob awakes and says, “Surely the Lord is in this place.” He names the place Bethel and promises to give a tenth of all he possesses to God.

We, too, can look back on our lives and see where God has brought us through hardships, health problems, financial issues, and family disputes and given us a second chance. We, too, can say, “Surely the Lord is in this place” and give thanks for His help in times of trouble.

Thank you, Jesus, for rescuing me from my sins and mistakes. Guide me in your ways.

Psalm 88; Romans 13:1-14; John 8:33-47

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Athabasca - (Rupert's Land, Canada) The Rt Revd Fraser Lawton

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Save us and help us, we beseech thee O Lord.
ST. MATTHEWS: Wedding anniversary of Kathie & Loren Dyson

Saturday, February 10

Psalm 90 *Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children.* (v.16 NAS)

As I am writing these devotions, we are preparing for a massive solar eclipse where the moon will block the sun for a portion of the day. This event helps me again rejoice in the wonderful creation our God has made for us and how the seasons, tides, day and night, and timing of the earth are so precise. I think of Psalm 8: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty!” (vv.3-5).

Thanks, Creator God, for Your marvelous creation.

Genesis 29:1-20 ; Psalm 87; Romans 14:1-23; John 8:47-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Atlanta - (Province IV, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Robert C Wright

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Cynthia A. Sever, Alton

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthdays of Donna Dyson and June Gault

by Jacqueline Littleford

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For the St. Matthew's Community, please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P., Linda S., Phyllis P., Bill J., Ron G., Bill, Bobbi, Matt, Tori B., Dave M., Bill Mc., Linda T., Dottie T., Roger H. , Jack P., Zac & Alyssa & Carson C.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Kenneth, Carter

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Alicia P., Barb W., Daniel T., Ina R., and Margaret P.

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar