

Good News Daily
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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Sunday, July 5

Romans 5:1-11 *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.* (vv.1-2 NRSV)

I like the idea of having a little patch of God's grace, right here with me. It glows brightly while I'm at church. I must tend to it as I leave, so that it doesn't dim with neglect. Today is Sunday, the Lord's day; cherish your little patch of grace as you go out into the world. I am reminded to "Praise the Lord, O my soul!" (Psalm 146:1).

1 Samuel 14:36-45; Psalms 146, 147; Matthew 22:1-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Oyo - (Ibadan, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Williams Oluwarotimi Aladekugbe

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John Episcopal Church, Albion, The Rev. Bill Howard, Priest-in-Charge; Mbeta Parish, Burundian Refugee Settlement, Tanzania, Rev. Can. Benjamin Chishahayo, Rural Dean; Mission of the Medano Cross, Chiclayo, Peru, Rev'd Wilmar Plasencia, Priest in Charge; Birthday of the Rev. J. Victor Sheldon, Washington, D.C.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Pray for the Clergy and those in Formation.

Monday, July 6

Acts 9:19b-31 *Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.* (v.31)

Today is the feast day of John Hus (1372-1415) of Prague, who was martyred at the stake for proclaiming the Gospel and calling for reformation during the time of the Great Western Schism. In *Holy Men, Holy Women* it is noted that the motto of the Czech Republic—"Truth will Conquer!"—is attributed to Hus. It seems that he was indeed living in the fear of the Lord and, by refusing to recant at the threat of the stake, must have found his comfort in the Holy Spirit. How grand it is that his example continues to inspire his homeland to this day.

1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-23; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Luke 23:44-56a

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pacong - (Sudan) The Rt Revd Joseph Maker Atot

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Gary W. and Carolyn Goldacker, Belleville.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Kenneth Mann.

Tuesday, July 7

Acts 9:32-43 *He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.* (v.41)

Peter heals Tabitha, a disciple. I mean to say that he really heals her! Her dead body had been washed and laid in a room upstairs. What a miracle! Reading this passage reminds us that healing of many of our ills is available. Healing ministries, like the one at the Glennon House, help those with depression, anxiety, addiction, and many other ailments plaguing body, mind, and spirit. This wonderful resource has provided hope, peace, and healing to many. Thanks be to God!

1 Samuel 15:24-35; Psalms 5,6; Luke 23:56b—24:11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Panama - (Central America) The Rt Revd Julio Murray

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Heavenly Father, may we rediscover those deep things on which our life depends.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Abigail Bray, Kevine Forde, and Zachary Jones.

Wednesday, July 8

Luke 24:12-35 *Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.* (v.35)

It is an honor to be a Chalice Minister. I was recruited years ago at a tiny mission church in Virginia Beach. The warden decided that I would be called, as they say, and I agreed, and was trained. I found bearing the chalice to be a joyful experience. I looked forward to continuing to serve when the U.S. Navy moved our family to California.

This church was much larger and had many servers. An engineer had planned the schedule many months in advance. After having the Rector's permission to serve, I found that I had to wait six months before my name was finally on the schedule. At last I received my reward! I could again serve Christ at the Holy Eucharist and the parishioners wishing to know him.

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 10:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pankshin - (Jos, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Olumuyiwa Ajayi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Donald E. and Delores Coventry, Decatur.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Pray for those who lead Morning Prayer.

Thursday, July 9

Luke 24:36-53 *While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."* (v.36)

Jesus spoke these words to startled followers who thought him dead. We speak the same words in weekly worship, in response to the celebrant, and turn to greet our pew neighbors wishing them the same. It is wonderful to share "the Peace" when I have loved ones with me or sit with close friends and we embrace. I also know that the times when I attend services alone, kindness will be extended to me by someone I don't know, in the name of Christ, and we can share the peace of the Lord.

1 Samuel 16:14—17:11; Psalm 18:1-20; Acts 10:17-33

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Paraguay - (South America) The Rt Revd Peter John Henry Bartlett; The Rt Revd Andrés Rodríguez Erben

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Pray for those involved in Outreach Ministries.

Friday, July 10

Acts 10:34-48 *Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."* (v.34-35)

Peter's words to Cornelius and his family and friends were revolutionary at the time, and perhaps they sound revolutionary to some today. Think of it: a God who cares for those of any and every nation. There are no barriers between His love and us, except for those we alone erect. Let us be open to accept God's love.

1 Samuel 17:17-30; Psalms 16, 17; Mark 1:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pelotas - (Brazil) The Rt Revd Renato Da Cruz Raatz

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Peter H. and Melinda Beckwith of Hillsdale, MI; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Daniel and Joyce Karanja, Misawa Air Base, Japan; Birthday of the Rev. Steven T. Thorp, Rantoul; Birthday of Janet, wife of the Rev. Maurice C. Lee, Atlanta, GA.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Pray for your Vestry and Wardens.

Saturday, July 11

Mark 1:14-28 *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."* (v.17)

Before I knew these words of the Gospel, I heard them from my adventurous childhood friend. When I was at her house for the afternoon and we were sent outside to play by her mother, she would say, "Follow me" and I knew something exciting was going to happen. We would set out in the neighborhood to find the best tree to climb, or the best hammock to swing in, or the best trampoline to jump on, and enjoy ourselves. I know better now. I want to follow Christ. I find that exciting in the best way.

1 Samuel 17:31-49; Psalms 20, 21; Acts 11:1-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Perth - (Western Australia, Australia) The Most Revd Roger Herft; Perth - Goldfields-Country Region The Rt Revd Tom Wilmot; Perth - Southern Region - Vacant

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. John D. Richmond, Bartonville.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Pray for Fr. Kari Marcelle and the Parish of the Holy Trinity, St. Vincent.

by Anne Robinson

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