

Good News Daily

Volume XVI

March 13-19, 2016

Number 11

Sunday, March 13

Psalm 118 *This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.* (v.24 NIV)

Morning dawns, light peeps through the windows, the alarm goes off. Another day. How often do we go through this scenario completely unaware of the gift we've been given? Each day is a gift, a present, no longer, no shorter than any other person's gift. How will you use it? Will you take a moment to "rejoice and be glad in it" for no one knows what tomorrow brings? This year the poignancy and truth of this gift has become much clearer. A cancer diagnosis, a friend's life-changing fall, a young father's untimely death...life can change in the blink of an eye. Let us slow down, take notice, rejoice, give thanks to God, and truly live these twenty-four hours to the best of our ability and with a grateful heart.

Exodus 3:16—4:12; Romans 12:1-21; John 8:46-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Most Rev Dr Paul Kwong
Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Christ the King, Normal, The Rev Eugene A. Stormer, Supply Priest; Kalemela Parish: Vacant, Urambo, Tanzania; The Mission of St. Andrew and Urban Mission Cipriani, District of Puente Piedra, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Benjamin Salas, Priest in Charge
St. Matthews: Pray for the Church

Monday, March 14

Psalm 31 *But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."* (v.14)

Trusting in God—yes, I trust in You, O Lord, You are my God. Those are words I say and believe. God is the center of my life and I know He wants the best for me and for you. He is always present. When I allow Him to direct my ways, things flow smoothly with a peace that calms my soul. That being said, it's so easy to slip or slide off course, to worry, question and doubt. Thank You, Lord, for Your unending patience with me, for the peace that I've experienced. During those moments when my gaze wanders, please redirect and refocus my eyes on You alone. Thank You, Lord. Amen.

Exodus 4:10-31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-19; Mark 9:30-41

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Bida – (Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt Rev Jonah Kolo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, Mark S. Winward, Valrico, FL; Birthday of Linda Holt-Monson, widow of The Rev Edward Holt, Hot Springs Village, AR.

St. Matthews: Pray for the sick.

Tuesday, March 15

Psalm 120 *I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me.* (v.1)

Just as I wrote about trusting God in yesterday's writing, I've experienced the gift of knowing and believing that God hears me, knows me, cares about and loves me totally and completely, with all my personal faults and failures. What a precious gift I've been given. Even with such confidence and assurance, I've cried, poured out my broken heart, expressed fears when cancer was diagnosed, asked how I will provide for myself financially should I live into my 90s as my parents have, etc. He hears me and I know He will provide just as He always has.

My prayer is that I will put all my cares and concerns in His big, capable hands knowing He wants more for me than I can hope or imagine. Why do I waste the beauty of a moment worrying when I have all the assurance I need? My Heavenly Father knows the concerns of my heart and hears me. Thank You, Lord God.

Exodus 5:1—6:1; Psalms 121, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 14:20-40; Mark 9:42-50

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Birmingham – (Canterbury, England) The Rt Rev David Andrew Urquhart; Birmingham – Aston – The Rt Rev Anne Elizabeth Hollinghurst; Blackburn – (York, England) The Rt Rev Julian Tudor Henderson; Blackburn – Burnley – The Rt Rev Philip North; Blackburn – Lancaster – The Rt Rev Geoffrey Seagrave Pearson

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord God, your will is holy, loving and wise.
St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of June Mcanulty.

Wednesday, March 16

Mark 10:1-16 *He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”* (v.14)

Recently, before the 9:00 a.m. service as a pianist and violinist were filling the sanctuary with beautiful music, the very young granddaughter of a parishioner started dancing in her pew, then moved into the aisle, and was en route to the altar when her grandfather gently guided her back to her seat. Arms above her head, twirling around ever so lightly on her feet, she was responding with pure joy to the beautiful melody. Truly she was one with the music!

I had just chosen this verse the night before and was reminded of God’s wonderful timing! To see a little child responding to the gift of music in such a holy place touched my soul. She was truly one with the Spirit. Let it be with us. May we open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to see all that is right before us. May we too experience life with the pure joy of that little child.

Exodus 7:8-24; Psalm 119:145-176; 2 Corinthians 2:14—3:6

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Bo (Sierra Leone) – (West Africa, West Africa) The Rt Rev Emmanuel Tucker

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, David M. Baumann, Salem; and Ian Colden Wetmore, O’Fallon

St. Matthews: Pray for the less fortunate.

Thursday, March 17

Psalm 133 *How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.* (v.1)

Living in unity—the psalmist is so right. It is so good and pleasant. It can also be very difficult to achieve. As human beings, we will never agree with everyone. Differing opinions occur within families, in the workplace, with our neighbors, and even within the church. It is so important to see each other with the Lord’s eyes—each one loved and created uniquely, with worth and value that is unearned and undeserved.

Thank You, Lord, for loving us completely and unconditionally, for always wanting the best for us and never giving up on us when we fall short. May we strive to see every person as You see each one of us. Amen.

Exodus 7:25—8:19; Psalms 131, 132; Corinthians 3:7-18; Mark 10:17-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Boga – (Congo) The Rt Rev Mugenyi William Bahemuka

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Margaret, wife of The Rev James W Evans, Buffalo, NY.

St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of James Gordon.

Friday, March 18

Mark 10:32-45 *“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* (vv.43b-45)

One of those important “life lessons” learned in my childhood was the phrase, “It’s more blessed to give than to receive.” I now have decades of my own experience that confirm and strengthen this truth. Serving others comes naturally for me as a mother, a grandmother, a nurse, a sister, a daughter, and a friend. By my nature I’m a “giver,” so it was humbling to be on the receiving end earlier this year when my role as “provider” changed to “patient.” Some of the lyrics in the “Servant Song” capture the balance we need:

*Brother will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.*

To all those who served me through their prayers, their presence, and in so many other ways during my illness, I give thanks and praise. Thank you, Lord Christ, for your example.

Exodus 9:13-35; Psalm 22; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Bolivia – (South America) The Rt Rev Raphael Samuel

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Consecration of church building, 1913; St. Paul's, Pekin, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1876.

St. Matthews celebrates the wedding anniversary of Paul and Janenne Schmidt.

Saturday, March 19

2 Corinthians 4:13-18 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* (vv.16, 18)

“Aging is a privilege, a gift denied many.” That true and succinct message was given to me during an annual medical visit in response to my physician asking how I was and my light-hearted reply that I was getting old, having just become a grandmother and also turning 60. He did not miss a beat in reminding me that aging is a privilege. We are all aware of lives cut short by tragedy, accident, or illness and the emotional pain that accompanies such loss.

As Paul reminds us, our outward physical bodies are wasting away no matter how much our culture tries to slow down, stop, or deny the signs of aging. Yet our spirits are being renewed day by day. There is so much wisdom and experience gained on this journey of life. Don't you know or recall the guidance and direction you received from a treasured grandparent or elderly friend and mentor? They just have a way of seeing the bigger picture, of offering reassurance and wise counsel. Yes, our bodies are simply our temporary “homes” for this earthly life. They won't be needed in Heaven! Thanks be to God!

Exodus 10:21—11:8; Psalms 137, 144; Mark 10:46-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Bondo – (Kenya) The Rt Rev Johannes Angela

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mark's, West Frankfort, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1939; Anniversary of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Daniel Hayden Martins as the 11th Bishop of Springfield.

St. Matthews: Pray for those in need.

by Suzanne McKee

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org