

Good News Daily

**Volume
XX**

July 5-11, 2020

Number 27

Sunday, July 5

Numbers 27:12-23 *Then Moses said to the LORD, "O LORD, you are the God who gives breath to all creatures. Please appoint a new man as leader for the community. Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go..."* (vv.15-17 NLT)

Many of us have received the "call" to leadership. Sometimes we have sought leadership because we are aware of issues that need to be resolved and we have new and fresh ideas. I accepted leadership roles in several of my interest groups over the years without seeking them. I admit that I had a good deal of trepidation each time I said yes to the call. Yet, those positions turned out to be most fulfilling, as God revealed personal skills and talents that I never before identified or utilized. I prayed for and received creative resolutions to matters that presented themselves. He allowed me to grow in the assurance that I was helping others.

In today's readings we have examples of calls to leadership. In Deuteronomy, Joshua is chosen by God to lead the people of Israel. In Mark's passage, Jesus selects Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to lead people in the new covenant. And every day Jesus calls us to be leaders in our faith: to love God, to lead by example in our devotions and prayers, and to care for others.

Psalms 146, 147; Acts 19:11-20; Mark 1:14-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the United Church of Pakistan, The Most Revd Humphrey Peters - Bishop of Peshawar & Moderator of the Church of Pakistan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Carlinville, The Rev John R. Henry, Rector; Keza Mission, Burundian Refugee Settlement, Tanzania, Rev. Nestory Nintunze; Mission of the Ascension, and Mission of The Transfiguration, Lima, Peru, Rev'd Alberto Valdivia, Rev'd Allen Hill, Priests, Rev'd Rachel Hill, Deacon. , Joel J. Morsch,

ordination to the Priesthood, Maryville, TN; Birthday of the Rev. J. Victor Sheldon, Washington, D.C.

Monday, July 6

Romans 8:26-30 *And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. (v.27)*

Early last year I received an invitation to attend an organizational meeting of the healing ministry in our church. I wondered why I was among those who received the letter, but I know that we are led by the Holy Spirit to be in the right place at the right time. I prayed about my decision and I attended that gathering. Over the next few months our group studied Jesus' 26 healing miracles. We viewed video lessons that discussed in depth a more insightful understanding of Jesus' actions and words He spoke that both cured and healed those who believed in him. We discussed forgiveness to open our hearts to healing. We benefited from diverse viewpoints and insights from group members. We shared fellowship and intercessory prayer. As I continue my study, I find that I now take time each day to slow down and listen to what the Holy Spirit is calling me to do. I pray for the right words to bring healing into the life of someone who asks for prayers.

Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Matthew 23:1-12
ANGLICAN CYCLE: North Queensland (Australia) The Rt Dr Keith Ronald Joseph, Awgu / Aninri (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmaunuel Ugwu, Kaduna (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Timothy Yahaya
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Matthew C. Dallman, Pekin, IL

Tuesday, July 7

Matthew 23:13-26 *“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.” (vv.25-26)*

Television talk shows, social media outlets, and celebrity tabloid magazines feature some interesting people. They are attractive, dressed in the latest garb, and groomed to sparkle in front of the camera. However, at times their condemnations and mean-spirited comments of other persons belie any trace of what we would consider “beauty.” All that glitters is not gold. Matthew’s analogy of the cup and dish that are clean on the outside but dirty on the inside is so apt. The poisons of fear, non-forgiveness, sorrow, and self-pity can be cleansed. We need to purify ourselves on the inside with prayer and fasting so that our outer appearance shines in joy and in giving glory to God.

Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34; Psalms 5, 6; Romans 8:31-39

ANGLICAN CYCLE: North West Australia (Australia) The Rt Revd Gary Nelson, Awka (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Alexander Ibezim, Kafanchan (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Marcus Dogo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O God, free us from all false pride, for we have nothing in ourselves of which to boast.

ST MATTHEWS: Abigail Bray’s birthday.

Wednesday, July 8

Psalm 119:1-24 *Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD.* (v.1)

This is a life lesson in honesty and integrity. There is a situation that I remember from my career as a high school Foreign Language teacher. I received an essay from a student that clearly was not his own work because the vocabulary and grammar that he used were way beyond the scope of this introductory class. His parent insisted that he did not receive help from his tutor on this essay. At the end of the school year the parent and student visited me and shared that the tutor did in fact write the essay and they came to apologize to me. I am sure this was hard for both the parent and the student. Being honest is painful at times. We are taught to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. In receiving forgiveness, we are set free.

Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Romans 9:1-18; Matthew 23:27-39

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern Argentina (South America) The Rt Revd Nicholas James Quested Drayson, Awori (Nigeria) The Rt Revd J Akin Atere

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

Thursday, July 9

Romans 9:19-33 *Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God's standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place. But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him.* (vv.30b-32b)

In our study of Jesus' healing miracles, we read how he taught in the synagogues on the Sabbath and healed many, driving out evil spirits and restoring good health. He did not obey Jewish law on the Sabbath. This caused great distress and concern for the Pharisees. But the word spread about Jesus and many did whatever was necessary in order to get close to Jesus to receive his healing, even ignoring societal rules. They acted and were driven by their faith, not the law. They pushed past the rules to be healed. Jesus only requires that we trust and believe in him. We must have faith that he will bring wholeness to our lives.

Deuteronomy 3:18-28; Psalm 18:1-20; Matthew 24:1-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern California (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Barry Beisner, Badagry (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Joseph Adeyemi, Ballarat (Australia) The Rt Revd Garry Weatherill

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Michael J. Newago, Havana IL.

Friday, July 10

Deuteronomy 31:7-13, 24—32:4 *So Moses wrote this entire body of instruction in a book and gave it to the priests, who carried the Ark of the LORD's Covenant, and to the elders of Israel.* (v.9)

A most precious gift I received for Christmas when I was six years old was a book. Inside there was a section of colorful maps of the Holy

Land. The front and back covers depicted a mural of Christ seated on a small boulder on a grassy hillside surrounded by the little children. The gift was my first Bible. More importantly was the inscription inside written in my mother's graceful script: "May this Book always be your Guide."

We read in Deuteronomy that the Lord instructed Moses to deliver the Book of Instruction to the Israelites. It was their covenant with God, and it was to be read to the people in its entirety every seven years. This covenant was their guide to life for all generations. It was easy to understand. Obey God and have life or defy his commandments and be cursed. God's greatest gift, Jesus, gave us the new covenant, our guidebook for new life.

Psalms 16, 17; Romans 10:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern Indiana (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Douglas Sparks, Bangor (Wales) The Rt Revd Andrew John

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Steven T. Thorp, Champaign, IL; Birthday of Janet, wife of The Rev. Maurice C. Lee, Stone Mountain, GA.

Saturday, July 11

Romans 10:14-21 *But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"* (v.14-15)

As Jesus traveled and taught, he healed many. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus specifically admonished the healed person to go his way but not tell anyone of the miracle. He cleansed the leper and ordered him not to tell anyone but, instead, go to the priest and offer sacrifices for cleansing. He healed two blind men and warned them sternly not to tell anyone. The deaf man with the speech impediment in the Decapolis was also told not to talk. But in their joy and renewed health they spread the good news. Don't we do the same, sharing good news with all those we meet? All of them were messengers who spread the good news of Jesus'

healing power. And that is our command as well, to share and spread the message of Jesus' power to heal.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalms 20, 21; Matthew 24:32-51

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern Luzon (Philippines) The Rt Revd Hilary Ayban Pasikan, Banks & Torres (Melanesia) The Rt Revd Alfred Patterson Worek, Kagera (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Darlington Bendankeha

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. John D. Richmond, Bloomington, IL; Birthday of Byron, husband of The Rev. Cynthia A. Sever, Alton.

by Dorothy Magill

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Pray for those sick and those in distress: Margaret L., Allan H., James G., Mark S., Karen P., Noah D.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: June G.

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., 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.