

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, March 4**

Romans 8:1-10 *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of the of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. (vv.5-6 NIV)*

As a follower of Jesus Christ, I have graciously been given a choice. Do I follow the directive of the Holy Spirit or do I fall victim to the temptations of the world? For me, the answer is much more complex than meets the eye. I read my Bible, attend a Bible study, praise God for His blessings, but day by day and minute by minute I must choose whom I will follow.

A few weeks ago, I found myself becoming anxious regarding some major milestones about to occur within my family. I was trying to control the outcome before the events occurred. Believe me, I was distressed. I realize that if I do not ask God to guide my path on a moment to moment basis each day, I will not live the peaceful, balanced life that He calls me to live. E. Stanley Jones said, "If you don't surrender to Christ, you surrender to chaos." I am saddened when I think of the people who do not even recognize they have a choice. Through this experience, I now understand the importance of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 44:1-17; Psalms 93, 96; John 5:25-29

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo; The Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kindu

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Emanuel Memorial, Champaign, The Rev. Beth H. Maynard, Rector; Urambo Parish: The Rev. Shadrack Sabaya, The Rev. Alex Iseke, Curate, Urambo, Tanzania; The Mission of Jesus Source of Life, District of Comas, Lima, Peru, Ms. Edith Varillas. Lay Minister;

### **Monday, March 5**

Psalms 80 *Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. (v.19)*

As it says in Psalm 33 (vv.13-15), "From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all who considers everything they do." God's face is certainly smiling when a child of His realizes his salvation. Several months ago, I attended a retreat and witnessed a man who went from a "man of men" to a "man

of Christ.” I now have the pleasure of watching this new Christian brother share the “Good News” with great zeal. He brings friends to church, professes his love for Jesus Christ, and is soon to begin leading a ministry designed to bring non-believers to Christ.

In chapter 1 of Paul’s personal testimony to the people of Philippi, he says, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (v.21). I have been asked, “Is there a gamble when you choose Christ?” I always answer truthfully, “There is no risk involved, only reward.”

Genesis 44:18-34; 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Mark 5:21-43

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Bethlehem - (Province III, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Sean Rowe

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Thomas, Salem, Anniversary of the Consecration of Church building, 1926.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Heather Mather’s birthday.

## **Tuesday, March 6**

Genesis 45:1-15 *Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said to them, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant of earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”* (vv.4-7)

I have a deep admiration for Joseph. It must have been extremely disheartening to have your own brothers turn against you. Did Joseph wallow in self-pity and bitterness? He chose a different path. He made the best of a situation, trusted in God, waited patiently for deliverance, and did it all with a heart of forgiveness. He was a man of faith who exemplified the body of Christ.

In the book of Jeremiah, chapter 29, it says, “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce” (v.5). During my life there have been times that I have been asked to go to places I normally would not choose to go to. It is at these times I pray, “Lord, please allow me to remember that Your hand is with me wherever I go. I wish to focus on You and make the best of every situation.”

Psalm 78:1-39; 1 Corinthians 7:31-40; Mark 6:1-13

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Bhopal - (North India) The Rt Revd Robert Ali

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev Mary Christine "Mollie" Ward, Bloomington.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Jane Shadid’s birthday, and Dede & Doug Dyson’s anniversary.

## **Wednesday, March 7**

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

When I read this Scripture, I envision a figure walking in a dark place with beaming sunlight shining on a path leading the way.

Prior to reading my Bible, I pray this prayer: “Lord, I realize there are areas in my life that I need to change; please convict me through Your word. I desire to better myself in order to glorify You and become a testament of Your Son Jesus Christ.” He will invariably lead me to a verse in the Bible that will make me a better servant for Him. It has been my experience that I will hear this Scripture throughout the next few days or weeks, and this is my affirmation that the Lord is at work in my life. Sometimes, this might be hard to swallow, but I know I must repent and then praise God for His provision. It says in Proverbs 15, “He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding” (v.5).

Genesis 45:16-28; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 6:13-29

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Bida - ( Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jonah Kolo

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Sue, widow of The Rev Thomas A. Davis, Salem.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* George Dyson, Roger Hunt and Matt Matsuda’s birthdays.

## **Thursday, March 8**

Psalm 42 *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*  
(vv.1-2)

There are many types of worship from which to choose. Fortunately, as followers of Jesus Christ we are free to pray anytime and anywhere. We are not bound to rituals or a certain form of prayer language. As much as we yearn for Him, He yearns for us. Our Father’s desire is for us to have a personal relationship with Him. We are able to talk to Him like we talk to our closest friends without reservations.

One of my favorite lyrics comes from the song “In the Garden”: I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses; and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own; and the joy that we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

Genesis 46:1-7, 28-34; Psalm 43; 1 Corinthians 9:1-15; Mark 6:30-46

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Birmingham - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd David Andrew Urquhart;

Birmingham - Aston - The Rt Revd Anne Elizabeth Hollinghurst; Blackburn - (York, England) The Rt Revd Julian Tudor Henderson; Blackburn - Burnley - The Rt Revd Philip North; Blackburn - Lancaster - The Rt Revd Geoffrey Seagrave Pearson

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev David L. Wells, Springfield.

### **Friday, March 9**

Psalm 88 *O LORD the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you. May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.* (vv.1-2)

I felt this story was appropriate to share during the Lenten season when I was laden with guilt, then redeemed by the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. I had sinned badly and felt alone for a few weeks. I asked for God's mercy and prayed the Penitential Order Prayer for several nights before falling asleep.

One week later I arrived for my church service and was given the "prayers of the people" card to read. I carefully chose a seat and then looked down at the prayer card. Tears welled up in my eyes as I read the card, it was the prayer for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank you, Jesus!

Genesis 47:1-26; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 6:47-56

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Bo (Sierra Leone) - (West Africa, West Africa) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Tucker

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Anniversary of the organization of the Diocese of Illinois at Peoria, 1835; Trinity Church, Jacksonville, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1835; Birthday of Patricia, wife of The Rev Richard I. Lewis, Danville.

### **Saturday, March 10**

Psalm 87 *As they make music they will sing, "All my fountains are in you."* (v.7)

I am often astonished at God's use of our children to reveal Himself. Ever since my daughter was two years old, she loved to sing. I played all types of music for her and she would sing along with passion. She attended a Christian pre-school and learned to love Jesus. When she was five years old, I was explaining to her about the spiritual gifts that God gives us, and how we can see Him in everything we do. She replied, "Mommy, do you know how I know that God loves me? He taught me how to sing."

Genesis 47:27—48:7; Psalm 90; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Mark 7:1-23

*ANGLICAN CYCLE* Boga - (Congo) The Rt Revd Mugenyi William Bahemuka

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to walk in your way more trustfully.

*by Julie Garcia*

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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