

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

June 17-23, 2018

Number 24

Sunday, June 17

Numbers 6:22-27 *The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites.'*" (vv.22-23 NIV)

Almost every Sunday, our priest raised his hand and repeated these verses as he made the sign of the cross over the congregation. The words became almost diluted of their power after a while until I realized that this was a commandment from God to the priests from the very get-go. Then suddenly their power seared into my heart like a brand onto a steer's hide.

Much of our rich, liturgical tradition stems back from the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Bible. These practices have been carried on for thousands of years and passed from priest to priest, synagogue to church, city to city, all over the globe.

Jesus is our Vine, and the roots of our worship run very, very deep indeed. As it states in the lesson from Luke, the master puts the manager in charge of his servants and holds him (or her) accountable. How often do you thank your priest (or pastor) for carrying out the Master's commands?

Psalms 93, 96; Acts 13:1-12; Luke 12:41-48

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John the Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel, The Rev Brant V. Hazlett, Rector; Msonga Parish, Tanzania, The Rev. Can. Josephat Nikodem; The Mission of Santa Natividad, Yarabamba, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar; St. Paul's, Carlinville, admitted to the Diocese, 1850; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Mary Christine "Mollie" Ward and Dr. Greg Shaw, Bloomington.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Nolan White's birthday.

Monday, June 18

Psalms 80 *Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.* (v.3)

The allusion to the Aaronic blessing from yesterday's passage is repeated almost as a chorus throughout this psalm. What does it mean and why is it so important?

Think of when people's faces shine. Couples in love have a glow about them. So do women who are pregnant, or grandparents when they hug their grandchildren.

When, through confession, our sins are forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus, God can then turn to us. When He does, His face shimmers with love and happiness. His child has returned. The relationship, once broken by sin, is restored. Being able to shine His face upon us, His children, was important enough for God to sacrifice His own Son in order to make it happen. Should it not carry a great deal of weight with us as well?

Lord, may I start out each day with this verse on my lips and in my heart.

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Dogura - (Papua New Guinea) The Rt Revd Tennyson Bogar

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O God, we pray for our country and our world.

Numbers 9:15-23, 10:29-36; Romans 1:1-15; Matthew 17:14-21

ST. MATTHEW'S: Charlie Casperson's birthday.

Tuesday, June 19

Romans 1:16-25 *The wrath of God is being revealed against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (v.18)*

If you live in Texas, as I do, June "Teenth" has a special meaning. On this day in history, the slaves in my state learned of the Emancipation Proclamation. (No cyberspace or TV back in 1863 to broadcast the news quickly.) Some owners didn't want the word to get out. They wanted to keep people in slavery.

Today, people are still enslaved—by sin. Nothing new. As you read what Paul wrote to the first century Romans, you'd almost believe he meant it for today's readers. Pleasure cannot set us free. Exploitation of others either. Money can't do it or power. Only the blood of Jesus can.

As was the case two thousand years ago, we have a choice. We can be restored to a right relationship, or go on about our wicked ways just as our ancestors did. Let us choose to loosen the chains that bind us to sin and then quickly proclaim to others the emancipation that is available to all who believe Jesus is Christ.

Numbers 11:1-23; Psalm 78:1-39; Matthew 17:22-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Dominican Republic - (Province XI, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Moisés Quezada Mota

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1835; David J. Halt, Bloomington, ordination to the Priesthood; Birthday of The Rev. Dr. E Eugene Hall, Champaign; Birthday of Patricia Ann, wife of The Rev. T. Larison Phillips, Champaign.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Katherine Dyson's birthday, and Mary & Roger Hunt's wedding anniversary

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Wednesday, June 20

Matthew 18:1-9 *And he [Jesus] said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (v.3)

Have you ever watched a child as they expectantly wait for something? Their eager faces and antsy little bodies scream their expectation of the joy which is to soon arrive. And when it happens, be it a pony or an ice cream cone, they are unabashed in showing their pleasure. Such child-like faith.

Do we react that way while waiting for God’s blessings, or do we grumble because He is “taking His sweet time”? Faith is positive anticipation and assured hope that what God has in store for us is good, even if things seem just the opposite at the moment. Also, with the trust of a child to his parents, we must realize that even when the thunder rocks our world, our Father is there to comfort and guide us. We never outgrow the need to have our *Abba* Father near.

Don’t burst a child’s bubble and tell them to grow up and face reality. Instead, adopt their joyous faith—need for dependency, and lack of skepticism. See how much fuller your life can become.

Numbers 11:24-25; Psalm 119:97-120; Romans 1:28—2:11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Doko - (Lokoja, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Uriah Kolo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord God, your will is holy, loving and wise.

Thursday, June 21

Psalms 83 *Make them like tumbleweed, my God, like chaff before the wind.* (v.13)

Oh, how honest the psalmist is. Smite my enemies, God. Make them all go away. Show them who’s boss. If only life was so simple, right?

We may not have enemies barreling down upon us to physically threaten us as the psalmist did, but who hasn’t almost prayed, if not downright demanded, for vengeance? If vengeance is yours, God, then would You kindly do something? We’d like a little justice over here, please.

The psalmist asked God to shame his enemies. But Jesus, when he came to earth hundreds of years later, took a different stance. He said to be kind to them and love on them (Matthew 5:43-48). Paul tells us in Romans 12:20, it’ll be like heaping burning coals on their heads.

God answered the psalmist, and He answers us today. Convict them with the love I instill in your hearts. Then they will see I am God, *through you*. Many an abuser or assaulter has been convicted by a believer’s refusal to retaliate in hate—including the soldier at the foot of the Cross who proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God.

Numbers 12:1-16; Romans 2:12-24; Matthew 18:10-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Dornakal - (South India) The Rt Revd Vadapalli Prasada Rao

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 36, Toddhall.

Friday, June 22

Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30 *They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. (v.26)*

The explorers reported to the Hebrew people in the desert what lay beyond the Jordan River, i.e. in the “Promised Land.” The sojourners dangled the juicy fruit in front of them knowing these people were tired of eating manna after forty years. Then they added a disclaimer. But wait, you won’t be able to get much of this delicious food because there are mean giants over there. All became discouraged, except for Caleb who trusted the good outweighed the bad. Why? Because he believed God kept His promises.

Are you a glass half-empty or half-full type of person? Do you look for the other shoe to fall, or seek the good in the situation, trusting God is, as the hymn states, working His purpose out? Sometimes blessings come hidden, and at times they are attainable, but at a cost.

It is our perspective that makes all the difference. We can stress over the giants or, like David, trust our God is bigger and that He will provide what we need to fell them.

Psalm 88; Romans 2:25—3:8; Matthew 18:21-35

ANGLICAN CYCLE Dublin & Glendalough - (Dublin, Ireland) The Most Revd Michael Geoffrey St Aubyn Jackson

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. James’ Chapel, Marion, consecration of church building, 1930; Church of the Redeemer, Cairo, consecration of present church building, 1958; Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 36, Toddhall.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Anne Nadakavukaren’s birthday and Anne and Matthew’s wedding anniversary

Saturday, June 23

Romans 3:9-20 *What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. (v.9)*

There is a misnomer seeping into pulpits these days; something Paul spoke about in today’s verses. It has been embraced by pseudo-spiritual movies and books. It states that mankind is essentially good with a God-spark inside. We just need to tap into it. Wrong.

To believe this negates the reason Jesus came to earth. It reduces him to a wise, love-prophet who taught us how to live with each other a bit better. Yes,

once we confess him as Lord, his Spirit dwells within us. But not until then. We are not automatically born into God's family. We have to be re-born into it.

If man is essentially good, then the Garden of Eden never happened. We do not need a Savior, and we can achieve salvation on our own. Many other religions believe this, but only *one* man claimed to be the Way, the Truth and the Life who could lead us out of the darkness of our sins into the light of love. His name is Jesus, and one day every knee will bow at the sound of that name.

Numbers 13:31—14:25; Psalms 87, 90; Matthew 19:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Duk - (Upper Nile, South Sudan) The Rt Revd Daniel Deng Abot

Duk - Ayod Area - The Rt Revd Thomas Tut

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 36, Toddhall.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Patty & Jack Pitts wedding anniversary

by Julie B Cosgrove

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Valerie R., Barbara A., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

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