

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

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Number 25

Sunday, June 24

Psalm 66 *Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me.* (vv.16 NLT)

I remember a time when I experienced feelings of depression and hopeless despair. I wanted to curl up in a ball under the covers of my bed in a darkened room; I did not want to see anyone, hear anyone, or talk with anyone. While I was walking down the hall to a bedroom at the end of a long ranch-style house, I said to Jesus, “Jesus, I feel depression; I don’t feel any hope; there isn’t anything I can do! Nothing will help!” Before I had taken more than a few additional steps, I noticed the depression had lifted, and no longer was I cloaked in despair. I felt excitement as I realized that I had only described to Jesus how I felt; I had not asked for help. When I simply described my feelings, he recognized my need, and he answered my cry. I rejoice in his love!

Thank you, Jesus, for giving me what I needed, even though I did not ask in the usual way.

Numbers 14:26-45; Psalm 67; Acts 15:1-12; Luke 12:49-56

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
The Most Revd Nicholas Okoh Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria & Bishop of Abuja

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. George's Episcopal Church, Belleville, The Rev Canon Dale Coleman, Rector; Kahama Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Can. Patrick Kulije, Rural Dean; The Mission of Santas María y Martha de Betania, Ilo, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar; Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 36, Toddhall.

Monday, June 25

Psalm 89:1-18 *Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD. You are their glorious strength. It pleases you to make us strong.* (vv.15, 17)

I play piano for a small traditional worship service that exists within a larger, more contemporary-oriented church. I am a volunteer who is an intermediate-level player; I work very hard to prepare arrangements of worship music for preludes, offertories, and communion services that represent a style of music with which the worshippers can identify.

The response of the people to the joyful call to worship in that service has been encouraging; I have been strengthened to learn and play music that is more difficult than I am typically able to play. As a result of the response of the people, I

have grown musically, spiritually, and personally. I am so grateful for the way God strengthens and speaks to me through them.

Lord Jesus, thank you for expressing yourself to us through others. Thank you for the ways in which they allow you to speak through them. Please help us be encouragers who hear, and respond to, the joyful call to worship.

Numbers 16:1-19; Romans 3:21-31; Matthew 19:13-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
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Tuesday, June 26

Numbers 16:20-35 *“Quick!” he told the people. “Get away from the tents of these wicked men, and don’t touch anything that belongs to them. If you do, you will be destroyed for their sins.”* (v.26)

I remember a situation in which I suffered the consequences of someone else’s sin. I had been tempted to align myself with a person who had made significant questionable decisions, and I did not want to confront the person with the seriousness of the sins that had been committed. I was afraid of how the person would respond to me if I spoke up. I allowed myself to succumb to the temptation to remain silent.

Once I succumbed to that temptation, I lost peace; I became tormented by fear—fear that the person would get caught, fear that the person would turn against me even though I did not confront them, and fear that someone would discover that I had helped the person cover their sin. It was not until I confessed to someone the sin of aligning myself with this person, and corrected the situation, that I experienced the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Lord, we pray for courage to embrace our responsibility to speak the truth in love.

Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 4:1-12; Matthew 19:23-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Dunkwa-on-Offin - (Ghana, West Africa) The Rt Revd Edmund Dawson Ahmoah

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Geoffrey E. L. Scanlon, Urbana, ordination to the Priesthood; Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign, consecration of present church building, 1918.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of Christian Pitts.

Wednesday, June 27

Psalm 101 *I will search for faithful people to be my companions.* (v.6a)

I treasure friendships that have been shaped over time—relationships hewn through circumstances and smoothed by shared experiences through which mutual trust grew. Faithfulness developed and was discerned as we walked together in relationship through life's winding paths.

I have searched deliberately for faithful companions, only to see my hopes shattered. Potential faithful companions sprang up speedily like seed, sown on shallow soil, which did not thrive: the relationships were not deep-rooted; they were not healthy; they did not endure. I learned the process cannot be hurried; I refined the way in which I viewed the process so that patience was woven into the search.

I value being open to friendship while I am seeking to discern what the Lord may be saying to me through a developing relationship. What do I notice? How am I responding? Am I drawn closer to the Lord when I am in relationship with this person, or am I pulled in another direction?

Lord, please guide us through the process of building relationships with faithful people that bring joy to You.

Numbers 16:36-50; Psalm 109; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 20:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Durgapur - (North India) The Rt Revd Probal Dutta

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Mark E. Evans, Lincoln, ordination to the Priesthood;

Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Allen M. Wakabayashi and The Rev. Diane C.

Mumma-Wakabayashi, Bedminster, N.J.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Sarah Pitts.

Thursday, June 28

Matthew 20:17-28 *But Jesus answered by saying to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!"* (v.22)

When I ponder this passage, I experience feelings of encouragement. I am strengthened by the example of people committing to a goal even though they do not know the details of what they will experience. However, unlike these people, I do not want to be overly bold; I do not want to ask for something that is not mine to possess. My goal is to yield myself without restraint while discerning the Lord in all of my ways.

What experiences will Jesus use to test my character? What situations will Jesus allow in my life that will reveal what I am truly like? Will I rejoice when surrounded by circumstances that would not have been my first choice—or even my choice at all? How will I respond? Am I able?

Lord Jesus, please help us realize that when you call and we respond, we become able. Help us resist the temptation to be presumptuous; help us seek you, discern you, and walk with you wherever your path may lead.

Numbers 17:1-11; Psalm 105:1-22; Romans 5:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Durham - (York, England) The Rt Revd Paul Butler

Durham - Jarrow - (York, England) The Rt Revd Mark Watts Bryant

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

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Jennifer Jordan.

Friday, June 29

Psalm 102 *But you, O LORD, will sit on your throne forever. Your fame will endure to every generation. The children of your people will live in security. Their children's children will thrive in your presence. (vv.12, 28)*

I feel comforted by the knowledge that the Lord will sit on His throne forever; there is no power that can take Him down. This knowledge is not for me alone; it is also for those who come after me...one generation after another after another.

Has the Lord redeemed me? Has He freed me from my enemies? I must declare His mighty acts; they are not to be kept secret. Am I living securely? I must communicate hope to those who are still in chains; the Lord will listen to their prayers too. I cannot be silenced; I must speak out!

Lord, help us to be brave communicators of Your fame—Your strength, Your mercy, Your compassion, Your restorative power, Your love. Give us courage to declare Your mighty acts; give us wisdom to teach Your ways. As we gather together to worship You, we will celebrate and praise Your fame.

Numbers 20:1-13; Romans 5:12-21; Matthew 20:29-34

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Dutse - (Kaduna, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Yesufu Lumu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: John R. Henry, Carlinville; William H. Moore, Jr., Wallace, NC; Thomas D. Patton, Traverse City, MI; George E. Pence, Edwardsville; ordination to the Priesthood; Ann L. Alley, Champaign; Donald E. Coventry, Decatur; Sylvia L. Howard, Mt. Vernon; Ordination to the Diaconate; Birthday of Leah, wife of The Rev. Zachary D. Brooks, Jacksonville; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Canon William H. and Jacque Moore, Wallace, NC.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthdays of Josephine Brooks, and Liz Gordon.

Saturday, June 30

Psalm 107:33-43 *Those who are wise will take all this to heart; they will see in our history the faithful love of the LORD. (v.43)*

Of all the subjects I studied in school, history was the subject I liked the least. The assignments could be described as ever-growing mounds of busy work that did not relate to my life; the lectures were extended drones of words that often put me to sleep. I regret that those who taught the classes may not have had an appreciation for this subject. Indeed, a life-giving perspective of history, that could have been provided, was missing.

My perception of the study of history was transformed after I began reading the Bible and learning about events from God's perspective. As I read about God and His people, and how they interacted with each other and with the inhabitants of the world, I learned how God works through individuals and world events to keep His promises even over long sequences of generations.

Lord, thank You for preserving ways for us to learn about You, so that as we look at history and as we experience current events we can see the outworking of Your faithful love.

Numbers 20:14-29; Psalm 108; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 21:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: East Carolina - (Province IV, The Episcopal Church) The Rt. Revd Robert Skirving

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Dr. John F. and Suzanne Wall, Fredericksburg, VA.

by Elizabeth Ann Franks

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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