

*Good News Daily*

**Volume XVIII**

**July 8-14, 2018**

**Number 27**

**Sunday, July 8**

Mark 1:14-20 “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*” (v.15 ESV)

In the U.S. we have some trouble understanding the notions of monarchy and kingship which are frequently used in the Bible. This is unfortunate. Not because we necessarily should have an earthly king, but because we miss the power and the joy assumed by the announcement of the arrival of God’s kingdom.

This is an announcement of victory and fulfillment. This kingdom represents the dominion of God, not bound by geography and not thwarted by mankind’s disobedience. While earthly kings and rulers may falter and fail, the ruler of this kingdom is steady and sure. This Lord loves his people and longs to be known and followed by them.

The coming of this kingdom demands a response. We cannot sit on the fence! The coming of the righteous kingdom demands a turning away from all things that are not part of this kingdom. We cannot remain unchanged by this announcement. Jesus calls us to believe, to stand in deep faith. This is not a one-time action, but a continuous action which involves trust in the facts about the King, the kingdom, and letting that shape one’s life. It is *good* news.

Numbers 27:12-23; Psalms 146, 147; Acts 19:11-20

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for The Church of Pakistan (United) [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; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Donald E. and Delores Coventry, Decatur; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX

## **Monday, July 9**

Romans 8:26-30 *The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* (v.27b)

Does it seem your days are marked with weakness and frustration? Does your hope wane in the turbulence of life? Do your prayers seem hollow and empty? If any or all of these describe you, then exhale a sigh of relief. The Spirit is praying for you (v.26) and God's will is set on bringing you home.

The will of God is directed at your future, but is not limited to it. Remember, the kingdom is now! Nothing can snatch the future of the Christian from its moorings. Trouble, calamity, and heartbreak may steal our joy, but they cannot steal our hope and status before God. Why? Because God's desire, His will, is for you to be like Jesus. If you're following Him, it's because *He* called you to begin with and made restoration with Him possible.

You're headed for glory and because that, too, is God's will, Paul speaks as if it already has happened (v.30). When it is God's will, it's as good as done. Our job, as Paul says earlier in Romans, is that we "present [ourselves] to God as those who have been bought from death to life" (6:13b). What a life it is!

Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Matthew 23:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Eastern Oregon - (Province VIII, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Patrick Bell](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev. Michael J. Newago, Havana; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX

## **Tuesday, July 10**

Psalms 5 *Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.* (vv.1-2)

I imagine that as you read the Psalms for today you may have nodded in understanding. I did. Perhaps you, like me, have prayed through tears and through anger, wondering why God seems so far away?

No one can deny those times—they are part of the reality of life. The key is that there is a resolve. The psalmist gains perspective by reviewing the truth. God is still God. We serve a righteous God whose rule, whose kingdom, is established and ultimately all things find their resolve in Him.

On the cross, Jesus felt our agony when he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46b). Not only is God's rule established, but we serve a God who did not distance himself from our pain, but chose to experience it. Therefore, like the psalmist we can confidently cry, "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your

protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you” (v.11). He is nearer and more compassionate than we imagine.

Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34; Psalm 6; Romans 8:31-39; Matthew 23:13-26

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Eastern Zambia - (Central Africa) [The Rt Revd William Mchombo](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Steven T. Thorp, Champaign; Birthday of Janet, wife of The Rev. Maurice C. Lee, Stone Mountain, GA; Wedding anniversary of The Rt. Rev. Peter H. and Melinda Beckwith of Hillsdale, MI; and of The Rev. Dr. Daniel and Joyce Karanja, Hampton, VA.; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX.

### **Wednesday, July 11**

Matthew 23:27-39 *“So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”* (v.28)

Hypocrisy does untold damage. Jesus knew that hypocrisy was deadly to people’s faith and in today’s passage he charges the leaders with this grievous sin.

Hypocrisy is dangerous on a number of levels. First it is deceptive to others. When we are hypocritical we are living a lie. When we are hypocritical, what people see is not the truth but a mask. It is an inauthentic witness and sooner or later an observable one that brings discredit on the Lord we serve.

Secondly, hypocrisy is dangerous because it is a lie we tell ourselves. We can fool ourselves into thinking that the only thing that matters is our external life—only that which is seen by others. This is not true. The change wrought by Jesus in the life of the believer is geared toward the heart and mind as today’s passage points out. We, too, can look good on the outside and inside be full of “dead people’s bones” (v.27).

We are called to an authentic faith which, because of the deep change in our heart and mind, brings about a change in living and relating to the world. May we seek the internal change—the harder road—that we may not be found deceiving others or ourselves.

Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Psalm 119:1-24; Romans 9:1-18

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Easton - (Province III, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Santosh Marray](#)

Eau Claire - (Province V) [The Revd William Jay Lambert](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. John D. Richmond, Bartonville; Birthday of Byron, husband of The Rev. Cynthia A. Sever, Alton; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX.

## **Thursday, July 12**

Deuteronomy 3:18-28 *“You shall not fear them, for it is the LORD your God who fights for you.”* (v.22)

Deuteronomy means “second law” and is the retelling of the deliverance of Israel and the years leading up to their entering the Promised Land. This book, told through the voice of Moses, recaps the events found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. And in chapter 3 we see Moses reminding the people of an important habit they must cultivate—trust.

The people are preparing to enter into the Promised Land; their sojourn in the desert is almost over. Despite their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, despite the bread from heaven, despite the victorious battles they have just come through, they’re worried and afraid. Their fear had been so strong when they first saw the land and its occupants, they refused to enter. The Lord punished them by declaring that none of those who came from Egypt would see the Promised Land. Only one of that generation, Caleb, who tried to convince Israel to take the land as the Lord had directed, would indeed enter it (Numbers 13:26—14:24).

The commandment most repeated in Scripture is “do not fear.” How often, despite what we have experienced and known about our God, do we continue to fear? Remember whose you are and what He has done!

Psalm 18:1-20; Romans 9:19-33; Matthew 24:1-14

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Edinburgh - (Scotland) [The Rt Revd John Armes](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Steven T. and Jael Thorp, Champaign; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX.

## **Friday, July 13**

Romans 10:1-13 *For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.* (v.10)

In many circles the word “saved” has been so overused it has lost some its original spark. But it is an accurate word to describe the effect of Jesus on our lives. Christ is literally the difference between life and death. And until we come to the point of realizing our “deadness” prior to our encounter with him, we will never be comfortable with acknowledging that Jesus has indeed “saved” us.

He has saved us from our nagging and guilty consciences, from our fear of death, and from our fear—dare I say—of living. For our lives can be very scary and difficult. Sometimes nothing seems capable of alleviating our pain or frustration or filling in the sense of pessimism that we feel. The one that calls on Jesus is indeed saved. When we confess Jesus is Lord, as Paul suggests today, we acknowledge that we are not in control and don’t have all the answers. Then we believe and trust in the utter truthfulness of the power and love of God that sent

Jesus to redeem us. Being “saved” is a gift open to all. Have you accepted it? Are you accepting each day?

Deuteronomy 31:7-13, 24—32:4; Psalms 16, 17; Matthew 24:15-31

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Edmonton - (Rupert's Land, Canada) [The Rt Revd Jane Alexander](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Very Rev. Mark E. Evans, Lincoln, and The Rev. Thomas D. Patton, Traverse City, MI.; Pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention concluding in Austin, TX..

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Conner Bennett's birthday.

### **Saturday, July 14**

Matthew 24:32-51 *“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”* (v.44)

To talk about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ is to risk being looked on as a wild-eyed fanatic. But nothing should be more natural to the Christian. The return of Jesus is meant to be a comfort to the Church. It is an assurance that we are not alone, that God is not unconcerned about us and is planning to return for us.

Verse 36 should draw us away from being overly concerned with predictions about when it will happen. “No one knows, not even the angel,” Jesus said. Even though God has revealed a great deal to us, including His love, His mercy, His justice, and His son, He has not given us the specifics about the end.

This is a great blessing because it awakens hope in our hearts by reminding us of a very important principle: the fact that God has begun a work is the assurance He will complete it. The fact of Christ's incarnation is the guarantee of his return. Max Lucado comments, from *When Christ Comes*, “For the Christian, the return of Christ is not a riddle to be solved or a code to be broken, but a day to be anticipated.” May we live in joyful preparation for that day.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalms 20, 21; Romans 10:14-21

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Egba - (Lagos, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Emmanuel Adekunle](#); Egba West - [The Rt Revd Samuel Ajani](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention Deputies returning home.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Linda & Craig Baughan's wedding anniversary.

*by Chris Findley*

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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