

Good News Daily

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Sunday, February 24

Psalm 118 *The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things! I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.* (vv.16-17 NIV)

The short-term memory I have when I get into situations is quite frustrating—in that I often forget the mightiness of the Lord and His promises to me. Everything you and I encounter is capable of being touched by the Lord's mighty right hand. Power, protection, and His presence is offered at all times. In Matthew 22, Christ reminds us to “sit at my right hand until I until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.” We all have enemies of some sort; sometimes it is our old ways, our old nature, a person or persons, sickness, finances, etc. The Lord has in the past, and will in the future, do great and mighty things.

I have been lifted out of so many situations, many I brought on myself. In hindsight, the only way I can see how I made it out of many of them was the mightiness of the Lord.

Lord, help me to proclaim the great acts You have done.

Isaiah 66:7-14; 1 John 3:4-10; John 10:7-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America, The Rt Revd Julio Murray Thompson - Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Panama

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Andrew's, Carbondale, The Rev. Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Rector; Tutuo Parish: Rev. Jonas Mkuy, Tabora, Tanzania; The Mission of The Holy Spirit, District of Independencia, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Esteban Zapata, Priest in Charge; St. Paul's Carlinville, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1881.

ST. MATTHEWS: Carlos Levine's birthday.

Monday, February 25

Ruth 1:1-14 *“It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!”* (v.13)

These are the words of Naomi and this is a snapshot of full-on knee-buckling grief and sorrow. She has lost her husband and both sons. We don't know how they passed away, but we know that she is a shell of a woman, probably in shock and certainly in need of care and guidance—physically, spiritually, and mentally. Who wouldn't be? Her daughter-in-law, Ruth, became her eyes and ears, her protector,

as they traveled back to her hometown. Naomi is wide-open with her pain and allows herself to be carried by the grace of family and friends.

I have heard many people say they don't recall much about the period of time after the death of a loved one, or a tragic situation, but had to rely solely on the care God provides through the Trinity and loved ones.

Thank You, Lord, for your innate understanding of our needs despite our lack of faith and understanding.

Psalm 106:1-18; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Matthew 5:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Malakal (*South Sudan*), The Most Revd Hilary Garang Deng, The Rt Revd John Gattek, The Rt Revd John Gettek, The Rt Revd Peter Gatbel Kunen, and The Rt Revd David Kiir Mayath; Toamasina (*Indian Ocean*), The Rt Revd Jean Paul Solo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. T. Larison Phillips, Champaign. Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

Tuesday, February 26

Matthew 5:13-20 *"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."* (v.16 NLT)

My Dad loved snappy little catch words, acronyms, and anything that created positive encouragement. He would search out various books and magazine articles and listen to speeches, pursuing the next great collection of encouraging words. One day he came across the writing of "Be a Good-finder" and he added his own concepts as he traveled through life. A "Good-finder" goes out of his or her way to find good in others and encourage them to step out in faith. One quip of "Good-finders" is to "scatter sunshine."

We would often see my Dad scattering sunshine. For instance, at a local restaurant he visited frequently, he became acquainted with a waitress who needed dental work and a busboy who had the desire and talent to sell. My Dad paid the dentist to fix the waitress' teeth and sent the busboy to real estate school. I'm not saying it needs to be monetary—simply follow God's heart and listen to His ways.

Scattering sunshine is like shining the light of Christ into others' lives. We need to look for opportunities for good deeds, all in the name of Jesus, so that others may meet him.

Ruth 1:15-22; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Malek (*South Sudan*), The Rt Revd Peter Joh Abraham Mayom; Tohoku (*Japan*), The Rt Revd John Masato Yoshida

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

Wednesday, February 27

2 Corinthians 1:23—2:17 *To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?* (v.16 KJV)

When Christ died on the cross and the curtain was split, forever more the choice was set for life or death. Most of the time in my walk with Jesus, I am surrounded by his love and peace and mercy. But there are also times when I have been rocked with awe and trepidation as I try to grasp with my limited understanding of what he did for us at Calvary.

This past Palm Sunday was one of those times. I was in Tennessee with my Mom at her church, attending the early morning service in a beautiful, sunlit chapel. The music started for the hymn *Were You There*: “Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the cross? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?”

I trembled inside my heart that morning and cried quietly as the words and the music washed over me with Jesus’ presence. We should tremble more often in awe of what has been done for us.

Ruth 2:1-13; Psalm 119:145-176; Matthew 5:21-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Malek Rup (*South Sudan*), The Rt Revd Peter Marial Agok; Tokyo (*Japan*), Vacant; Toliara (*Indian Ocean*), The Rt Revd Todd McGregor; The Rt Revd Samitiana Jhonson Razafindralambo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they conclude their Pre-Lenten Retreat, King’s House, Belleville. Lord of creation, show us your purpose for our life that we may truly live in your will.

ST. MATTHEWS: Bob Cooper’s 90th birthday.

Thursday, February 28

Psalm 131 *LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don’t concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother’s milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.* (vv.1-2 NLT)

This is a freeing verse. I was in a men’s Bible study recently, and a rugged 240-pound linebacker of a man, built like a piece of steel, said, “You know, when the world gets tough on me and I feel the weight of the world is on top of me as I toss and turn at night, I consider the verse about the weaned child, calm and quieted. Then I picture myself at rest in the palm of God’s hand and I slowly drift into a peaceful sleep.” That was a massively freeing statement. Let’s face it, the world is *not* in our hands. The power of the Lord, His sovereignty, and His desire for good to come out of even the most difficult of circumstances is the reality and our hope—not our efforts.

Ruth 2:14-23; Psalms 132, 133; Corinthians 3:1-18; Matthew 5:27-37
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Malindi (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd Lawrence Dena; Tonj (*South Sudan*), The Rt Revd Peter Yuol Gur
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Anniversary of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Peter H. Beckwith as the 10th Bishop of Springfield.

Friday, March 1

Matthew 5:38-48 *But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.* (v.44 KJV)

To say that this is easier said than done, is an understatement. This is how the war is won. Jesus realizes that we are going to be challenged to the fullest as we try to walk this out. But as I struggle, I am reminded that he hasn't asked us to do anything that he wasn't asked to do or endure himself; therefore, he understands our lack of patience, our discomfort and weaknesses. Think of the many times he loved on his enemies, blessed them, and then took the extra step to pray for them—the Romans, the gossipers, the liars, the thieves, the religious naysayers, Saul, Judas, etc. And those are just a few of the ones we know about!

Ruth 3:1-1; Psalms 140, 142; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Manchester (*England*), The Rt Revd David Walker, The Rt Revd Mark David Ashcroft, and The Rt Revd Mark Davies; Torit (*South Sudan*), The Most Revd Bernard Oringa Balmoi, The Rt Revd Martin Abuni, and The Rt Revd Isaac Deu Chon
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Carbondale.

Saturday, March 2

Ruth 4:1-17 *The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.* (v.17 NLT)

Only God could have brought this type of unexpected joy and healing to Ruth and Naomi. More joy than anyone could have asked for. The women friends are beside themselves, excited to see their dear friend hold this baby boy! Christ restored their souls, gave them rest in their grief, along with the joy of a newborn child. From the union of Boaz and Ruth was to come the line of descendants that gave birth to King David, the line of Jesus. God is always working ahead of us. His prophecies and promises are fulfilled—each and every one of them in His time. Honestly, I could not have ever imagined the story diverting to this place of perfection. Only Christ can heal like this.

Psalms 137; 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:10; Matthew 6:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mandalay (*Myanmar*), The Rt Revd David Nyi Nyi Naing; Toronto (*Canada*), The Most Revd Colin Robert Johnson, The Rt Revd Jennifer Andison, The Rt Revd Peter Fenty, The Rt Revd Kevin Robertson, The Rt Revd Riscylla Shaw, and The Very Revd Andrew Asbil

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Holy Spirit, guide us in our work for the Church.

by Lisa and Charlie Clayton III

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D., Debbie T., Robin L., Margret L., Christopher L., Kim

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Barbara Allsup

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