

*Good News Daily*

**Volume XIX**

**March 10-16, 2019**

**Number 10**

**Sunday, March 10**

1 Corinthians 1:17-31 *Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?* (v.20 NIV)

By the time I reached my mid-20's, I had earned bachelor's and master's degrees and was working on a Ph.D.—all, in Philosophy. A few years later, the Lord led me to a powerful encounter with the living Christ in which I was spiritually born anew. A breakfast cereal company was offering a free duffel with anything you wanted embroidered on the side. The bag I ordered proclaimed “Jesus is the Answer!” My smart-aleck intellectual colleagues wanted to know, “What’s the question?”

Philosophy taught me how to think critically and analytically, and to be able to make and evaluate an argument. But it never provided me the answers I needed for living life the right way. Jesus Christ showed me how foolish is the wisdom of this world. God is so much smarter, and His ideas are always better!

Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalms 63, 98; Mark 2:18-22

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

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Christ the King, Normal; Kalemela Parish: Vacant, Urambo, Tanzania; The Mission of St. Andrew and Urban Mission Cipriani, District of Puente Piedra, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Benjamin Salas, Priest in charge.

**Monday, March 11**

Deuteronomy 8:11-20 *Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.* (v.11)

So much of the Old Testament consists of Israel remembering what God had done for them, especially their liberation from Egypt as detailed in Exodus. Earlier, in Deuteronomy 8:2, Moses tells the people: “Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart.” God knows that when we remember His goodness, mercy, and provision, that tends to lead to praise and thanksgiving.

Last year, during Lent, one of our parishioners came up with a “40 Days of Thankfulness” plan. She encouraged everyone in the congregation to try to thank God for at least one thing daily. I discovered that in finding things for which to give

thanks, I was remembering more of God's care for me than I might have otherwise. Take time today to recall and give thanks for whatever God has done for you. The more you remember, the more thankful you'll be, and it will brighten your day!

Psalms 41, 52; Hebrews 2:11-18; John 2:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maridi (*Uganda*), The Rt Revd Moses Zungo; Ughelli (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Cyril Odutemu; Ho (*West Africa*), The Rt Revd Matthias Mededues-Badohu

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

## **Tuesday, March 12**

John 2:13-22 *So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"* (vv.15-16)

Wow! In this passage, Jesus is very angry, even violent and destructive. Yet most Christians are raised with the notion that we shouldn't lose our tempers. As a result, we tend to "stuff" things more than unbelievers, and that leads to other problems—emotional, physical, and relational. But is it OK to get angry? In Ephesians 4:26, we read: "In your anger, do not sin."

This helps us understand that Jesus models for us righteous anger—being upset about things that go against God's will and plan. In my youth, I had a terrible temper; but after knowing Christ for the past 32 years, I don't get mad about much of anything except injustice. Like every human being, I still struggle with petty resentments and annoyances, but Jesus has shown me that the only good anger is righteous (not self-righteous) anger. Something for all of us to think and pray about.

Deuteronomy 9:14-12; Psalm 45; Hebrews 3:1-11

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Marsabit (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd Daniel Qampicha; Ukhahlamba (*Southern Africa*), The Rt Revd Moses Madywabe

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- *Celtic Charm*.

ST. MATTHEWS: Martha Lakin and Roy Laws celebrating birthdays today.

## **Wednesday, March 13**

Hebrews 3:12-19 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.* (v.13)

As I was growing up, I didn't receive a lot of encouragement from my primary parent. This made me want to be an encourager for others—a "Barnabas" (whose name means "son of encouragement"). As a result, I try to remember to thank people who usually don't receive appreciation, such as supermarket checkers, restroom

cleaners, garbage collectors, toll-takers, or the maintenance staff in our apartment building. Often, these folks seem surprised that anyone would even talk to them, let alone thank them.

Because life tends to beat us down, we could all do more to encourage our fellow church members and neighbors. Phone a shut in; send a birthday card; visit someone in the hospital; offer a sincere compliment; hug a parishioner lovingly during passing of the peace. Dare I suggest, tell a friend, family member, or even a despondent stranger, “I love you”? Jesus would be pleased, and so might the recipient of your encouragement.

Deuteronomy 9:13-21; Psalm 119:49-72; John 2:23—3:15

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maryland (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Eugene Sutton; Ukwa (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Samuel Kelechi Eze; Umuahia, The Most Revd Ikechi Nwachukwu Nwosu

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, set us free from the bondage of our sins.

### **Thursday, March 14**

John 3:16-21 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (v.16)

This Scripture was probably the first verse I had to memorize in Sunday School. As the shortest condensation of the Gospel, John 3:16 appears on everything from vanity plates and bumper stickers, to T-shirts and buttons. A friend of mine, a priest named John, was so excited about his street address he made his Facebook profile a picture of him standing next to his mailbox stenciled with “316.”

But verse 18, which follows this joyful news, is one many would rather not hear and prefer to omit: “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” It’s not popular to say that whoever refuses to believe in and know Jesus Christ will not be saved from death and hell. However, the Gospel truth is both good news and bad news, and if we believe in the authority of Holy Scripture, we need to accept both. It’s not as hard as it sounds. Only believe! The benefits are “out of this world”!

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Masasi (*Tanzania*), The Rt Revd James Almasi; Upper Shire (*Central Africa*), The Rt Revd Brighton Vitta Malasa

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Ordination to the Priesthood, Mark S. Winward, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Birthday of Linda Holt-Monson, widow of The Rev Edward Holt, Hot Springs Village, AR. Deuteronomy 9:23—10:5; Psalm 50; Hebrews 4:1-10

### **Friday, March 15**

Psalm 54 *“Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.”* (v.4)

When I read this verse, I heard in my head the praise anthem by Jack Noble White, based on the First Song of Isaiah: “Surely it is God who saves me, I will trust in Him and not be afraid, for the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and He will be my Savior.”

Jesus said in John 15:5, “Without me you can do nothing.” The counterpart to that is Matthew 19:26, “With God all things are possible.” And one of my all-time favorite verses is Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

The longer I live, I’m aware that I can barely even get out of bed in the morning—let alone do anything else—without God’s help. When parishioners compliment my sermons, my answer is always quite sincerely, “God gets the credit.” Even holding 4 and 3/4 academic degrees (I never finished the Ph.D.), I wouldn’t be able to put one thought in front of another, or stand up and preach the phone book, without God’s help. Thank you, Jesus!

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Psalm 40; Hebrews 4:11-16; John 3:22-36

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maseno East (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd Joshua Owiti; Upper South Carolina (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Andrew Waldo; Hokkaido (*Japan*), The Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu (*Primate*)

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

## **Saturday, March 16**

Hebrews 5:1-10 *“In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But ... was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.”* (vv.5, 10)

I always love to see depictions of Jesus as a priest, whether on the cross as “Christus Rex/Christus Victor,” the risen Christ as king and priest, or in the icon that hangs in our sacristy, showing Jesus vested as a priest, serving Communion. The Bible tells us that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, but He is also our priest. Like a good pastor, Jesus explains for us the Scriptures and teaches us, intercedes and prays for us, and visits us with comfort when we are sick or suffering.

As our priest, Christ offers a sacrifice for our sins—but amazingly, Jesus offers himself as the sacrifice. (I’m glad I don’t have to do that for my flock.) Thank you, Jesus, for being our king, priest, and sacrifice! The Celebration Hymnal, Hymn 123 (“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”) has the words: “Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, My Prophet, Priest and King, My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, Accept the praise I bring.” Amen!

Deuteronomy 11:18-28; Psalm 55; John 4:1-26

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maseno North (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd Charles Kaskan Asilutwa; Utah (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Scott Hayashi; Honduras (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Lloyd Allen

*DIOCESAN CYCLE*: Ordination to the Priesthood, David M. Baumann, Salem;  
and Ian Colden Wetmore, Lebanon.

*by The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker*

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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, Ken Barling

**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