

Good News Daily

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Number 25

Sunday, June 23

James 1:1-18 *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* (v.4 NIV)

I recall the many times I have been given a medical prescription with the instruction to finish all the medication even if, halfway through, I feel completely well. The advice is given for a good reason. Not following through by taking all the medicine weakens the immune system and symptoms return now or later, stronger than ever.

In our reading from James, and other parts of Scripture, we are told our trials are like that. Our spiritual immune system becomes weakened without constant adherence to the task at hand. Endurance is necessary for the strength we need for present and future battles. The testing of our faith builds our faith and, while we may wish for an easy out, perseverance must finish its work. It makes us better people; it makes us faithful disciples.

1 Samuel 4:12-22; Psalms 66, 67; Matthew 19:23-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: **Pray for** the United Church of North India, The Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh - Moderator of CNI & Bishop of Jabalpur

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

ST. MATTHEWS: wedding anniversary of Patty & Jack Pitts.

Monday, June 24

Luke 21:29-36 *“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.”* (v.34)

In her book, *My Heart Shall Not Fear*, Josephine Lawrence tells the story of a young girl getting married and the counsel given by her grandmother: “Maybe I’d better tell you what it has taken me eighty years to learn,” the elderly lady offered. “It’s only five words long, but each one counts: don’t let life scare you, that’s all.”

That is advice I continually tell myself. Jesus knew how easy it would be to be weighed down with all the pressures that life has to offer. He reminds us how easily the anxieties of life can “close on you suddenly like a trap.” Often we need a correction of our focus when hard times tumble in on us, a focus to avoid that trap

and get back on course. The worries of this life can scare us, but only if we let them. Faith in God, through Christ, will allow us to avoid that trap.

1 Samuel 5:1-12; Psalm 89:1-18; Acts 5:12-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Nnewi (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Godwin Izundu Nmezinwa Okpala; Armagh (*Ireland*) The Most Revd Richard Lionel Clarke (*Primate*);

Johannesburg (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Stephen Mosimanegape Moreo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Patronal Feast of St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel; Patronal Feast of St. John, Albion.

Tuesday, June 25

Luke 21:37—22:13 *And Judas went to the chief priests and officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. (v.4)*

How I dislike politics. There is so much lip service, saying just the right thing at just the right time to just the right persons. There is a story about a politician whose campaign took him to a rural area and an audience of people who were known to be both proud and religious. Since “religious” cannot be measured in votes, he proceeded to find out which of the many churches represented was the strongest as he began his speech. “My father was a Methodist,” he began. No response. “And my mother’s father was a Presbyterian,” he continued. Silence. “I had a fine old aunt who was a Baptist,” he added—and there was loud applause. Quickly, he responded, “And I have always followed the faith of this beloved aunt!”

We need to understand. Judas was a disciple who walked with the Lord and, I suppose, paid lip service in the opposite direction. Let’s be careful; lip service must be exchanged for the Lord’s service.

1 Samuel 6:1-16; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Acts 5:27-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Nord Kivu (*Congo*) The Rt Revd Muhindo Isesomo; Armidale (*Australia*) The Rt Revd Richard Lewers

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

Wednesday, June 26

Luke 22:14-23 *They all began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. (v.23)*

I have such fond memories of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. They were, in my youth, King and Queen of the West. Later, I continued to admire them for the manner in which they lived and the principles they believed. Once, when a studio insisted Roy play the part of a drunken cowboy, he walked off the set and broke his contract. On another occasion, the couple was told not to sing “that Jesus song” at the rodeo. The couple politely informed they would sing the song or leave. They sang the song. They never questioned their principles, nor would anyone else.

Luke tells us the disciples of Jesus questioned among themselves who would betray him. Were their principles such that it could have been someone other than Judas?

How important it is for us today to live our lives in such a manner that the betrayal of our Lord could never be a topic of discussion.

1 Samuel 7:2-17; Psalms 101, 109; Acts 6:1-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: North Ankole (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Stephen Namanya; Arochukwu/Ohafia (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Johnson Onuoha; Aru (*Congo*) The Rt Revd Georges Titre Ande; Aru, The Rt Revd Ngarahu Katene

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

ST. MATTHEWS: birthday of Christian Pitts

Thursday, June 27

Luke 22:24-30 *A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. (v.24)*

Take note that this is the very next verse to the one you read yesterday, when the disciples were discussing who would betray our Lord. Now they are debating rank and status!

Someone once remarked that so much could be done for the kingdom of God if it didn't matter who got the credit. I believe there is much truth in that. "I did this or that," I have been often told, "but no more! I received absolutely no recognition for my efforts."

It was not until after the crucifixion and resurrection that the disciples would understand that might and power were not the foundation of Jesus' kingdom. That's a hard lesson for us too. Love and service often produce no plaques, no certificates. They should not have to.

1 Samuel 8:1-22; Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 6:15—7:16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: North Carolina (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Samuel Rodman, The Rt Revd Anne Hodges-Copple, The Rt Revd F. Clayton Matthews; Asaba (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Justus Mogekwu

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. MATTHEWS: birthday of Sarah Pitts

Friday, June 28

Luke 22:31-38 *"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (v.32)*

Mention the word geyser and one particular geyser comes to my mind, and I would guess to yours too. It's Old Faithful.

Does it seem odd to you that in a time when we seem to favor the largest, most powerful, and most majestic that we remember first a geyser which is neither? We remember Old Faithful because it is faithful.

Simon Peter's faith would be shaken, and he would turn from our Lord. But Jesus knew Peter would turn back. "And when you do," Jesus said, "strengthen your brothers." Our faith, too, becomes shaky at times and we lose our closeness with the Savior. Faithfulness comes in not just turning back but remembering the other hurting souls who need to be strengthened, and our renewed strength strengthens them.

1 Samuel 9:1-14; Psalm 102; Acts 7:17-29

ANGLICAN CYCLE: North Central Philippines, The Most Revd Joel Atiwag Pachao (*Primate*), The Rt Revd Nestor D Poltic; Asante-Mampong (*West Africa*) The Rt Revd Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith

Jos (*Nigeria*) The Most Revd Benjamin Kwashi (*Diocesan Bishop*)

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

ST. MATTHEWS: birthday of Jennifer Jordan

Saturday, June 29

Luke 22:39-51 "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*" (v.42)

At one time, Windsor Castle had a conflict of wills, the will of the Lord Stewards and the will of the Department of Woods and Forests. Each department had a responsibility, one for the inside windows of the castle and the other for the outside windows. Consequently, both sides of the windows never got washed at the same time. It took a special meeting of both departments for that to happen, and that became increasingly difficult to arrange.

How difficult it is to turn loose of our will and surrender it to the Lord. We often wonder why we seldom stop to consider God's will. "Here is what we are going to do, God," we pray, "Bless me!"

A more effective prayer would be "Here is what I wish to do, Father. Nevertheless, not my will but your will be done. Bless me!"

1 Samuel 9:15—10:1; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Acts 7:30-43

ANGLICAN CYCLE: North Dakota (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Michael Smith; Athabasca (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Fraser Lawton; Juba (*South Sudan*) Vacant; Juba, The Rt Revd Fraser Yugu Elias, Assistant Bishop

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. MATTHEWS: birthdays of Josephine Brooks and Liz Gordon

by Lee Miller

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L., June G.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Woody S. & Bob C.

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