

Good News Daily

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Sunday, September 1

1 Kings 8:22-40 *Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire community of Israel. He lifted his hands toward heaven, and he prayed.* (vv.22-23a NLT)

I admit I have preconceived notions of what prayer should look and sound like. Here, it says Solomon was standing and his hands were lifted toward heaven. This picture looks a bit different from one who is seated with their head bowed and eyes closed, which is how I most often think of prayer.

The Bible is full of examples regarding prayer. Something that sticks out to me about this is the variety of postures, places and people who pray. There are private prayers and corporate prayers. Some are spoken loudly and some softly. Some involve weeping, and some are filled with happiness and joy.

When we pray, God is not concerned or interested in *how* we do it, but that we simply *do* it. We are free to cry out or be silent, open our eyes or close them, sit or stand, or pray alone or with others. How will you worship God through prayer today?

Psalms 148, 149, 150; 1 Timothy 4:7b-16; John 8:47-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, The Most Revd Justin Badi Arama – Bishop of Juba and Archbishop of the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John's, Decatur, The Very Rev Richard A. Swan, Rector; Isevia Parish Tanzania, Rev. Marko Kimashi, Rural Dean; The Mission of St. Matthew, San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru, The Rt. Rev. Jorge Águilar, and The Rev. Jerry Acosta; Birthday of Jacque, widow of The Rev. Canon William H. Moore, Jr. Wallace, NC.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Bill John's birthday.

Monday, September 2

Mark 14:53-65 *But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I AM. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."* (vv.61-62)

Jesus knew his time to be delivered over to death was at hand. He did not need to defend himself. He understood everything that was happening was fulfilling prophecy. He was confident that God would accomplish His plan concerning himself. He even declared, "I AM."

Along with knowing his own identity, Jesus knew that one day every knee would bow and confess that he is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). These very same people who condemned him to death, would one day see Jesus sitting at God's right hand and coming on the clouds when he returns again.

It is my prayer that I, too, would be able to stand with confidence when my faith is tested. I know in the end Jesus wins. Because I am his child I, too, am a winner. Today, I choose not to allow temporary circumstances to have the upper hand.

2 Chronicles 6:32—7:7; Psalm 25; James 2:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ondo (*Nigeria*) The Very Revd Stephen Oni; Calabar (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Tunde Adeleye; Kinshasa (*Congo*) The Rt Revd Achille Mutshindu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Holy Spirit, give us hearts to understand.

Tuesday, September 3

Psalm 28 *Praise the LORD! For he has heard my cry for mercy.* (v.6)

Sometimes my grandson, who is five years old, spends the night. He sleeps in a different room than I do, which is down the hall. Sometimes in the middle of the night, he will cry out, "Grandma!" Sometimes he has a scary dream and needs assurance. Other times, he just wants to know I am there for him if he needs me.

That's how I feel about God. He hears me whenever I call out to Him. He hears me concerning important matters as well as insignificant matters. He is always listening. Proverbs 15:29 reminds us, "he hears the prayer of the righteous."

Like a grandmother who keeps an open ear for her grandson, God is alert to my cry. I take comfort in knowing that I serve a mighty God who not only hears but sees and acts on my behalf.

1 Kings 8:65—9:9; Psalm 26; James 2:14-26; Mark 14:66-72

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ontario (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Michael Oulton; Calcutta (*North India*) The Rt Revd Probal Kanto Dutta

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Dede Dyson and Sarah Halt's birthdays.

Wednesday, September 4

James 3:1-12 *Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!* (vv.9-10)

My young grandson's ears are always listening, even when I don't think they are. If he hears me say the word "dumb" or "stupid," he quickly reminds me these are not kind words to say. Then, he urges me to use different words.

Like my grandson, the Holy Spirit also convicts me when I say or do things that are not pleasing to God. I get to choose. I can choose the way of the flesh or the way of the Spirit. I find when I slow down and think before I talk, it helps me to choose words wisely. Maybe that is why James also tells us to be quick to listen and slow to speak (1:19).

Thank You, God, for the power of Your Holy Spirit that alerts me *and* enables me to say and do the things that are pleasing to You.

1 Kings 9:24—10:13; Psalm 38; Mark 15:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Oqbo moso (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Titus Babtunde Olayinka; Caledonia (*Canada*) The Revd David TJ Lehmann; Calgary, The Most Revd Gregory Kerr-Wilson, The Rt Revd Sidney Glenn Black

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us insight, Lord, to understand and feel as others feel.

Thursday, September 5

1 Kings 11:1-13 *The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. (v.9)*

God was very good to Solomon. Over and over again, he had been blessed throughout his lifetime. This verse says God had even appeared to him twice. As we read, we see his downfall. It almost seems obvious that seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines was not a good idea! Yet, sin isn't always so obvious when it comes to our own lives.

My conscience was pricked as I thought of the many ways my own heart turns away from God without me even thinking about it. Like television. What am I filling my eyes and mind with? Who am I socializing with? Do I like to “re-tell” news about other people—gossip? Have I let my daily Bible reading go by the wayside?

It's good to examine ourselves and our hearts. Is there a place you have wandered to, away from God?

Psalms 37:1-18; James 3:13—4:12; Mark 15:12-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Oregon (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Michael Hanley; California, The Rt Revd Marc Andrus

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Matthew's, Bloomington, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1853; Birthday of Joyce, wife of The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Karanja, Hampton, VA.; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. James Muriuki and Jane Kamau, Cape Girardeau, MO.

Friday, September 6

Psalm 31 *I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul. (v.7)*

I struggle with depression at times. It is often hard for me to control my thoughts and feelings when I am battling a bout of it. The enemy comes at me full-force and seems to shout, “God does not care about you.” I know this is a lie. So, I answer back with Bible verses like the one in this psalm.

There is a big difference in simply knowing about something or actually caring about it. Satan would love for me to believe that God knows but doesn't really care. How I am comforted to know that God does indeed know about all my troubles and difficulties. God not only knows about them, He truly cares!

Jesus said God's word is truth (John 17:17). I choose to stand strong, clinging to the truth that God understands my anguish—whether it be daily troubles or depression. Like the psalmist, I will be glad and rejoice!

1 Kings 11:26-43; James 4:13—5:6; Mark 15:22-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Orlu (*Nigeria*) The Most Revd Bennett Okoro; Cameroon (*West Africa*) The Rt Revd Dibo Thomas-Babyngton Elango; Kirinyaga (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Joseph Kibichwa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, continue to bless us with your love.

Saturday, September 7

Mark 15:33-39 *And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. (v.38)*

It is amazing that the physical world and things in it were affected by the death of Jesus. We read that the actual physical curtain in the Temple was torn in two. This symbolized that through Christ's work on the cross, there was no longer a separation between God and humankind. I wonder what the priests of the Temple thought about this occurrence.

I am so grateful I do not have to witness the slaughtering of an animal for my sins to be dealt with. I do not need anyone or anything, other than Jesus, to give me access to God. There is only one mediator between God and man, and that is Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

I am free to come and go before a holy God because of Jesus. In fact, the Bible says I can even come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). There is no longer a barrier. Thank you, Jesus for your completed work of the cross. Share your thankfulness with God today.

1 Kings 12:1-20; Psalms 30, 32; James 5:7-12, 19-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Oru (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Geoffrey Chukwunenye; Canberra & Goulburn (*Australia*) The Rt Revd Mark Short, The Rt Revd Trevor Edwards, The Rt Revd Stephen Pickard

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, XI Bishop of Springfield.

by Pamela Newton

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L., Allan H., James G.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Daniel T., Justin P.

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