

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, September 15**

1 Kings 19:8-21 *Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. (vv.11b-12 NIV)*

I'm fascinated by the story of when God appeared to Elijah. He had a passion for God. He stood against idolatry. But he became depressed when he believed he was the only one left faithful to God. He thought when he was killed there would be no one left to serve God. However, Elijah would be led by an angel of the Lord to the mountain of God, where he would discover God was not only a God of the spectacular, He was "the still small voice," the sound of "gentle stillness." God was at work and Elijah's life would take a sudden turn.

Have you ever gone down one path in life when suddenly it swerved, and you find yourself heading to an unfamiliar destination? You leave life as you know it and find yourself in an unknown place, doing something you've never even thought of. More than once in my lifetime I've been left in wonder. It's then when I discover God's voice in the gentle stillness.

Psalms 24, 29; Acts 5:34-42; John 11:45-47

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Most Revd Dr Maimbo Mndolwa - Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Tanga

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Rantoul, The Rev. Steven Thorp, Vicar and the Rev. Ann Alley, Assisting Deacon; Tura Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Ernest Lugenzi; The Mission of Jesus Source of Life, District of Comas, Lima, Peru, Ms. Edith Varillas, Lay Minister; St. John's, Centralia, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1859; St. Thomas', Salem, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1859; Redeemer, Cairo, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1864.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Birthday of Bella Levine

### **Monday, September 16**

Matthew 4:1-11 *Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came to attend him. (vv.10-11)*

Jesus' temptations began *immediately* after he was baptized by John the Baptist. He would show his followers the power of Scripture as he battled the evil one. He resisted Satan. Then Jesus would defeat Satan with meaningful use of

Scripture. After fasting for forty days, he was hungry, tired, and no doubt discouraged. Each time Jesus answered Satan with the words, “It is written.” The evil one would finally leave him and angels would be allowed to minister to him.

Have you ever been in a situation where an unexpected circumstance sent you into turmoil? You got over the last traumatic life-event when your spouse got diagnosed with a fatal disease. Or, you lost your job and you’re unable to feed your children. You’re tired and distressed. Even depressed. Now, at your weakest point, Satan swoops down to shake your faith. But don’t despair. It’s then the Lord will send His angels on wings of eagles to tend your needs—angels in the form of family and friends, even strangers. “God sends his love and his faithfulness” (Psalm 57:3).

1 Kings 21:1-16; Psalms 56, 57, 58; 1 Corinthians 1:1-19

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Owerri (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Cyril Chukwunonyerem Okorocho; Central Ecuador (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Victor

Scantlebury; Kita Kanto (*Japan*) The Rt Revd Zerubbabel Katsuichi Hirota

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Philip M. Lewis, Pueblo, CO; and of The Very Rev. Richard A. Swan, Decatur; ; Birthday of Catherine, wife of The Rev. Jonathan P. Totty, Lincoln.

## **Tuesday, September 17**

1 Kings 21:17-29 *“I have found you,” he answered, “because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD. He says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you.’”* (vv.20b-21a)

When was the fear of God put on me? I cannot remember. My parents were not church goers, but my brother and I started going to Sunday School when we were in elementary school. At home, we were brought up knowing right from wrong. I truly believed if I committed a sin God would punish me, but who did I learn the phrase, “God will get you”? Mom was a gentle woman. She never would have said anything to scare us. Dad was a man of action and few words. I can only surmise I learned it in Sunday School. There I heard stories of God’s plagues as told in Exodus and Daniel in the lions’ den.

I always felt I belonged to God. “Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation” (Psalm 62:1 NKJV). As I grew older, I would see not only God’s punishment of evil, but His love, mercy, and grace written in His word and displayed in my life.

Psalms 61, 62; 1 Corinthians 1:20-31; Matthew 4:12-17

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Owo (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Stephen Ayodeji Fagbemi; Central Florida (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Gregory Brewer

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Save us and help us, we beseech thee O Lord.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Birthday of Kim Bray

## **Wednesday, September 18**

Psalm 72 *Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.* (vv.18-19)

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.” I once attended a small church in Oregon where the congregation was friendly. At the end of each service everyone joined hands. Our voices rang out as we swayed back and forth to the tune of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. The words were written by Jill Jackson-Miller while the melody was written by her husband Sy Miller in 1955. It was initially written for and sung by the International Children’s Choir and became a favorite at Christmas time. I read Jill Jackson-Miller was suicidal and wrote the lyrics when she discovered the “life-saving joy of God’s peace and unconditional love.” No matter what life-event we faced, we knew when we left the church it was with the love of God in our souls.

Over the years, some words of the lyrics have been altered to be politically correct. However, the composer’s words drawn from within remain the same. “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

1 Kings 22:1-28; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13; Matthew 4:18-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Oxford (England) The Rt Revd Steven Croft, The Rt Revd Colin William Fletcher, The Rt Revd Andrew Proud, The Rt Revd Alan Thomas Lawrence Wilson; Central Gulf Coast (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Russell Kendrick; Central Melanesia (*Melanesia*) The Most Revd George Takeli (*Primate*)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, renew our spirits, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Birthday of Devan Roberson

## **Thursday, September 19**

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:15 *...as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.* (vv.5b-6, 8)

I’m a member of the Oviedo Garden Club. As such, it’s assumed my gardens are well kept. After months of health problems and the summer humidity, I look out at weed-infested gardens in distress. Vegetables planted in early spring are overrun with weeds or dead. The butterfly garden continues to attract its purpose despite its disheveled state of chaos. The Cattleya Orchids in the oak trees have finished their annual bloom-fest leaving nothing to look at but an overgrown jungle of unknown species of growth and palm fronds. It’s all I can do to keep from grabbing the

machete. Then I notice vibrant violet buds on an orchid emerging from the jumble, or should I say *jungle*?

Every so often God delights me with a single red rose, or an orange gladiola rising from the mess, and I wonder, will God delight in me if even one fruit of His Spirit emerges from my muddled life?

Paul said the Lord assigned each of us a task, but He makes us grow in faith.

1 Kings 22:29-45; Psalms 70, 71; Matthew 5:1-10

*ANGLICAN CYCLE*: Oyo (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Williams Oluwarotimi Aladekugbe; Central New York (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd DeDe Duncan-Probe

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

### **Friday, September 20**

Psalm 69 *Answer me, LORD, out of the goodness of your love; in your mercy turn to me. Do not hide your face from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble, Come near and rescue me.* (vv.16-18a)

As an admirer of the psalms of David, I've always found his words pouring forth from his very soul to be comforting in my own times of trial. However, Psalm 69 baffles me. It begins with prayers to God for mercy and indicates unanswered prayers leading to a plea for God not to blame others for his sins. It immediately turns into what sounds to me as self-pity. Some study Bibles say this is a prophesy from David of the emotional and spiritual sufferings of Jesus Christ to come some thousand years in his future.

He then asks God for retribution on his enemies: "they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous" (v.28). After once more pleading for protection, he enters into praise and songs with thanksgiving. The psalm ends with what appears to be a prediction of Zion being saved and the cities of Judah being rebuilt.

Pain, remorse, self-pity, revenge, traits we all possess. God forgive us.

2 Kings 1:2-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:11-16

*ANGLICAN CYCLE*: Pacong (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Joseph Maker Atot; Central Newfoundland (*Canada*) The Rt Revd John Watton; Kitale (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Stephen Kewasis, The Rt Revd Samson Tuliapus

*DIOCESAN CYCLE*: Birthday of Mary Ann "Marv", wife of The Very Rev. Richard A. Swan, Decatur.

*ST. MATTHEW'S*: Birthday of Linda Stawick

## **Saturday, September 21**

2 Kings 2:1-18 *When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"* (v.18)

In this story, Elijah vanishes in a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak and went back to the river Jordan. He took the cloak and struck the water. As he did so, the river parted and he crossed over. The prophets from Jericho were watching and bowed before Elisha. They wanted to send 50 men to look for Elijah. "*Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley*" (v.16b). They persisted until he relented. The men searched for three days and when they returned Elisha said, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

Have you ever done something you've been told not to, then you must admit you made a wrong choice? Or, perhaps as a parent you told a child not to touch something and he or she did it anyway, only to suffer the consequences. It's human nature to want to open a door which says, "Do not enter." Be prepared for what's on the other side.

Psalms 75, 76; 1 Corinthians 4:1-7; Matthew 5:17-20

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Kiteto (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Isaiah Chambala; Kitgum (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Wilson Kitara; Kitui (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Josephat Mule  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Feast of Title, St. Matthew's, Bloomington.

*by Shirley J. Conley*

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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.