

Good News Daily

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Sunday, September 29

Acts 9:36-43 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. (v.40 NIV)

It was the power of the risen Christ working through Peter that brought Tabitha back from the dead. Stories like these from the Book of Acts reveal that Jesus, who is alive forevermore, continues to carry out his ministry of healing and restoration, bringing new life to our souls and bodies. Except that now, ours are the hands, feet, and voices through which he works. It's an awesome responsibility!

I was spiritually dead before I came to know Jesus. In my life-transforming encounter with the risen Christ, it was as though he took my hand and said, "Get up! Rise to new life in me." There are so many people in our world who are dying in their sins and desperately need salvation and the hope of resurrection. My ardent prayer is for them to come to know the Jesus who raises all of us from the dead.

2 Kings 17:1-18; Psalms 66, 67; Luke 5:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Episcopal Church, The Most Revd Michael Curry - Presiding Bishop

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon, the Very Rev. Ian C. Wetmore, Vicar; Tutuo Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Jonas Mkuyu, Vicar; The Mission of Santa Natividad, Yarabamba, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar. Feast of Title, St. Michael's, O'Fallon; The Rev Steven T. Thorp, Champaign, Ordination to the Priesthood.

Monday, September 30

Matthew 6:25-34 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" (v.25)

Remember the old Mad Magazine's fictitious character, Alfred E. Neuman, who was famous for his one-liner, "What, me worry?" I can relate. My husband, who has a phlegmatic personality, says, "I don't worry about something until I have to." As for me, it's, "I'll worry about something until I don't have to." As a Christian, I know that Jesus taught us we should not worry or be anxious about anything. Rather, we need to trust in and rely on him. But it's hard for those of us who are nervous people to start with. A friend of ours had a very nervous dog they actually named "Anxious." Again, I can relate.

But if we follow this teaching of Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount, maybe it would be easier to start with not fretting about food or clothing. Then, move on to not “anxiously” about bigger things (money, relationships, work, the future, etc.). After all, God can handle it!

2 Kings 17:24-41; Psalm 89:1-18; 1 Corinthians 7:25-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pelotas (*Brazil*) The Rt Revd Renato Da Cruz Raatz; Chelmsford (*England*) The Rt Revd Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell, The Rt Revd Peter Hill, The Rt Revd Roger Anthony Brett Morris, The Ven John Perumbalath
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord God, we ask for knowledge, but even more for imagination.

ST. MATTHEWS: Roger Thomas’ birthday

Tuesday, October 1

Psalm 100 *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.* (vv.1-2)

I love the processional hymn with which our church opens worship because of the joy I feel permeating the sanctuary as I walk down the aisle following the crucifer, the choir, the Gospel bearer, and the acolytes. Every Sunday, we “come before Him with joyful songs” and that always lifts my spirits, such that I delight to “worship the Lord with gladness.” In our parish, the joy we experience in worship extends to the fellowship, the office work, and even our Vestry meetings. We love, laugh, and have fun with each other.

And yet, there are Christians who go about looking glum and dour, and churches that simply feel “dead” when one goes to worship there. We Christians serve a living Lord who came that we might “have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). So, let us find reasons to rejoice, that others may want to come to know “the Lord of the Dance.” In Jesus’ “blessed are...” sayings in the Beatitudes, he uses the Greek word *makarios*, which also means “happy.” In Christ, we can be both “blessed” and “happy”!

2 Chronicles 29:1-3, 30:1-27; Psalms 97, 99; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40; Matthew 7:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pennsylvania (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Daniel Gutierrez; Chester (*England*) The Rt Revd Peter Robert Forster, The Rt Revd Libby Lane, The Rt Revd Keith Sinclair.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Father of all, accept our thanks for the joys of family and life.

ST. MATTHEWS: Char Wald’s birthday

Wednesday, October 2

2 Kings 18:9-25 *The field commander said to them, “Tell Hezekiah: ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours?’”* (v.19)

Good question. On what do we base our confidence? The Assyrian king goes on to taunt Hezekiah, the King of Judah, “But if you say to me, ‘We are depending on the Lord our God’—isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem’”? In fact, Hezekiah had destroyed the idolatrous altars not dedicated to the worship of Israel’s true God. He also refused to pay tribute to Assyria. So, King Sennacherib was trying to use Hezekiah’s reforms against him, to divide (and conquer) the people.

The pagan monarch failed to understand that Israel’s God was not confined to Jerusalem, or any altar erected to Him. Israel’s king and people could have confidence in their God because He was with them everywhere, even when they were forced into exile. Today we, too, can place our confidence in this same good and loving, omnipresent God.

Psalms 101, 109; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Matthew 7:13-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Perth (*Australia*) The Most Revd Kay Goldsworthy; Perth (*Australia*) The Rt Revd Jeremy James, The Rt Revd Kate Wilmot; Chhattisgarh (*North India*) The Rt Revd Robert Ali; Chicago (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Jeffrey Lee.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Dr. Gregory A. Tournoux, Springfield.
ST. MATTHEWS: Julie Bennett’s birthday

Thursday, October 3

Psalms 105:1-22 *Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced...* (vv.4-5a)

The famous Dutch Catholic priest, Henri Nouwen, once wrote, “Perhaps nothing helps us make the movement from our little selves to a larger world than remembering God in gratitude. Such a perspective puts God in view in all of life, not just in the moments we set aside for worship or spiritual disciplines. Not just in the moments when life seems easy.”

It’s easier to remember God’s goodness and thank Him when things are going well. But can we remember to do that when we’re in the trenches, trying to fight our way out of worry, fear, or depression? For a while, I tried to keep track of God’s blessings by writing them down. But that became too tedious. Instead, I just started trying to remember them as I was driving my hour-long commute. It was a wonderful way “look to the Lord” and “seek His face.” Try it sometime!

2 Kings 18:28-37; 1 Corinthians 9:1-15; Matthew 7:22-29

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Peru (*South America*) The Rt Revd Jorge Luis Aguilar; Chichester (*England*) The Rt Revd Martin Warner, The Revd Richard Charles Jackson, The Rt Revd Mark Sowerby.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: All Saints, Morton, Admitted to the Diocese, 1964; St. Christopher's, Rantoul, Admitted to the Diocese, 1964; Birthday of The Rev. Ann Tofani, San Tan Valley, Arizona.

ST. MATTHEWS: Sue & William Jones' wedding anniversary

Friday, October 4

Matthew 8:1-17 *A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. (vv.2-3)*

Whenever I read this passage, I'm always amazed that the ailing man would question Jesus' willingness to see him healed. And I've heard Christians praying at hospital bedsides, "Lord, if You are willing, please heal [this person]." Call me naïve, but the way I understand Jesus and his ministry, He was—and is—always willing for his children to be healed. The difficulty is that we have to trust our Lord for the means, timing, and nature of that healing. In fact, we may have to accept that death is the ultimate healing.

At our Vacation Bible School last summer, when the children were asked about times they knew God had listened to them, one girl said she had prayed for her grandma, "And she got well." She also prayed for a neighbor. "Did he get better?" asked a little boy. "Much better!" the child exclaimed, "He went to heaven!"

2 Kings 19:1-20; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Peshawar (*Pakistan*) The Most Revd Humphrey Peters (*Primate*); Chotanagpur (*North India*) The Rt Revd B. B. Baskey; Koforidua (*West Africa*) The Rt Revd Felix Odei Annancy.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: May God be merciful to us and bless us.

ST. MATTHEWS: birthday of Jeffrey Clark

Saturday, October 5

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (v.13)*

I've heard it said that people often take comfort from this Scripture verse by misinterpreting it as "God won't give you more than you can handle." Then they wonder why they feel so overwhelmed at times, and God doesn't seem to be helping.

But perhaps that's not a wrong understanding, since the Greek word for "temptation" can also mean "testing." We could, therefore, read the second part as "when you are tested, God will provide a way out so that you can endure." When we have faith and ask God for His help, it does seem to happen that way.

While Jesus never promised us a rose garden, he did promise us, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20 TLB). So, even when we are tested (or tempted) and fail (or fall), Jesus is right there to forgive us, pick us up, soothe our ruffled feathers, and set us on the right path again. He knows our every weakness, sympathizes, and can help. All we need to do is call on him.

2 Kings 19:21-36; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Matthew 8:18-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Peterborough (*England*) The Rt Revd Donald Spargo Allister, The Rt Revd John Holbrook; Christ the King (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd William Mostert.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Jesus Christ our Lord, draw us into the orbit of you whenever we become lost and are led astray.

ST. MATTHEWS: Charles Gordon's birthday

by The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker

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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.