

*Good News Daily*

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**Sunday, October 13**

Psalm 146 *The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are weighed down.* (v.8 NLT)

In the great 1986 comedy movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, a high schooler skips school for a day. His reason: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Thirty plus years later, Ferris' words ring truer than ever. Life does move fast—frighteningly so. If you don't stop and look around, you miss so much of God's creation. The writer of Psalm 146 asks the Lord to open blind eyes and lift burdens. In other words, help us not to speed through life blindly, but take time to enjoy the strange, beautiful, and sometimes wacky adventures the Lord sends our way.

While Our Father isn't advocating skipping school (at least not often), He does want us to occasionally open our blind eyes, breathe deeply, and take a "Day Off" to enjoy His wonderful world—and maybe to dance on a parade float singing "Danke Schoen."

Jeremiah 36:1-10; Psalm 147; Acts 14:8-18; Luke 7:36-50

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for the Church of the Province of West Africa, The Most Revd Dr Daniel Sarfo - Primate & Metropolitan, CPWA; Archbishop of the Internal province of Ghana and Bishop of Kumasi.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Mark's Episcopal Church, W. Frankfort, The Very Rev. Sheryl L. Black, Priest in Charge; Sikonge Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Denis Lawrence, Vicar; The Youth Home: Casa Hogar Sagrada Familia, Arequipa, Peru, Rev'd Daniel Rodriguez, Chaplain. St. Barnabas', Havana, Consecration of church building, 1887; Birthday of The Rev. David J. Halt, Bloomington.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Happy birthday to Robert Wolfe and Fr. Dave.

**Monday, October 14**

Psalm 3 *I cried out to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy mountain.* (v.4)

This week I got into big trouble. With the best intentions (always a red flag), I created a mess entirely of my own making, which I was also entirely unable to fix. I won't go into the embarrassing details but suffice to say I spent a lot of time crying out to the Lord for help. And He, through His unbelievable grace, rescued me.

When David wrote the song we call Psalm 3, he was also running from a mess entirely of his own making. His son Absalom had usurped the throne in

response to David's terrible handling of a family crime (see 2 Samuel 13 for details). King David knew that his family, his people, and the Lord had every right to kick him to the curb. Yet he cried out to God for help, and God answered him by restoring David to the throne.

Some people get angry when God doesn't grant their requests, but I'm more astonished that He grants any of them. Neither David nor I deserved mercy, but Christ graciously extended it. Thank You, Lord!

Jeremiah 36:11-26; Psalms 1, 2; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Matthew 10:5-15  
*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Portsmouth (*England*) The Rt Revd Christopher Foster;  
Colorado (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Kym Lucas; Kongor (*South Sudan*)  
The Rt Revd Gabriel Thuch Agot.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals.

## **Tuesday, October 15**

Jeremiah 36:27—37:2 *So Jeremiah took another scroll and dictated again to his secretary, Baruch. He wrote everything that had been on the scroll King Jehoiakim burned in the fire. Only this time he added much more!* (v.32)

There is a wonderful website called the "Wayback Machine." This site, in a nod to the excellent Mr. Peabody cartoons, has archived websites since 2001. It "crawls" the Internet, takes screenshots of websites, and saves them for posterity. That's it. But that is enough. Recently a newscaster deleted a series of derogatory blogs, and thought they were gone forever. But the "Wayback Machine" had saved a copy of the pages and she had to admit the truth of what she'd written.

God has his own version of the "Wayback Machine." Despicable King Jeremiah thought he was scot-free when he burned Jeremiah's prophecy, but God just re-dictated it and re-sent it to the king. He even added to it!

If you believe the Lord has forgotten your past wounds, fear not. He has a "Wayback Machine" far more powerful than anything man-made. He remembers you, and He will enact justice. Count on it!

Psalms 5, 6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12; Matthew 10:16-23  
*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pretoria (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Allan John Kannemeyer; Concepcion (*Chile*) The Rt Revd Enrique Lago Zugadi.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, help me not be too busy to listen to anyone who is in trouble and to help anyone who is in difficulty.

## **Wednesday, October 16**

Psalms 119:1-24 *Even princes sit and speak against me, but I will meditate on your decrees. Your laws please me; they give me wise advice.* (vv.23-24)

One thing the Healing Ministry taught me is the importance of “boundaries.” So many problems in our lives, souls, and spirits are caused by other people breaking through our proper and sacred boundaries.

Psalm 119 shows an example of this. “Princes” are speaking against me. Maybe they are saying I should keep giving to others when my own tank is running low, or listen to a drama-queen friend who never listens to me, or put my own needs behind the needs of everyone else because “it’s the Christian thing to do.” These not only lead to burnout, they are unbiblical.

God doesn’t want us to listen to these gadflies; He wants us to meditate on His laws and take their wise advice. The Lord’s word is full of ways to protect our God-given boundaries. Listen to *His* word, not to the discouraging “princes.”

Jeremiah 37:3-21; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25; Matthew 10:24-33

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Puerto Rico (*The Episcopal Church*) The Revd Rafael Morales Maldonado,

The Rt Revd Wilfrido Ramos Orench; Connecticut (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Ian Douglas, The Rt Revd Laura Ahrens; Connor (*Ireland*) The Rt Revd Alan Francis Abernethy.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Matthew’s, Bloomington, Consecration of church building, 1955; Birthday of Mary, wife of The Rev. Canon Timothy J. Hallett, Bloomington, IN.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Pam & Roy Laws wedding anniversary.

### **Thursday, October 17**

Matthew 10:34-42 “*If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine.*” (v.37a)

One afternoon, a beautiful young woman walked into the Healing Ministry for prayer. She had recently graduated from college and told me that she’d finally admitted her love for Jesus to her family. I didn’t think this sounded like a problem until she tearfully told me her family was Muslim. When she confessed her newfound faith, they turned their backs on her. She no longer had a family.

I was able to remind her that Jesus warned his disciples (and, through their writings, also warned us) that they might lose our earthly friends and family when they followed him. We prayed together that she would find a church home that would be her new family. It cheered her greatly.

It costs us to take up the cross, and sometimes it costs us everything—including the affection of those we love. But it is a price well worth paying.

Jeremiah 38:1-13; Psalm 18:1-20; 1 Corinthians 14:26-33a, 37-40

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pune (*North India*) The Rt Revd Sharad Yuvraj Gaikwad; Cork, Cloyne & Ross (*Ireland*) The Rt Revd William Paul Colton.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, may we always walk in your light, be nourished by your food, sustained by your mercy, and warmed by your love.

### **Friday, October 18**

Psalm 17 *By the power of your hand, O LORD, destroy those who look to this world for their reward. But satisfy the hunger of your treasured ones. May their children have plenty, leaving an inheritance for their descendants.* (v.14)

In the 1920's, a young animator created a popular cartoon character named "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit." The young man thought this character would bring him fame and fortune—until a change at the studio left him without a job and without his famous character. He was robbed of his successful future by "those who look to this world for their reward."

On the long, sad train ride home, the discouraged young animator began to doodle around with another cartoon character—a little mouse with a big attitude. He didn't give up hope. And that's how Walt Disney's greatest character, Mickey Mouse, was born.

In Psalm 17, young David had also been robbed of his future—his anointed kingship—by Saul, but he looked to the Lord for support. He didn't give up hope. And that's how his dynasty was born.

Jeremiah 38:14-28; Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 11:1-6  
*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Qu'Appelle (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Robert Hardwick; Costa Rica (*Central America*) The Revd Orlando Gomez; Kontagora (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Jonah Ibrahim.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Feast of Title, St. Luke's, Springfield; Birthday of The Rev. Richard I. Lewis, Danville, and The Rev. Beth H. Maynard, Champaign. Pray for the 142<sup>nd</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Springfield, convening in Alton.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Happy birthday to Brea Brenneman.

### **Saturday, October 19**

2 Kings 25:8-12, 22-26 *On August 14 of that year, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard and an official of the Babylonian king, arrived in Jerusalem. He burned down the Temple of the Lord, the royal palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem. He destroyed all the important buildings in the city.* (vv.8-9)

This passage tells of one of the most devastating events of the ancient world—the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Solomon's magnificent temple, which had been a center of worship for over 400 years, was obliterated along with the rest of the city. Much of the population was dragged away to slavery in Babylon.

This was destruction on a massive scale—think 9/11, except that it happened to every building in New York. Nothing was left of this glorious city. Yet even this was part of God’s plan for His people.

During the Exile in Babylon, the history of the Jews was written down for the first time—words that can be read today in the Old Testament. Daniel surviving the lion’s den and his three friends being protected in the fiery furnace—these miracles happened during the Exile. What had begun in disaster eventually ended in freedom and a renewed sense of purpose for the Lord’s people.

When you face tough times, remember that Christ hasn’t abandoned you. Facing hardships might just be the beginning of a tremendous future!

Psalms 20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:12-29; Matthew 11:7-15

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Quebec (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Bruce Myers; Coventry (*England*) The Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, The Rt Revd John Stroyan; Krishna-Godavari (*South India*) The Rt Revd George Cornelious Tantepudi.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev. Dr. John F. Wall, West Columbia, S.C.; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Timothy A. and Carol Goodman, Johnston City. Pray for the 142<sup>nd</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Springfield, concluding in Alton.

*by Ruth Owen*

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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.