

Good News Daily

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Sunday, November 17

Acts 28:14b-23 From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. (vv.23b-24 ESV)

Have you ever tried to speak to someone about Jesus? It can be very challenging, especially if it is someone you are close with; I know it is for me. I would recommend you inquire of the Lord first, as David did in today's reading (1 Chronicles 14:10). Then he trusted and obeyed (v.16a) and the Lord went before him in battle and the Philistines were defeated and the fame of David went out into all the lands. I suspect it was similar for Paul as he experienced the obstacles to God's grace: the world, the flesh, and the devil. It took me a long time to learn that before you talk with someone about Jesus, talk to Jesus about that someone. Let the Holy Spirit go before you and do the battle; it's his job not ours, anyway.

Our job is to pass on the Good News. Every week at our Tuesday Evening Healing Service, inevitably, someone has some good news to share regarding what Jesus is doing in their life or the life of someone they know. It's very encouraging to everyone and we can all praise God as the psalmist did in today's readings.

1 Chronicles 14:1-17; Psalms 66, 67; Luke 16:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury).

The Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano - Bishop of Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Robinson; Nkulusi Parish, Rev. Andrea Anania, Vicar; The mission of Tariachi, Santisima Cruz De Maravillas, Peru Rev'd Luis Vizcarra.

Monday, November 18

Revelation 20:7-15 This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (vv.14b-15)

Could the second death be spiritual death, the antithesis of living forever? The first death we experience is physical death. The batting average is 1000. No one has beat it yet and no one ever will. Then, if your name is not in the Book of Life, you will be thrown into the lake of fire. It's hard for me to grasp a lake of fire, but it is not where I would want to be. I'd rather be assured, and I am, my name is written in

the book. Born twice; die once. Born once; die twice. Dying twice is physical and spiritual death. Dying once is only physical death; spiritually you live forever in the kingdom, praising the King. Jesus even said in John 3:3, “you must be born again...to enter the kingdom of God.” If you are not absolutely sure, ask someone for help. If no one else can or will help, I will. Your only obligation is to receive.

1 Chronicles 15:1-29; Psalm 89:1-18; Matthew 17:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Saldanha Bay (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Raphael Hess; Duk (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Daniel Deng Abot, The Rt Revd Thomas Tut Gany.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: God of small beginnings, you bring strength out of weakness and hope out of fear.

Tuesday, November 19

Matthew 17:14-21 *He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”* (v.20)

Oh to have faith. What is faith anyway? Scripture tells us: “The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see” (Hebrews 1:1 *The Message*). So, to have faith is to trust in God, be sure of what you hope for, and certain of what you cannot see.

How do you trust someone you cannot see? That’s called faith. God has revealed Himself in His Word. If you want to increase your faith, read the Bible, try little things first, and let yourself grow. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. Associate with other believers. It’s the only book that will tell you someone died for you so you might live.

1 Chronicles 16:7-36; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Revelation 21:1-8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Salisbury (*England*) The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, The Rt Revd Edward Condry, The Rt Revd Karen Gorham; Dunedin (*Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia*) The Rt Revd Steven Benford.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, helps us to see that true wisdom shows itself by simplicity, and true power shows itself by modesty.

Wednesday, November 20

Revelation 21:9-21 *The city lies foursquare; its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel’s measurement.* (vv.16-17)

Can you imagine a city in the form of a cube, each side about 1,400 miles in length, width, and depth? Can you imagine a 200-foot thick wall surrounding the city? That's a tough one for me to get my arms around. But Scripture also tells us, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Heaven is a place so beautiful that when John caught a glimpse of it, the only thing he could relate it to was a young bride on the crowning day of her life—her wedding day. "Having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal" (v.11); "The foundations of the city were decorated with every kind of precious stone" (v.19); "...the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass." (v.21b). Imagine what we deem so precious a metal today, gold, being pavement in heaven.

Scripture's emphasis is not on heaven's beauty, but it's joy. We read a couple of days ago, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away'" (v.3-4).

These verses tell us that heaven will be a home that is happy because there will be nothing in it to defile it: "Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will be there. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does detestable or false things" (v.27).

Who could ask for more?

1 Chronicles 20:1-8; Psalms 101, 109; Matthew 17:22-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sambalpur (*North India*) The Rt Revd Pinuel Dip; Dunkwa-on-Offin (*West Africa*) The Rt Revd Edmund Dawson Ahmoah; Durgapur (*North India*) The Rt Revd Probal Kanto Dutta.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ann H. Tofani, San Tan Valley, AZ, Ordination to the Priesthood.

Thursday, November 21

Psalm 105:1-22 *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!* (vv.1-2)

One of my most enjoyable times of the Healing Service is when folks stand up and give thanks to God and make known his deeds among the peoples! It doesn't have to be anything big like being curing of a cancerous brain tumor or improvement of neurological conditions—it can be as simple as relief of pain, or finding a job, or being reconciled in a relationship. Each testimony, in its own way, brings encouragement to those in attendance.

Later in Psalm 105, we are told to “Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his presence continually” (v.4). Why? Because when seek His strength, we can admit our weaknesses. When we seek His presence continually, we are less apt to sin.

Then we are told, “Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles” (v.5). Since I know the Lord never changes, I can be assured if He has helped in the past He will continue to help in the future—in even bigger ways. It’s all about an attitude of gratitude for His mercy: not getting what we deserve, and His grace: getting what we don’t deserve. Tell others of all His wonderful works.

1 Chronicles 21:1-27; Revelation 21:22—22:5; Matthew 18:1-9

ANGLICAN CYCLE: San Diego (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori;

Durham (*England*) The Rt Revd Paul Butler, The Rt Revd Mark Watts Bryant.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O God, in my busyness of today, help me not to be so busy that I miss the most important things.

Friday, November 22

Revelation 22:6-13 “*And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*” (vv.7, 12-13)

Those three verses are Jesus speaking. The simple message of the Old Testament is that Jesus is coming. The simple message of the New Testament is Jesus is here. There are really only two things that separate Christianity from other world religions. First, all the other religions say you have to somehow earn your way to heaven. Christianity says the payment has already been made by Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins. Secondly, if you visit the gravesite of any of the founders of other world religions you will find their remains in the coffin, crypt, tomb, or however they are customarily buried. In the case of Christianity, there are no bones in the box. That’s because Jesus is risen and alive. On top of all that, he’s coming back.

1 Chronicles 22:1-19; Psalm 102; Matthew 18:10-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: San Joaquin (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd David Rice; Dutse (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Markus Yohanna Danbinta; Kyoto (*Japan*) The Rt Revd Stephen Takashi Kochi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Thomas W. Langford, Springfield, Ordination to the Diaconate; Birthday of The Rev. Canon Timothy J. Hallett, Bloomington, IN.

Saturday, November 23

Isaiah 65:17-25 “*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*” (v.17)

Jesus is coming back. We read earlier about the New Jerusalem and how beautiful this new creation of God will be (Revelation 21:9-21). We also read God would be our God and we would be his people. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:3). Several hundred years before John was writing Revelation, Isaiah was prophesying about it.

The more I dig into the Scriptures, the more I realize how much I don't know. But Jesus is a patient teacher and he is always there. Where he was concealed in the Old Testament, he is revealed in the New Testament.

Even though we may face a tough situation in this world—physically, mentally, or emotionally—we were never promised a rose garden. Just remember: the retirement plan in the next life is out of this world. So it is, so it shall be.

Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Revelation 22:14-21; Matthew 18:21-35

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Santiago (*Chile*) The Rt Revd Hector Zavala Muñoz; Santiago (*Philippines*) The Rt Revd Frenzel Ray P Piluden.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: We give you thanks, O God, that you have made us in your own image and redeemed us through Christ Jesus your Son.

by Richard Mead

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

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

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.