

Good News Daily

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Sunday, December 1

Psalm 146 *Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!* (v.1 NASB)

The psalmist recounts God's goodness in giving food to the hungry, setting the prisoners free, and opening the eyes of the blind. We can add all our blessings to this list: life, health, and strength, faith, family, friends, food, clothes, shelter, and on and on.

The psalmist says, "How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God" (v.5). Truly, we have experienced that through all of life's ups and downs. The Lord is our Abundant Helper and will never leave us or forsake us. We are blessed because our help is in the name of the Lord.

Thank You, Father God, that You protect us and help us.

Amos 1:1-5, 13—2:8; Psalm 147; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Luke 21:5-19

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. James Chapel, Marion, The Rev. Cn. Dale Coleman, Interim; Kalemela Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Gideon Kalumiye, Vicar; The mission posts of the villages of Choco, Cañon de Colca, Peru, Rev'd Justo Maque Deacon. Paul R. Dicks, Pewaukee, WI; Daniel N. Karanja, Hampton, VA; and Charles J. Reischman, Littleton, CO Ordination to the Priesthood.

Monday, December 2

Psalm 1 *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!* (v.1)

Notice the progression of how someone can be drawn into sin and unbelief. First comes walking in the counsel of the wicked, then stopping to stand in the path of sinners, followed by sitting down in the seat of scoffers.

Martin Luther said about sin—we can't stop birds from flying over us, but we can stop them from making nests in our hair. In other words, temptations will come, but we don't have to give them a place in our thoughts or actions.

The psalmist says our delight should be in the law of the Lord so that all we do my prosper.

Thank you, Lord, that You help us walk in Your ways and keep Your commandments.

Amos 2:6-16; Psalms 2, 3; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Matthew 21:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Seoul (*Korea*) The Rt Revd Peter Lee; Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Geoffrey Peddle.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, we pray for those who suffer through poverty, malnutrition, or disease.

Tuesday, December 3

Psalm 5 *Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray.* (vv.1-2)

Some days everything seems to go wrong, and we cry out to the Lord for help. We need the assurance of His lovingkindness and mercy.

The psalmist assures us that all who take refuge in God can be glad and sing for joy because He shelters them (v.11). He does hear us and help us!

Thank You, Lord, for Your protection and loving care.

Amos 3:1-11; Psalm 6; 2 Peter 1:12-21; Matthew 21:12-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Seychelles (*Indian Ocean*) The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song (*Primate*); Eastern Oregon (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Patrick Bell.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Bartholomew's, Granite City, Admitted to the Diocese, 1900; St. Luke's, Springfield, Admitted to the Diocese, 1890; Birthday of The Rev. Phillip D. Boeve, Deerfield, WI.

Wednesday, December 4

Psalm 119:1-24 *How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.* (v.1)

The psalmist says the blessed are those who seek God with all their heart and walk in His ways. Does that accurately describe you and me—or are we mostly Sunday morning Christians? Do we treasure God's word in our hearts and obey His commands, or seek our own selfish ways? Can it be said about us, "See how they love one another?"

Dear Lord, help me to walk the Jesus way.

Amos 3:12—4:5; 2 Peter 3:1-10; Matthew 21:23-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sheffield (*England*) The Rt Revd Pete Wilcox, The Rt Revd Peter Burrows;

Eastern Zambia (*Central Africa*) The Rt Revd William Mchombo; Easton (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Santosh Marray.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Kitty, wife of The Rev. Robert Harmon, Mt. Vernon.

Thursday, December 5

Psalm 18:1-20 *"I love You, O Lord, my strength." The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.* (vv.1-2)

As we prepare for Christmas, let us lean on the Lord. Things can get hectic in December as we try to do all the cards and gifts and parties and programs. Let us make quiet time to rest in Him and draw on His strength.

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and homes to again welcome the Christ child and make him our honored guest.

Come into my heart and home, Lord Jesus.

Amos 4:6-13; 2 Peter 3:11-18; Matthew 21:33-46

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shinyanga (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Johnson Chinyong'ole; Eau Claire (*The Episcopal Church*) The Revd William Jay Lambert.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, purify our conscience by your daily visitation.

Friday, December 6

Psalm 16 *You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.* (v.11)

Walking in God's way is a recipe for joy and pleasures. Walking in the world's way is a recipe for trouble and sorrow. But why are we so slow in obeying God and walking in his ways?

It seems we always want to try the wrong way first, and then, after we've been hurt, we'll finally try God's way. Can't take His warnings seriously?

Help me to walk in Your ways, dear Lord.

Amos 5:1-17; Psalm 17; Jude 1-16; Matthew 22:1-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shyira (*Rwanda*) The Most Revd Laurent Mbanda (*Primate*); Edinburgh (*Scotland*) The Rt Revd John Armes.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O LORD, teach us your paths and instill in us your trust – that we may soar to your honor and glory.

Saturday, December 7

Matthew 22:15-22 *Then He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."* (v.21b)

Today as we remember Pearl Harbor, we thank God for protecting our nation despite our many problems and troubles. We are grateful for the freedom to worship as we please and enjoy God's blessings.

Many other nations do not honor God as we do in our Pledge of Allegiance and other documents. May we always honor God first of all.

Thank You, Lord, that we live in a free country and can worship You as we please.

Amos 5:18-27; Psalms 20, 21; Jude 17-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shyira (*Rwanda*) The Rt Revd Samuel M Mugisha; Edmonton (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Jane Alexander.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Shane A. Spellmeyer, Dollar Bay, MI.

by Jacqueline Littleford

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

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Charlie C.

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.