

Good News Daily

Volume XX

March 8–14, 2020

Number 10

Sunday, March 8

John 5:19-24 *Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”* (v.19 NIV)

Jesus’ union with the Father is a great mystery and can only be explained as divine. God’s desire is for us to love and be with Him now and for eternity; a desire fulfilled and demonstrated in Jesus. Our greatest need is forgiveness and restoration to God; something we could not do on our own. In Jesus, God’s deepest desire and our greatest need are met. Jesus unites the Creator with His creation in one great outpouring of divine love.

In John’s Gospel we see Jesus calling the disciples, clearing the temple, teaching Nicodemus, challenging the Samaritan woman, and healing the people. He does exactly what the Father wanted. This is God incarnate: God among us, revealing Himself to us. This is Jesus.

Author Philip Yancey says in his book *The Jesus I Never Knew*, “I now see that Jesus’ entire life stands or falls on his claim to be God. I cannot trust his promised forgiveness unless he has the authority to back up such an offer.”

We can be forever thankful that the offer is for life abundant.

Genesis 41:14-45; Psalms 24, 29; Romans 6:3-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo, The Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda - Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kindu.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Christ the King, Normal; Kalemela Parish: Vacant, Urambo, Tanzania; The Mission of St. Andrew and Urban Mission Cipriani, District of Puente Piedra, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Benjamin Salas, Priest in charge; Birthday of the Rev David L. Wells, Springfield.

Monday, March 9

Psalms 64 *They shoot from ambush at the innocent man; they shoot at him suddenly, without fear.* (v.4)

All of us have bad days. Many of us go through seasons that are bad, where life seems to be a giant joke and we are the punchline. The psalmist knew what it was like to be the object of disdain and to have plots set against him. He knew the feeling of being alone and feeling God is far away. What do we do when it seems we are being ambushed? What are we to do when God seems far away?

The response of the psalmist is a great lesson. First, he prayed to God (v.1). This took the form of a complaint, which is simple, honest prayer. Secondly, he requested protection and sought the refuge of God (v.2). And lastly, he placed his trust in the power and righteousness of God (vv.7-10).

We will have bad times. We may wonder how we will endure. In the midst of this, may we strive to be honest in prayer. Let us seek God's help and remember He has not abandoned us. John Wesley said, "It is precisely when our sufferings most abound that the consolation of God's Spirit abounds [most]." You are not alone. God is with you always.

Genesis 41:46-57; Psalms 56, 57,58; 1 Corinthians 4:8-21; Mark 3:7-19a
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maridi (South Sudan), The Right Revd Moses Zungo; Udi (Nigeria), The Right Revd Chjioke Augustine Aneke; Highveld (Southern Africa), The Right Revd Charles Mthetheleli May.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Anniversary of the organization of the Diocese of Illinois at Peoria, 1835; Trinity Church, Jacksonville, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1835; Birthday of Patricia, wife of The Very Rev Richard I. Lewis, Danville.

Tuesday, March 10

Genesis 42:1-17 *Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.* (v.6)

Can you imagine Joseph's thoughts as he finds himself face to face with his brothers? Can you feel his heart jump? I wonder how many times he imagined meeting them. What would he say to those who had hated him enough to betray and sell him into slavery?

This is the moment of decision. Joseph has significant power; notice his brothers bow down before him. This reminds Joseph of his dream (Genesis 37:5-7). He tells them he thinks they are spies and has them send for Benjamin, perhaps to test their honesty. He puts the rest into prison. They haven't a clue this is their brother, Joseph.

By human standards Joseph has every right to exact revenge. His brothers severely wronged him. But he doesn't. In fact, later in the book, they are reconciled. But do not miss the fact this is grace at work. Could we not replace the cast with us as the brothers and God as the judge?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his *The Cost of Discipleship*, said, "Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and contrite heart."

Psalms 61, 62; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Mark 3:19b-35
ANGLICAN CYCLE Ughelli (Nigeria), The Right Revd Cyril Odutemu; Ho (West Africa), The Right Revd Matthias Mededues-Badohu.

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

Wednesday, March 11

Psalm 119:73-96 *Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.* (v.73)

In our society we thrive on control and choice. Tonight, at the grocery store, I went to buy a bag of rice. There were at least 30 kinds of rice! We love choice. There is a sense that when we have choice, we have control. And in control we often find comfort. But there is also a deep sense that we are out of control. There is a sense that we are not *who* we should be.

Well, we are not who we should be. Sin is the root of that issue, but it is not the end. The psalmist says God formed us. We are His. It isn't that we aren't working or aren't intelligent. Sometimes however, we fail to remember who we belong to.

The psalmist acknowledges the hands that formed him and then prays for understanding. He understood that the one who knew him best, could also teach him how to best live.

The key to God's commands lie in the fact they provide for us, because they were designed for us. As we come to understand them in the light of God's purpose for us, we begin to see the provision, wisdom, and love with which they are given.

Genesis 42:18-28; Psalm 72; 1 Corinthians 5:9—6:8; Mark 4:1-20
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Marsabit (Kenya), The Right Revd Daniel Qampicha;
Ukhahlamba (Southern Africa), The Right Revd Moses Madywabe.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to walk in your way more trustfully.

Thursday, March 12

Mark 4:21-34 *For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.* (v.22)

Jesus has just finished explaining the parable of the four soils. At the end of that parable he describes the good soil, which when seeded, produced a large crop. He then says to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed?" (v.21).

He is continuing the thought from the previous parable. The seed that takes root produces a crop. Likewise, the lamp, which is placed on its stand, gives light to the room. The soil and the lamp represent us!

When we take root in our new life in Christ, we are "lit." We are meant to be light in a dark world. Additionally, as we discover our previously "hidden" gifts and talents, we are to "shine" them to the world. Our gifts do not exist for ourselves alone. They enable us to take the light of Christ to the world. What a wondrous thing

to know—that your gifts, when shared, will bring love to another in the name of Christ.

Genesis 42:29-38; Psalms 70, 71; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maryland (The Episcopal Church), The Right Revd Eugene Sutton; Ukwa (Nigeria), The Right Revd Samuel Kelechi Eze; Umuahia, The Most Revd Ikechi Nwachukwu Nwosu.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- *Celtic Charm*.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthdays of Martha Lakin and Roy Laws.

Friday, March 13

Mark 4:35-41 *He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"* (v.40)

When I was a pilot, I took a trip with a good friend. We had stopped to eat lunch at an airport about an hour from home. When we were ready to leave, the sky was ominous. A thunderstorm was approaching—fast.

“Let’s wait,” I told him. He (also a pilot) looked at the weather report and confidently said we could make it. Thirty minutes later, while fighting violent turbulence as we flew through the storm, I reminded him it was *his* fault we were in this predicament.

I imagine the disciples were feeling something similar. It was Jesus’ idea to get in the boat! They turned to him for help. Jesus calmed the waves then challenged their hearts: “Do you still have no faith?”

Thomas `a Kempis said, “Greater is thy anxiety for me than all the care that I can take for myself.” Jesus chastises the disciples because they do not yet trust the Father. The storm may have been inevitable. But in the midst of the storm, their fear would have found hope if they only believed their Father really cared. May we look to Him in our storms—and feel His caring love for us amidst the thunder.

Genesis 43:1-15; Psalm 69; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Masasi (Tanzania), The Right Revd James Almasi. Upper Shire (Central Africa), The Right Revd Brighton Vitta Malasa.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, set us free from the bondage of our sins.

Saturday, March 14

Psalms 23 *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want* (v.1)

The non-Hebrew nations in Old Testament times served various gods. They were always in a state of trying to earn their favor. The rules of how to do this were blurry at best and the sins committed had serious consequences.

But the God of Israel was different. In Exodus, He shows the lie of the other “gods” of Egypt. The plagues demonstrate the absolute authority of God. The

Exodus demonstrates His passionate grace to save His people. He sought them. He held them accountable yet gave them a way to obtain forgiveness. He proved His love and devotion to His people.

David loves his God and envisions Him as a shepherd. The shepherd provides and protects. The shepherd knows His sheep and constantly keeps watch, wanting no harm to come to them. He leads them to food and to rest. He would give His life for His sheep.

In John 10:1-7 Jesus likens himself to a shepherd. He is the fulfillment of the Father's love. This shepherd laid down his life for the sheep. It is through Christ's sacrifice that we may "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (v.6). Thank God for Jesus the shepherd, who leads, comforts and guides us.

Genesis 43:16-34; Psalms 75, 76; 1 Corinthians 7:10-24; Mark 5:1-20
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maseno East (Kenya), The Right Revd Joshua Owiti; Upper South Carolina (The Episcopal Church), The Right Revd Andrew Waldo; Hokkaido (Japan), The Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu (Primate).
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Linda Holt-Monson, widow of The Rev Edward Holt, Hot Springs Village, AR.

by Chris Findley

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

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Charlie C. and Steve W.

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.