

Good News Daily

**Volume
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Number 17

Sunday, April 26

Exodus 18:1-12 *He said, "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians."* (v.10 NIV)

Here is Moses' father-in-law's response after learning about many incredible obstacles the Lord removed to rescue Moses and the Israelites. Jethro's heart of gratitude sings praises to the Lord. He recognizes that the Lord, as the giver, was the reason Moses could be reunited with his wife and family. Plus, the Lord's presence in signs, miracles, and wonders released multiple blessings on the journey.

Finding myself in a time of healing rest due to physical immobility and dependence on others for simple activities of daily living, I have been graciously given a new perspective on the Lord's abundance of gifts in one blessing. First, dear friends offered to be my caretaker when my husband had to be gone. For 10 days, they provided, loved, cooked, laughed, anticipated needs/wants, cried, prayed, and thought of me first. One example of multiple blessings/gifts came from their granddaughters' decision (with required parental assistance) to do something special for me. Multiple visits provided: little cakes with flowers, chocolate covered strawberries, giggles, Mickey Mouse bars, stories, my special frozen ice, handmade cupcakes with hand piped frosting, an orchid, songs, discovery of a long-lost toy, and sounds of sisters playing. Just imagine the frequency of my saying, "Praise be to the Lord!"

The Lord provided multiple blessings from one thought moving into action. Any "Praise be to the Lord" became a time of rest and prayer. Here is where I received the true joy in my Lord with strength and hope and love. "This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

Psalms 148, 149, 150; 1 John 2:7-17; Mark 16:9-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, The Most Revd Michael Lewis –Archbishop, Jerusalem & the Middle East & Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Trinity Church, Mt. Vernon; Siganga Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Simon Mzenga; The Mission of St. Mary Magdalene, Juliaca, Puno, Peru, Rev'd Ruben Mancilla; and Rev'd Luis Vizcarra.

Monday, April 27

Exodus 18:13-27 *“You be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to God. Teach them the statutes and the laws and show them the way in which they are to walk and the duties they are to perform.”* (vv.19b-20)

Jethro addresses burn-out prevention with Moses by advising him to pray and seek the wisdom of God for the people, to teach/refresh their thinking about God’s laws, *and* to be an example and model. Sounds like faith in action to me.

My friend was overwhelmed, not with burn-out, but a marriage crisis. She knew Jesus was her Healer, worshiped and prayed frequently, trusted the word of God, and welcomed His presence. But this situation had profound impacts; her thinking was flooded with shame, fear, disgust, and hopelessness.

Jethro’s instruction was my guide: Listen, Love, and Pray. Listen for God’s discernment and God’s word for her; wrap all with compassion and love of Jesus Christ in absolute confidence Jesus had already begun interceding for her; and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit. I did, she received, and that day marked a new beginning for her. Psalm 25 describes this new beginning beautifully: “Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. May integrity and uprightness protect me. Because my hope, LORD, is in you” (vv.16-17, 21).

Psalm 25; 1 Peter 5:1-14; Matthew 1:1-17, 3:1-6

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mount Kenya Central (Kenya) The Rt Revd Timothy Gichere, Mount Kenya South (Kenya) The Rt Revd Timothy Ranji, Mount Kenya West (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joseph Kagunda

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Melinda, wife of The Rt. Rev. Peter H. Beckwith, Hillsdale, MI.

Tuesday, April 28

Psalm 28 *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me; My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*
(v.7)

It was a delightful Friday evening in London and my husband and I had just enjoyed time together in a great restaurant. He pushed my wheelchair out the door and began our return to the hotel. Suddenly, it started raining. Panic set in as the thought of a wet cast *and* the likelihood of a cab arriving quickly on a busy Friday evening washed over us.

Out of nowhere, a young man ran toward us with one hand raised to hail a taxi and the other hand holding an umbrella. Holding umbrella to guard my cast, he motioned cafe diners to move seats for passage; the taxi seemed to appear out of nowhere. The driver was activating the wheelchair ramp as we arrived. As this compassionate man pushed me into the cab, tears of joy began and our eyes connected. Then, I remember touching my hand to my heart and then to his heart. No words were possible or needed.

This event remains as a profound blessing from a stranger who saw my need and instantly intervened. Appearing and disappearing suddenly, I believe he was an angel. But I know that the Lord is responsible. Look at the visible strength and protection; my feelings of gratitude that elicited tears; the connection of our heart with touch. Just recalling it again, brings me great joy and I am praising and thanking the Lord now.

Exodus 19:1-16; Psalm 26; Colossians 1:1-14; Matthew 3:7-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Stanley Elilekia Hotay, Wusasa (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Ali Buba Lamido, Ijesha North (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Isaac Oluyamo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Peter's Chapel, Chesterfield, consecration of church building, 1861.

Wednesday, April 29

Matthew 3:13-17 *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* (vv.16-17)

Here, the three persons of the Trinity are present. God the Father speaks, God the Son is baptized, and God the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus. God is one, yet in three persons at the same time.

God confirms the identity of Jesus and displays his commitment by equipping him with the power of the Holy Spirit for divine service. Divine service is God coming with His gifts of forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation through Jesus. Divine service is action from God to us; we are the receivers. God gives, we receive.

As receivers, it brings me instantly to Holy Communion: Bless, Break, Take, Receive. The Celebrant blesses the bread and the wine, then breaks the bread, and says Take. We come to Receive with deep thanksgiving and joy. The Lord's giving is boundless. My prayer is to try to keep my heart open to know and to ask and to expect, even in the midst of my fear, doubt, loneliness, shame, sadness, or anger through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 19:16-25; Psalm 38; Colossians 1:15-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mpumalanga (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Daniel Kgomo, Wyoming (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd John Smylie

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord God, your will is holy, loving and wise.

Thursday, April 30

Colossians 1:24—2:7 *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (v.27)

Paul is telling us about God's plan for Christ Jesus to live in the hearts of all who believe in him. Much mystery here, but my perspective focuses on Christ living in my heart, directing my choices to welcome him into every aspect of my life, and to transform me through the attributes and character of God.

Having found myself physically immobile after surgery to repair an injury from a vacation hiking accident, I prayed and had others pray for a continual presence of God with me. I needed to rely on Christ Jesus in this unusual place for hope. Prayer allowed me to rest and receive from the Lord who directed so many to minister to me personally. The rainbow of His gifts seemed to overflow though so many and in such unexpected and generous ways.

Mostly, I learned the true meaning of humility because I needed help. Because I was unable, it was Christ working in others, demonstrating so many fruits of the Spirit through my family and friends, that put me on a path of healing and wholeness. Early after my accident, I remember telling the Lord that I had “more important” areas that needed healing besides my body. (I did repent and return to receive). Instead, the Lord used my suffering in immobility to give me an abundance of blessings for wholeness in body, soul, and Spirit through the glorious riches of the mystery of God. Praise be to the Lord!

Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 37:1-18; Matthew 4:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mpwapwa (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Jacob Erasto Chimeledya, Yambio (South Sudan) The Most Revd Samuel Peni, Yangon (Myanmar) The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo (Primate)
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, help us to hear your words – you are the way!

Friday, May 1

Matthew 4:12-17 *From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”* (v.17)

Repent is one of the first words Jesus speaks as he begins his ministry. He stresses the importance of making serious changes in our lives to produce a change of heart. He is preparing us to develop a new focus on our relationship with God, because the kingdom of God is near. He knows a focus on our personal relationship with God will produce righteousness and peace and joy in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Repent used to be a word that reminded me of issues in my own life of failure or weakness. Now it has become a word that highlights my missed opportunities to receive a change of heart. Repent reminds me to

discard this poor choice and choose to focus on the mystery of God, his attributes, character, and promises. It is with humility that I speak these words because I know the Lord craves a relationship with each of us and desires each of us to receive a change of heart. And it is with a profound heart of thanksgiving for all the blessings given when I repent, return, and receive the love of God that I say, “Thank you, Jesus, my Lord, my Savior, my Friend.”

Exodus 24:1-18; Psalm 105:1-22; Colossians 2:8-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mthatha (formerly St John's) (Southern Africa)
The Rt Revd Hummingfield Ndwandwe, Yei (South Sudan) The Rt
Revd Hilary Adeba Luete

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Philip M. Lewis, Pueblo, CO, and Michael J.
Newago, Havana, ordination to the Priesthood; Wedding anniversary of
The Rev. Jon E. and Sara “Sally” Griffin, West Frankfort.

ST MATTHEWS: Diane Gardner’s birthday.

Saturday, May 2

Colossians 3:1-17 *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (v.17)

Paul’s admonition rings loudly in my ear. If we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, it means we are to act consistently with who he is and what he wants. So much to ponder here as we walk through our daily circumstances, isn’t it?

So clearly, I remember the distress I was experiencing about someone I held dear and trusted me. Life circumstances kept closing doors and narrowing opportunities. Many folks were praying and trusting the Lord Jesus along with me.

In frustration, I asked the Lord for clarification. His clarity brought me the boldness to release my desires and frustrations into His loving hands. What I recall in detail were words telling me to allow Him to be who He is and what He wants for this person. Besides trusting this person to the Lord, it meant to speak and/or act only when directed. That is what Paul meant when he reminded us about acting and doing in the name of

the Lord Jesus. And, then, we give thanks to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 25:1-22; Psalms 30, 32; Matthew 4:18-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Muhabura (Uganda) The Rt Revd Cranmer Mugisha, Yeri (South Sudan) The Rt Revd John Abraham Nyari, Ijumu (Nigeria) The Ven Paul Olarewaju Ojo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Christ Church, Springfield, admitted to the Diocese, 1888.

by Jane Shinn

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Pray for those sick and those in distress: Margaret L., Allan H., James G., Mark S., Karen P., Noah D.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: June G.

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.