

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

September 8-14, 2024

Sunday, September 8

Matthew 5:13-20 *“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (v.16 RSV)

That Scripture never fails to energize me, it’s so full of action. Jesus has just said that when the lamp is lit it gives light to all in the house. With that startling imagery he then calls us to action. He has filled our lives with the brilliant, glorious undimmed light of the realization and revelation of who we are in Christ, and he has empowered us for ministry. Let your light shine. The New English Bible translates those words “And you, like the lamp, must shed your light.” This isn’t a time to be shy and reticent but to be bold and confident, because it is his light, not ours, and it’s his precious gift to share.

This Scripture always reminds me of the day my two-year-old daughter came home from Christian Day School and, as she played with her toys, she was singing something I couldn’t quite catch. But intermittently I kept hearing a very loud “No.” I discovered the little ones had been learning the words “Hide it under a bushel, No, I’m going to let it shine.” I think that’s exactly what Jesus had in mind!

Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6; Psalms 63, 98; Revelation 14:1-7, 13

Birthdays: Bonnie Arrison, Anastasia Gauthier, Charlie Meyer

Anniversaries: Rick & Ann Henderson, Steve & Ava Simms, Peter & Nichole Vallely, Mark & Ginger Van Valkenburgh

Monday, September 9

Acts 13:44-52 *And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.* (v.52)

I marvel at the disciples’ undaunted enthusiasm. They did not allow rejection by the Jews to steal the joy of their success with the gentiles. They shook the dust off their feet and went forth filled with joy.

For years now I have longed to find a friend I grew up with in London. We had walked to school together every day and later on I was one of two bridesmaids at her wedding. Even to this day I remember her birth date and over the years have prayed for her. She means so very much to me. A few years ago, I finally found her. We exchanged a few letters and I was beside myself with excitement at the thought of meeting her on my next trip home. I had not shared my faith, but I did mention I worked for the Church. I received a letter in return saying she did not want us to meet, she was too busy and besides she wanted “nothing to do with religion.” I was truly heartbroken and experienced a strange new kind of rejection. It’s still painful to think about but I must, with God’s help, “shake the dust from my feet and go forth with joy and the Holy Spirit.”

Job 32:1-10, 19—33:1, 19-28; Psalms 41, 52; John 10:19-30

Birthdays: Rick Strobel

Anniversaries: Patrick & Flavia Arrington, Frank & Missy Casscells-Hamby

Tuesday, September 10

John 10:31-42 *Jesus answered, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said you are gods?’”* (v.34)

Day by day God reveals more clearly to me how intricately His word is woven together, how Scripture interprets Scripture, and the Old and New Testaments are essential to each other. I always stumble over that little phrase Jesus quoted: “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, you are gods?’” (see Psalm 82:6). How could we be gods, even with a small ‘g’? But Jesus said it!

William Temple shed a little light on it for me recently. Jesus is in perfect union with the Father and came to do the good works of the Father, deeds that displayed the very goodness of God. Is the Lord suggesting the same principle applies, and that perfect relationship with the Father is open to us and can be achieved by some, though in a far less perfect way? Jesus’ deeds are his credentials, and in response to our faith our good works should be ours. If, as some teachers suggest, Christians are called to be “little Christs” then perhaps in the same way God called them (us?) to be “little gods,” being about our Father’s business. It’s still a mystery, but I think it is getting clearer. What an awesome and humbling responsibility Jesus entrusts to us.

Job 29:1-20; Psalm 45; Acts 14:1-18

Birthdays: Tom Griffin, Dylan Harle, Ernie Heina, Jax Johnson, Landry Johnson, Steve Simmons, Lynn Thieler

Anniversaries: Kevin & Iantha Mackinnon

Wednesday, September 11

John 11:1-16 *“If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”* (v)

I love this Scripture because it is so easy to understand. It is logical and simple, it beckons us back to the right path. Light is attractive, inviting, revealing, inspiring and energizing. In an everyday sense, who would not prefer light to darkness? A writer will do his best work if he is in a light filled room (preferably with a view of the treetops or a lake, or a mountain!). A surgeon needs penetrating light to set about his intricate task. And indeed it keeps us from stumbling over the obvious obstacles.

But the deeper level for believers is that we do not stumble if we walk in the day because we see “the light of this world”—which is Jesus. His light helps us to avoid spiritual accidents and obstacles.

Once again my wonderful friend William Temple provides the words I could never have articulated: “Christ, the Light of the World, shines first upon the soul, and then from within the soul upon the path of life...by converting us, he illumines our way.”

Job 29:1, 30:1-2, 16-31; Psalm 119:49-72; Acts 14:19-28

Birthdays: Jacob Bell, Dan Scala, Lisa Tillery

Thursday, September 12

Psalm 50 *From the rising of the sun to its setting... Our God comes, he does not keep silent... The heavens declare his righteousness.* (vv.1, 3, 6)

As I go around (and around) in my busy circles of activity I often totally forget to whom I belong. I don’t listen to God, I don’t consult Him, I don’t ask Him to help me, but He’s always there in the background and eventually His perfection and magnificence shines forth and reaches me. That overpowering voice comes through and catches my attention, no matter how far I have strayed in my thoughts and words and deeds, like the first clap of thunder of a Florida summer afternoon, or a sweet tender voice in the midst of a noisy, frantic workday. The thread of His mightiness weaves throughout our lives, the lives of those who have gone before us and the lives of those to come, everywhere and for all time. He does not keep silent.

A few years ago, I returned to the Wales of my early childhood, and as I turned the bend and saw “our valley” and those massive, breathtaking mountains, I realized that nothing had changed, it never had and it never would. Those mountains had been there for centuries and would be for centuries to come. I suddenly understood. The heavens declare His righteousness and He does not keep silent.

Job 29:1; 31:1-23; Acts 15:1-11; John 11:17-29

Birthdays: Irene Devane, Scarlett Frey, Mike Harman, Dana Herman, James Matthews

Friday, September 13

Psalm 40 *I have told the glad news of thy deliverance... I have not hid thy saving help within my heart.* (vv.9-10)

Surely the whole of Psalm 40 was written in the late 20th century! God’s word, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, as constant as the ebb and flow of the tide, throughout the centuries, the decades, and in our lives today.

I still need His deliverance and His saving help today as I needed it so many years ago. The recollection of those first exciting days, when He first “drew me out from the desolate pit and set my feet upon a rock, and put a new song in my mouth” continues to bless me.

But how, over the years I have needed the Lord to deliver me again and again, particularly from the hurts of life.

How many times I have prayed in my own way “let them be put to shame who seek to snatch away my life, who desire my hurt, and say, aha, aha.” But because of God’s promises, I can be secure and have the confidence to say “Lord, make haste to help me” because He has already set my feet upon a rock, and I can say continually, “Great is the Lord.”

Job 29:1; 31:24-40; Psalm 54; Acts 15:12-21; John 11:30-44

Birthdays: Terry Arnn, Henry de Zwart, Stacey McAbee

Saturday, September 14

Job 38:1-17 *“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge. Gird up your loins like a man.”* (vv.2-3a)

Not to be irreverent, because these are serious Scriptures, but I think if I were Job I would sing the song Eliza Doolittle sang in My Fair Lady—“Words, words, words! Words all day through, first from him, then from you, is that all you blighters can do...show me!

Finally, after all those words from his “friends,” the Lord shows Job, dramatically, out of the whirlwind.

It’s fascinating to contemplate the expression of awe on Job’s face and the humility in his heart as God unfolds that glorious litany of His mightiness and His marvelous creation of the world: the foundations, the oceans (thus far shall the proud waves come and no farther), the mountains, clouds, the dawn, the springs of the sea, the dwelling of light, the storehouses of the snow, the source of the wind, the rain and the thunderbolt. We can only join with Job and say, yes Lord, “Behold, I am of small account.”

Psalm 55; Acts 15:22-35; John 11:45-54

Birthdays: Chris Davies, Suzanne Reams, Katherine Cooper, Bennett Seiler

by Tali Anderson

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