

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

March 30-April 5, 2025

Sunday, March 30

Galatians 4:21—5:1 *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.* (v.1 RSV)

If the jailer unlocks the door and proclaims the prisoner free, the expectation becomes that the prisoner steps out of the cell and walks into that freedom. It seems folly to consider anything less. But spiritually, our responses sometimes do not match what it is that we have been given.

The Lord Jesus died for us, so that we might be set free. And through him our Father has set our feet in a spacious place. But so many of us stand in the spaciousness with self-imposed shackles holding us in place. We know in our minds the reality of the gift we've been given, but we don't know how to unwrap that gift.

We must step out. We must be willing to turn from that which once held us in bondage and take intentional steps into the light. We must encourage one another to remove the shackles, and as we move about in the light of our Lord Jesus, the darkness will begin to lose its allure, and the yoke of slavery will no longer tempt us. "For freedom Christ has set us free!"

Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22; Psalms 66, 67; Mark 8:11-21

Birthdays: Caroline Butterfield, Elizabeth Colon, John Evans, Stephanie Senft, Fred Stone

Monday, March 31

Psalms 89:1-18 *I will sing of thy steadfast love, O LORD, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations.* (v.1)

When we fall in love, the most natural thing is for us to talk about it. Out of the fullness of our hearts comes praise for the one we love. When our eyes are open to the magnitude of the love of God, it is next to impossible to remain silent. Praise wells up within us and defines the posture of our hearts.

On an individual level, when we praise our Father, our eyes get right focus. No longer are we solely attentive to our own concerns, but we look into the expansiveness of the one who created us and get a larger perspective.

But the call is not just to sing of His steadfast love alone, the call then moves into proclaiming His faithfulness to all generations.

As odd as I may have thought them at the time, I praise God for the seed-sowers, the people in my life before I was a Christian who would talk about what the Lord had done for them. It was curious to me, and in that curiosity the seed found fertile ground. "Lord, open our mouths, that our lips may proclaim your praise!"

Jeremiah 16:10-21; Romans 7:1-12; John 6:1-15

Birthdays: Cindy Hunt, Rebecca Jernigan

Tuesday, April 1

Psalms 97 *Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.* (v.11)

I can think of many times when I have watched people I know manipulate the circumstances in their lives in order to get what they wanted. Not being a stranger to this myself, I have found myself at times even being a bit envious. While they may have side-stepped some truths, they certainly ended up with some good results! At least that was the view of the moment.

It is a battle with our microwave mentality to not work for the immediate response, to not ignore the possible long-term consequences in order to "have" today. We need to expand our picture of "having." The psalmist says: "Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart." The gift of light in a world of darkness is an

incredibly precious gift—many times more valuable than other things we might acquire along the way. And joy, not just happiness, but joy—the same joy that brings strength and focus—brings life to the heart.

Ask God to show you the people in your life who will encourage you to go after the greater gifts and see who He has given you to encourage to do the same.

Jeremiah 17:19-27; Psalm 99, 100; Romans 7:13-25; John 6:16-27

Birthdays: Grace Caron, Maureen Douglas, Maxwell Miller, Pat Robertson, Rebecca Russo

Anniversaries: Randy & Pat Robertson

Wednesday, April 2

John 6:27-40 *Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him who he has sent."* (v.29)

Jesus had just been asked, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" I can hear the way his answer resonated in the hearts of those who questioned. "Just believe? I want to be able to do something!" I hear my own voice saying: "I guess that all I can do is pray..." I know that when I am with the Father, He is going to show me the power of the prayer that seemed to me like not really doing much!

In order to believe in the Lord Jesus, in order to live our lives in light of who he is, we must come to know him. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we must search Scripture with a heart that cries to God to reveal Himself to us. And as that revelation happens, we will be strengthened in our understanding, encouraged in our belief, and empowered to walk in the power we've been given.

Believing is not something that has an end, it is a living out of Jesus' life as revealed to us. And it is he who comes alongside us to show us the way.

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalms 101, 109; Romans 8:1-11

Birthdays: Vincent Smith

Thursday, April 3

Romans 8:12-27 *I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* (v.18)

There is very little easy about life. There is very little easy about the Christian life. Rather than being exempt from the menaces of the world, we find ourselves right smack in the middle of the very things that tear at those around us—believers or not. And sometimes it seems even more painful, because we have an eternal perspective, because we can see what is happening to people in light of their proximity to or distance from the Lord.

As long as we are called to be light in the midst of darkness, there will be suffering. People like what they do in the darkness and want to extinguish any light. Our brother Jesus knows this better than any of us ever will. Our eyes need to not be focused on the darkness in which we stand, but rather in the very source of light, our Father in heaven.

For as we look into the eyes of our loving Father, we find hope. And as we drink from the well of that hope, we are strengthened, we are refueled to be His light.

Jeremiah 22:13-23; Psalm 69; John 6:41-51

Birthdays: Jaxson Skip Jewett, Monique O'Brien, Chad Seiler

Friday, April 4

Jeremiah 23:1-8 *"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" says the LORD.* (v.1)

God has given us leaders, people who open His word to us, people who walk alongside us, who disciple us. And each one of us has been profoundly impacted by those people in our lives. Very few leaders start out with the intent of intentionally misleading or destroying a person or people. But unfortunately, a straying from the truth can take a shepherd and his whole flock far from the very heart of our Father.

We live in a time when the media capitalize on the fall of Christian leaders; it is a time when we are tempted to settle more for what feels good rather than what is right. It is a time of great temptation and much deceit. But we choose where we focus. To focus on the deception, beyond doing what God has called us to do, is to lose sight of our call. Our eyes are to be on Jesus, our hearts to be safely tucked in his. And his call to us is to come to him, to seek his light, and we will not be scattered or destroyed.

Psalm 102; Romans 8:28-39; John 6:52-59

Anniversaries: Fr. Dick & Diane Greatwood, Robert & Jamie Thomas

Saturday, April 5

John 6:60-71 *Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...."* (vv.67-68)

Jesus asks some pretty hard questions: "What do you treasure?" "What do you want me to do for you?" "Who do you say that I am?" "Do you also wish to go away?" Often, I find that I can be pretty adept at religious jargon. I can talk a good theology and can sound quite spiritual. To our Father, that doesn't mean a thing. What matters is a life lived. And the questions that Jesus asks throughout the Gospels don't allow for any embellishment; they are questions that go straight to the heart.

Sometimes it feels like it would be easier to go away, to not have to look at my own sin, to not have to look at my own need for a savior. But, as Peter said, there is nowhere else to go; there is no truth elsewhere. But the wonderful thing about our Father is that when the hard questions really leave us exposed and vulnerable before Him, He clothes us in His love. And once again we are empowered to be about the work He has given us to do.

Jeremiah 23:9-15; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Romans 9:1-18

Birthdays: Charlotte Bilby, Robert Boswell, Archie Woodruff

Anniversaries: Jimmy & Phyllis Bolen

by Sallie Ross

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

P. O. Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790

www.biblereading.org