

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

April 27-May 3, 2025

Sunday, April 27

John 14:1-7 “Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the way.” (vv.1a, 6a NRSV)

I am the way. My way is the way of sacrificial love. It is the way of willing acceptance of suffering whenever necessary for the sake of all those whom I have created and love. Put your hands into my wounded hands, and trust Me. Don’t be afraid...

Christ’s way is the way that will lead ultimately to fullness of life and love and joy for all those of us who believe, and trust, and follow him. A living, loving relationship with him must surely be the greatest treasure on earth that we could ever possibly have.

God’s way is the way of love— love for Him and love for one another.

Through all the centuries we humans made in His image have believed that our I-know-better-than-God way is preferable. We have always turned against God and against one another. All the violence, the wars, the poverty, and the starvation that our world is so full of today are caused by our continuing to believe in our I-know-better-than-God way instead of responding to His call to follow Him in His way of sacrificial love.

Lord Christ, grant that we all may learn to “know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly.”

Isaiah 43:8-13; Psalms 146, 147; 1 Peter 2:2-10

Birthdays: Amelia Bilby, Thomas Epley, Elizabeth Li, Grey Noterman

Anniversaries: Marty & Ingrid Feeny, Archie & Christy Woodruff

Monday, April 28

John 17:1-11 “This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (v.3)

John tells us at the end of his Gospel (20:31) that his purpose in writing it was “so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” And in this prayer Jesus prays that we may know his Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom the Father has sent, which tells us in his own words, that he is the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah.

To come to believe that our Lord Christ is the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah demands much more from us than just saying so in words. If our belief is real, it will challenge us to try to surrender to Christ as the center of our lives and to struggle to obey his two great commandments of love— love for God and love for one another. Nothing could ever bring us greater suffering or more indestructible joy. We shall be fulfilling the purpose for which God gave us His precious gift of life— that we might learn to love Him and one another and that we might have eternal life.

Daniel 1:1-21; Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 John 1:1-10

Birthdays: Elizabeth Bondurant, Jim Fitch, Dick Yoho

Tuesday, April 29

John 17:12-19 “Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth.” (v.17)

The psalmist tells us (119:160) that the heart of God’s word is truth, and here Jesus prays that his disciples be blessed, hallowed, made holy in the truth, the truth which billions of subsequent believers have dedicated their lives to proclaiming by word and deed. And what is this truth? It’s all that Jesus taught and lived and died to reveal of the Father’s love and of His daily call to us to become more truly what we already are— human beings made in the image of God by love, in love, and for love.

The world that God made is so awesomely beautiful at any time of year! Picture the mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, lakes, and the oceans which He created. And then

think of His most wondrous creation of all—we human beings created that we might learn to know and love Him and one another.

Lord Christ, grant that we all may learn to “know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly.”

Daniel 2:1-16; Psalms 5, 6; 1 John 2:1-11

Birthdays: Eloise Dymond, Mark Gauthier, Rod James, Katherine Montgomery

Wednesday, April 30

John 17:20-26 “That they all may be one.” (v.21a)

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they all may be one.” Jesus prays here for all the billions of believers like us throughout the ages who have tried for love of him to give themselves wholeheartedly in thought, word, and deed to proclaiming that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He prays that all these billions of believers and the first disciples all may be one. Our unity with these first disciples comes from the incredible blessing that we share—our living, loving relationship with Christ and from the wondrous joy of knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

A spiritual director of mine once told me that she thinks each one of us is God’s promise to His universe that He continues to love and care for it. What an awesome responsibility! To represent Christ by words and deeds to everyone whose path crosses ours. Someone once wrote that Christ has no hands, or feet, or voice on earth today except ours.

Daniel 2:17-30; Psalm 119:1-24; 1 John 2:12-17

Birthdays: Sherry Andrews

Anniversaries: John & Sandi Cowart

Thursday, May 1

Luke 3:1-14 And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” (v.10)

When I first read our Gospel reading from Luke for today, I could find little or no connection between it and what we have been reading so far this week from John. But the more I thought about it, the more I found it really does have a lot to do with the unity Christ prayed for among all of us billions of believers and his early disciples. John the Baptist and his God-given wisdom are indeed still relevant for us today.

When the crowds followed John into the wilderness and heard him preaching about repentance and forgiveness, they asked him, “What then should we do?” He told them very plainly what he thought they should do. If they had more clothing than they needed or more food than they could eat, they should share both food and clothing with those who had none. And none of them should ever exploit, use, or bully others.

Luke tells us in his book of Acts that the first Christians “who believed were of one heart and soul... and there was not a needy person among them” (Acts 5:32 and 34). As believers in our own day, we might ask ourselves: “What then should we do?”

Daniel 2:31-49; Psalm 18:1-20; 1 John 2:18-29

Birthdays: Alexander Braun, Bonnie Burkhardt, Marty Feeny, Doriana Atkinson-Fitch,

Jenn Rodrigues, Eric Turner, Peter Wong

Anniversaries: Rod Jones & Wesley Ann Hunt

Friday, May 2

Luke 3:15-22 “You are my Son, the Beloved.” (v.22)

In our Gospel reading for today, we hear the Father telling Jesus, “You are my Son, the Beloved.” In the story of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36), the Father tells us, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” Mary tells us in the story of the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) to “do whatever he tells you.” They give us the very best answer we could possibly have to yesterday’s question: “What then should we do?”

We are listening to the Beloved Son when we read the Scriptures, share in his life, death, and resurrection at the Lord’s Supper, and when we grow in love and

compassion toward one another. We listen when we pray, for real prayer is always dialogue—talking and listening.

We listen so that we can learn to “do whatever he tells us.” We long to surrender to Christ as the center of our lives.

Our heart’s desire is to follow him, trust him, give ourselves to him, and respond to his great love for us with love for him and love for one another.

Daniel 3:1-18; Psalms 16, 17; 1 John 3:1-10

Birthdays: Louise Buhrmann, Duke Marsh, Carole Rohr, Steve Simms

Anniversaries: Bill & Lynn Branner

Saturday, May 3

Luke 4:1-13 “If you are the Son of God.” (v.3)

Our Gospel reading for today is the story of Jesus’ temptation, and it is the story of our temptation, too. As we have said before (Sunday), we humans made in God’s image have always believed that our I-know-better-than-God way of living is preferable to His way of love. We have always turned against God and against one another.

Jesus was tempted first to satisfy his own physical needs before all else. He was tempted to self-glorification rather than the doing of what he believed to be God’s will. And he was tempted to compromise with evil. Temptations you and I have faced all our life long.

Jesus resisted every temptation because of his relationship with his Father. You and I are strengthened, guided, empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the same. Our living, loving relationship with our Lord Christ is the reason for our blessed hope and for our greatest joy.

Daniel 3:19-30; Psalms 20, 21; 1 John 3:11-18

Birthdays: Ryan Buchanan, Steve de Zwart

by Sister Mary Michael

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