

All Saints Church

Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

June 29-July 5, 2025

Sunday, June 29

1 Samuel 10:1-16 *When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all these signs came to pass that day.* (v.9 RSV)

Heart transplants are new in terms of what mankind can do, but God has always given new hearts to those willing to be obedient to Him. The key is the willingness to be obedient!

Obedience is a struggle. For me, it means not being in charge, not having control, and trusting another. I don't want to let go of the reins of power. I'm sure I have the answers to most of life's problems, if only I would be consulted and then obeyed.

Back to obedience. God has the answers to all our problems, if we but obey. I smile at those who ridicule the Old Testament rules listed by the hundreds. We've yet to really obey those rules. I wonder how our emotional health would be if we really listened to God and not our own physical desires?

I say I want that new heart only God can give me, but I'd really rather have the new heart and still be able to eat three candy bars. At times the distance from my mind saying "yes, Lord" to my heart saying "I will obey you, Lord" is such a great distance. I do want that new heart, Lord. I do want to obey. "And all these signs came to pass."

Psalm 118; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 21:23-32

Birthdays: Beckham Botic, Bonnie Larsen, William Moorefield

Monday, June 30

Acts 7:44—8:1a *"As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute?"* (vv.51a-52b)

The more things change, the more they stay the same. "Pop" psychology tells us that humans beings are getting better and better in every way, every day. Yet, the headlines in the news scream at us that humans continue to lie, steal, cheat, and hurt each other.

The Israelites believed that a king would help them be a better people. God Himself as King wasn't good enough. They had to have that human icon of a king.

The kings didn't do for the Israelites what they had hoped for. The prophets told the people, time and again, to turn away from their evil deeds and turn to God, God being the only way to salvation. Yet, the people persecuted the prophets. Who wants to turn to God? Can't some human help us?

God heard their cry and sent His only begotten Son to be a human, to live as we do, to show us how to be better and better every day. Yet, we humans didn't listen. Peter, Jesus' faithful follower, denied Christ three times before the cock crowed. And what do we do? Are we any better than our forebearers? The example given us in Scripture from generation to generation is that of a stiff-necked people who want to do it "their own way." The only way to peace and happiness is to let God be in charge! That is the way to being better and better.

1 Samuel 10:17-27; Psalm 106:1-18; Luke 22:52-62

Birthdays: Mark Findura, John Fleming

Anniversaries: Rob & Polly Little, Jeff & Kim Parmer

Tuesday, July 1

Luke 22:63-71 *"If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not answer."* (vv.67-68)

The magician swirls his baton over the empty top hat and a rabbit appears. The audience gasps in admiration. A rabbit pulled out of a hat. Where was it before? How did it get in the hat? A simple conjuror's trick that delights audiences of all ages. It would spoil the magic if the magician told the audience how the trick was performed.

Jesus is no trick. The Resurrection is no sleight of hand maneuver. Jesus tried to tell the people of God's great love. Few listened, most wanted to be entertained by signs and wonders. The desire for entertainment seems to be the common thread for humanity. We want someone to distract us from the reality of everyday life. The magician swirls on stage and our lives are brightened by the mystery.

If we'd let Jesus work his "magic" in our hearts, then every moment we lived would be the best it could be. There would be no need to ask if he was the Christ. Our lives would be transformed, and all would know the answers without asking!

1 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; Acts 8:1-13

Birthdays: Lily Buchanan, Kevin Leider, Chas Pilgrim

Anniversaries: Jerry & Cathy Oller, Justin & Cristina Williams, Mark & Smalley Williams

Wednesday, July 2

Acts 8:14-25 *"Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you."* (v.22)

Mid-week, hump day, time to prepare for the weekend, rolling along, getting ready to really live it up! The boss thinks the job is getting done but my heart's not in it. That's the key to doing a great job—having your heart in it. But nobody sees your heart. It's hidden under layers of societal protection.

Putting up a good front is considered a good thing among the people of the world. Being inscrutable is a skill the poker player strives for with a passion. Passion, that which inflames the heart. It's the heart that counts. The heart of the matter. The Lord sees into our hearts with an unblinking eye. He knows better than Santa Claus if we've been good or bad. The heart pumps the blood throughout the system. When the heart isn't right, the system begins to break down. God tells us time and again through Scripture that we need to repent, to turn to Him, let Him be in charge so that our hearts may be pure. Until we repent and our hearts are cleaned, the whole system is running on half a cylinder. When the system is running on half a cylinder, it may never get over the hump!

1 Samuel 12:1-6, 16-25; Psalm 119:145-176; Luke 23:1-12

Birthdays: Lisa Hamberg, Shirley Saphos

Anniversaries: Robert & Louise Buhrmann, Dave & Grace Jordan

Thursday, July 3

Acts 8:26-40 *Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.* (v.28b)

What is that old saying about there being nothing new under the sun? Here, the Ethiopian is reading to make the trip a pleasant and useful experience. He's reading the prophet Isaiah. And along comes Philip to explain the true meaning of God's word to the seeker.

Audio books help pass the time in the car or while exercising. It seems easier to concentrate on the information if I listen while I'm doing something else. Summer travel is the perfect time to catch up on Scripture or teachings or new books.

It seems that every major book is being released in audio format shortly after it's released in print. My public library offers recorded books for loan. My church offers sermons and teachings online as well.

Before we go anywhere in the car, I stock up on listening material. Philip may not be running alongside to explain God's word but there are a number of wonderful preachers and teachers who can bring God's word to life while you're driving along. There really is nothing new under the sun.

1 Samuel 13:5-18; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Luke 23:13-25

Birthdays: Bill Caldwell, David Jordan

Anniversaries: Derek & Heather Brown, Tim & Jennifer Clark, Nate & Alexandra Otto, George & Lucy Standridge, Rick Strobel & Phyllis Tanner

Friday, July 4

Acts 9:1-9 *Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him.* (v.3)

Fireworks displays are de rigueur tonight! Sparklers being twirled about. Small children clutching the sparkler and dancing and waving that sparkler so it leaves a trail in the night. Bottle rockets set off. Cherry bombs exploded! All those fireworks exploding with great gusto. They bring joy to the heart. We're expecting all the sound and fury. We know that it's Independence Day, and we want to look to the sky for fiery colors.

Paul, however, wasn't expecting a flash of light. He was minding his own business (and that was the problem, it was his business and not God's business) when God created a personal fireworks display to get Paul's attention. The light flashed and Paul couldn't see anymore. The darkness overcame him.

What fireworks display has God set off to get our attention? Have we let the brightness blind us completely to the will of God? It took an obedient servant to heal Paul's eyes. What servant has God sent to us to open our eyes? It's the Fourth of July, time to celebrate our country's freedom. It's a great time to remember the freedom we have in Christ, if we but accept him as our Lord and Savior!

1 Samuel 13:19—14:15; Psalms 140, 142; Luke 23:26-31

Birthdays: Adeline Davis, Savannah Davis, Dylan Hackenberg, Pippa Mandigo, Avelyn Stewart

Saturday, July 5

Acts 9:10-19a *But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel."* (v.15a)

Ananias said, "Here I am Lord," when God called his name. Ananias was obedient when God told him to go and see the man who had persecuted so many of Ananias' friends.

It is hard to be obedient when you're not sure of the outcome. There is that fear of change, that lack of control when one says "yes" without being sure of what will happen. Ananias went ahead and did what was asked of him by God.

The key for me is that God told Ananias that this persecutor was a chosen instrument, chosen by God, to carry His name to the world. I look at the people who persecute the faithful and can't imagine that they could become God's chosen vehicle of evangelism. I wonder if I would go to help them if God asked me to do so. I wonder if I would be obedient. Lots to wonder about on a Saturday morning after all the fireworks.

1 Samuel 14:16-30; Psalms 137:1-6, 144; Luke 23:32-43

Birthdays: Jennifer Coates, Audrey Jeancola, Julia Stewart, Simon Thompson, John White

by Kathryn Stirk

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