

All Saints Church

Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

August 10-16, 2025

Sunday, August 10

Romans 15:1-13 *May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (v.5 RSV)

We try to live our lives in a way that will glorify God. The key words that bring us trouble are “we try.” We look at those around us who don’t agree with us, and we try to reconcile our differences, or we try to relinquish the things that keep us from unity, or we try to convince others to relinquish their beliefs. Even the most noble of efforts are futile.

How often I have come to a place in my life where there is absolutely nothing that I can do to remedy a certain situation. When I admit that, it is almost as though I can hear an “Alleluia!” from above.

We see in Romans that it is God’s steadfastness and encouragement that is enabling us to live in harmony as we live in accord with Jesus. There is no way for one person to create “one voice” with others; one can only offer up his voice and let the Father weave his offering into the offerings of others who know and love Him. Rather than “we try” it becomes “we let,” and the harmony becomes gloriously His own.

2 Samuel 13:1-22; Psalms 66, 67; John 3:22-36

Birthdays: Mike Carney, William Builder, Sandra Hester, Wenjun Li, Shari Bartz, Bryan Stewart

Monday, August 11

Mark 9:42-50 *“And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell.”* (v.47)

This is not a popular Scripture in our modern culture. To modernize Mark, one would probably write: “If your eye causes you to sin, it’s okay, because you were abused and there is nothing you can do about how you react.” As Christians, we cannot do anything less than what this Scripture calls for from us.

God gives us commands not because He loves control or just wants to wield His power over us. He gives us commands because He loves us, and He wants to make our lives as unencumbered as they can be. Our inclination, like both Adam and Eve in the garden, is to blame another for our sin. Even in the blaming we are separating ourselves from God.

We need to be able to look at our loving Father and know His love in a way that makes us want to relinquish anything we embrace that is not of Him.

2 Samuel 13:23-39; Psalm 89:1-18; Acts 20:17-38

Birthdays: Bob Tate, Summer Vallely

Tuesday, August 12

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

Psalm 97 offers a rich picture of the power of God, a power that molds and shapes the earth and forms and fashions human beings. So often we get caught in the darkness, seeing what is happening in the world and in the church, and wondering where that power might be.

It is hard to wait out the dawn. I remember many a summer morning waking up and coming out of my tent before dawn. The stars had left the sky and there was a darkness that was almost paralyzing. There was no way to know, save through experience, that this darkness would soon give way to light.

“Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.” As Christians we need to stand together waiting for the Light; we need to witness the dawn in one another so that we can be encouraged to wait and to trust in the One who loves us the most.

2 Samuel 14:1-20; Psalms 99, 100; Acts 21:1-14; Mark 10:1-16

Birthdays: Jack Joynson, Dottie Magill, Deacon Mitchell, Sarah Ravndal, Suzanne Story, Kate Wacker

Wednesday, August 13

Acts 21:15-26 *After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified God.* (vv.19-20a)

One of Satan’s greatest ploys is to make us feel isolated. When we sin or struggle with problems or temptations, he wants us to think that we are alone, that no other Christian has ever thought such thoughts. The further away we pull, the more likely we are to fall into great discouragement and self-condemnation.

In Acts we see how it is that we are drawn back. Paul came to Jerusalem and began to tell the elders “one by one the things that God had done.”

Throughout the Old Testament God says, “Remember....” In the remembering we are brought back to the love and the faithfulness of our Father. The circumstances that plague our lives, the sins that torment us, begin to lose their power in light of the heart of God.

When we remember corporately, we encourage and build one another up. The natural response is an outpouring, glorifying God. And no longer are we standing on the outside, but we are drawn into the heart of a loving Father.

2 Samuel 14:21-33; Psalms 101, 109; Mark 10:17-31

Birthdays: Amanda Castino, Ava Simms
Anniversaries: Jim & Anna Meyer

Thursday, August 14

Mark 10:32-45 *And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”* (v.36)

In God’s grace, He does not always do what it is that we ask Him to do. We have only a small part of the picture, and if He met all of our desires, we would find ourselves in anguish rather than the expected delight.

When Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” he gets us to articulate what it is that we really want. Often, we seek temporary satisfaction of our longings, thinking that satisfaction will “cure all.” But Jesus’ question takes us to a deeper level, to a level where the question becomes: “What do you really want?”

A request for a particular job might really be translated as a quest for worth. A plea for a relationship might be an attempt to fill the God-shaped void within us.

When we hear Jesus question what it is that we want, we need to pray to be able to hear the answer of what we really want, and we need to pray to want him most of all.

2 Samuel 15:1-18; Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 21:27-36

Birthdays: Ashley Daniels, Bonnie Rose Dunnam, Jackie Head, Johanna Miller, Elizabeth Ruby, Larry Standish, Shawn Staneff
Anniversaries: Pete & Jenn Rodrigues

Friday, August 15

Psalm 102 *Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD.* (v.18)

We live in a time in which it is hard for people to think beyond themselves. Credit card debt reflects a concern for the “here and now,” a concern

for acquiring for myself, with little care for the financial well-being of those to come.

We cannot afford that selfishness in the spiritual realm. To be lax with our faith, to not allow ourselves to be moved with passion and purpose as we walk through these dark days, is to rob the generations to come of the purity of the gospel. That is a selfishness that will not go unpunished.

We must pray continually for God’s heart, so that we will not be unmoved, but so that we will allow ourselves to be fully used by Him for His purposes. Then we can rest in the assurance we find at the end of Psalm 102: “The children of thy servants shall dwell secure; their posterity shall be established before thee.”

2 Samuel 15:19-37; Acts 21:37—22:16; Mark 10:46-52

Birthdays: Caroline Carney, Kristen Johnson, Mary Beth Bailey-Musice, Becky Smith

Anniversaries: Jerry & Carol Pierce

Saturday, August 16

Psalm 107:33-43 *Whoever is wise, let him give heed to these things; let men consider the steadfast love of the Lord.* (v.43)

In this verse, to consider is really to observe and discern. When we consider something, our focus goes to that thing. So, to consider the steadfast love of the Lord is to let ourselves be swallowed up in thought and wonder about the Father.

If we are swallowed up in thought about God, if we allow ourselves to respond to who He is, then the other things that bite at our spirits throughout the day will pale in comparison; there will not be room to contemplate them. Some might consider that avoidance; but what is happening is we are focusing on the truth which will then allow the circumstantial to fall into a lesser place. It is then truth that will call us to respond, and that which is not truth will lose voice.

Let us give heed to these things and, in so doing, be fully immersed in the things of the Lord, where all life resides.

2 Samuel 16:1-23; Psalm 108; Acts 22:17-29; Mark 11:1-11

Birthdays: Anna Carpenter, Scott E. Miller
Anniversaries: Shawn & Liz Stewart

by Sallie Ross

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