

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

August 24-30, 2025

Sunday, August 24

John 8:12-20 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world.”* (v.12a NIV)

Well, those words certainly ignited the Pharisees. The “I am” part was almost as volatile as “the light” part. That was because the sacred name of God was YHWH, Hebrew for “the Great I AM.”

And light? The Creator’s first words were, “Let there be light.” Jehovah provided the pillar of fire to light the way for the Hebrew wanderers in their 40 years in the desert. In the Psalms there are many references like “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1) and “God is the light of life” (Psalm 56:13). Especially the crowd would remember Isaiah’s words: “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6b).

These words were spoken in the temple treasury—sometimes called Solomon’s portico or the Court of Women—which was the colonnade on the temple’s east side. This was where many of the devout gathered around learned teachers. Here also on the nights of this, the Feast of the Tabernacles, was the Illumination of the Temple. Four huge oil filled candelabra were ceremonially lit and burned all night, shining brightly into Jerusalem below and onto the world beyond.

And Jesus was standing right there, proclaiming himself to be the light of the world.

2 Samuel 24:1-2, 10-25; Psalms 146, 147; Galatians 3:23—4:7

Birthdays: Beverly Bidwell, Toni Hale, Elizabeth Moody, Justin Ruby

Anniversaries: Eric & Jane Lanigan

Monday, August 25

Acts 26:1-23 *“I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.”* (v.16b)

“Anything but evangelism” had long been my zip code; however, helping others in little ways was on my “can do” list. That’s how Susan became a friend while I drove her to physical therapy. Like many folks, Susan was pretty sure that there wasn’t a God, but still she searched for something spiritual. Clearly God intended to move stubborn me into a mini evangelism effort. But how?

Asking around for help, I was told that simply sharing my own conversion experience would be honest, inoffensive, non-threatening, and irrefutable. That’s how Paul witnessed here to Festus and Agrippa and he gave the same witness in Acts 22:3-11. After relating his background as a Pharisee, he told of his personal encounter with Jesus. Later Paul taught what the Scriptures had to say about the Messiah.

So I prayed for an open door and for the right words—dare I say it?— “to witness” to the faith within me. That time soon arrived as we sat in a bagel shop. Though scared and excited, I really wanted Susan to hear what Jesus had done for me; maybe later I’ll be able to share what Jesus did in the Bible.

What a joy! Now my new zip code is “willing to share what Jesus has done for me.”

1 Kings 1:5-31; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Mark 13:14-27

Birthdays: Matthew Bergquist, Steve Jewett, Emily Kann, Eric Ravndal IV

Tuesday, August 26

Acts 26:24—27:8 *“Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”* (v.28)

In yesterday’s devotion, I related how I had shared my conversion experience with my friend Susan while choking down a bagel. What were the results? Well, I haven’t seen any more results than Paul did when he witnessed to Festus and Agrippa.

Festus actually said, “You are out of your mind, Paul!” (v.24). Such a response was my biggest fear, but it didn’t faze Paul. He kept right on going by turning his evangelizing more to King Agrippa. Soon the king said that he was making no quick changes to Christianity. (Think how long it took you and me.) “Paul replied, ‘Short time or long—I pray

God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains”’ (v.29).

So, like Paul, let’s (1) pray for opportunities to scatter Good News seeds. (2) Proclaim Jesus, not ourselves. (3) Keep praying patiently for others to know him. (4) Go on living the life Jesus calls us to, letting his light shine through us as best it can. That’s: pray it, say it, pray it, and display it. Having planted the Word, we can leave the growth to God. Short time or long, God is the Lord of the harvest. Thanks be to God.

1 Kings 1:38—2:4; Psalms 5, 6; Mark 13:28-37

Birthdays: Tiffany Lytle, Mark Davis, Dolly Dunnam, Angela Estes, Gianna Mackinnon

Wednesday, August 27

Mark 14:1-11 *“She has done a beautiful thing to me...She did what she could.”* (vv.6, 8)

She? John 12:1-11 tells this same story with Mary, Lazarus and Martha’s sister, identified as the woman who anointed Jesus. She “sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said” (Luke 10:39). Later she watched Jesus call her dead brother from the tomb (John 11:17 45). Shortly after that at a dinner party, she used a precious perfume to anoint Jesus’ body for burial. She demonstrated—to the assembled guests and now to the entire world (v.9)—her extravagant love for Jesus.

For the love of Jesus, are we willing to act boldly, without regard to financial cost and undaunted by criticism? Are we willing to do “something beautiful,” sacrificially giving of self, time, resources, and our tenderest love? Even if we were willing, Jesus has no earthly form to anoint. Or does he? In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus suggests that he can be found among street people, illegal aliens, and convicts, to name a few. From that perspective, Mother Teresa of Calcutta is another woman who daily anointed Jesus’ body for burial.

Will you or I hear Jesus say of us, “She has done a beautiful thing to me...She did what she could,” because “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40)?

1 Kings 3:1-15; Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 27:9-26

Birthdays: David Beers, Lanier Kimbrough, Wynn Wurtzel

Anniversaries: Bruce & Barbara Keene

Thursday, August 28

Mark 14:12-26 *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”* (v.22)

Earthly Senses, Eternal Soul

Join the heavenly Host in a simple, life-giving meal

into which he has poured his own life.

Come together with those things of the world

which are good and lovely, pure and true.

See the high table, the spotless linen cloth,

the shining silver plate, the waiting goblet,

the open book, the flickering candles, the attending flowers.

Hear the gathering saints, the music, the silence,

the Word of God, “The Body of Christ,”

“The Blood of Christ keep you in everlasting life.”

Smell the old wood, the memory of incense,

the hint of flowers, the bloom of wine.

Touch the wooden rail, the needlepoint kneelers,

the warm hands of family, the crisp bread, the smooth cup.

Taste the joy and wonder, the supreme gift,

the Bread of Heaven, the Cup of Salvation.

1 Kings 3:16-28; Psalm 18:1-20; Acts 27:27-44

Birthdays: Gordon Ahl, Rose Millson

Friday, August 29

Psalm 17 *As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face.* (v.15)

There she sat, gazing at herself in the make-up mirror, mesmerized by her own mess. Nothing was really wrong, she thought. Of course, there were the three hampers of laundry, the dirty breakfast dishes, and a smelly Labrador retriever, all begging to be washed. But it was her own filth glaring back at her that was the real culprit.

So she sat staring deep into herself. There they were, the dirty trio: Criticism, Judgment, Control. She’d seen that threesome before, lots of times. So she began to play with them. First, she mulled over all that was wrong with everybody else; then, she launched into herself. Having wasted the better part of an hour, she considered spending more time gazing at herself before remembering the “perspective principle”—gaze at God and glance at self.

Leaving the mirror and turning to her prayer journal, she jotted down her sins, confessing and giving each one to God. Then she just took a walk on that fine summer day, gazing at God’s handiwork and humming:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Look full in His wonderful face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,

In the light of His glory and grace.

1 Kings 5:1—6:1, 7; Psalm 16; Acts 28:1-16; Mark 14:27-42

Birthdays: Thatcher Clark, John Demola, Jan Godbold, Sophia Smith

Anniversaries: Mark & Tricia Anderson, Dave & Ansley Holt

Saturday, August 30

Acts 28:17-31 *I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.* (v.17b)

Grab hold of your Bible and mentally subtract from it the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 2 Timothy and Philemon. That’s what Christendom would be missing if Paul hadn’t obediently allowed the Holy Spirit to flow through him while on house arrest in Rome. Rather than sitting around feeling sorry for himself, Paul had “learned to be content whatever the circumstances” (Philippians 4:11). So, he could see this time as an opportunity from the Lord to witness both in writing and in preaching to those who visited him.

Chained to a Roman guard and with the prospect of martyrdom ahead, Paul surely had some down times. But having passed through other imprisonments, stonings, beatings, shipwrecks and the like, Paul had been prepared to handle the present. We might say his past experiences were fertilizer for the hope he needed anew. Paul articulated this himself: “We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:4-5).

1 Kings 7:51—8:21; Psalms 20, 21; Mark 14:43-52

Birthdays: Debbie Greear, Natalie Tucker Joynson, Mark Senft, Betsy Stewart

by Martha Emerson

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