

# All Saints Church

## Good News Daily

*Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries*

### September 21-27, 2025

#### Sunday, September 21

Luke 3:7-18 *Don't just talk of turning to God; you'd better bear the authentic fruit of a changed life.* (v.8a VOICE)

This Scripture reminds me of the saying, “If you’re going to talk the talk, you’ve got to walk the walk.”

I met lots of so-called Christian’s when I was in college up in North Carolina. They were Christians on Sundays, but Mondays through Saturdays they were something else.

Except for a girl who lived two doors down from me. She was the same 24/7. She put Jesus first from the moment she got up until she went to bed. She was always our designated driver, she was never too busy to listen, and if you needed something she got it for you. She was kind, gracious, and never said a bad word about anyone. I wanted to be just like her. However, at that time, I wasn’t ready to give up my addictions.

Over the years, I’ve lost touch with her, but whenever I see her again, I’m going to tell her that, “He is now ‘my Jesus’ too!” And then thank her for showing me what it meant to “bear the authentic fruit of a changed life.”

2 Kings 4:8-17; Psalms 93, 96; Acts 9:10-31

**Birthdays:** Angela Briddell, Wally Philips, Kai Ravndal, John Taylor, Lee Van Valkenburgh, Barbara Yergey

#### Monday, September 22

2 Kings 5:1-19 *But Naaman became angry and stalked away. “I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!” he said. “I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the LORD his God and heal me!”* (v.11 NLT)

As I read that verse, I wondered how many times I’ve stalked off angry/offended when God didn’t do things the way I wanted or expected.

I hate to admit it, but my expectations have interfered with me receiving the healing God had for me on more the one occasion. When God didn’t answer my prayers the way I expected, I became blind to His answer because it didn’t fit into my little box. It wasn’t until after the fact that I realized that God *had* answered me—just in a different way. And guess what, His way was much better...of course.

I’ve learned that when I pray to not have expectations of what God may or may not do, but instead to trust that how He chooses to answer will always be in my best interest. God knows what we need better than we do. So, it makes no sense to get angry or offended. When I feel my flesh begin to react that I way, I ask the Lord to give me His expectations instead of my own.

Psalms 80; 1 Corinthians 4:8-21; Matthew 5:21-26

**Birthdays:** Anne Drake, Bradley Rhine, Robert Walther

#### Tuesday, September 23

2 Corinthians 5:1-8 *That’s why we live with such good cheer. You won’t see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don’t get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It’s what we trust in but don’t yet see that keeps us going. Do you suppose a few ruts in the road or rocks in the path are going to stop us? When the time comes, we’ll be plenty ready to exchange exile for homecoming.* (vv.6-8 MSG)

Are you a glass half empty or a glass half full kind of person? Before answering, take a moment to re-read the Scripture verses above.

What would happen if we started living like that every day? Even on the bad days. We have a promise from Jesus that this is not our home. And we know that what He has waiting for us is going to be more amazing than we can imagine. We might not be

able to see it with our eyes right now, but we have His promise to keep us going. Yes, we are going to have our ups and downs, but we shouldn’t let them rule over us. Why? Because Jesus is a promise keeper.

So, let me ask you again. Is the glass half empty or is the glass half full? I propose that we look at life completely differently. What if we answered that the glass is always full. Half liquid and half air. We can’t see the air, but we know it is there just like Jesus’ promise of our better future.

2 Kings 5:19-27; Psalm 78:1-39; Matthew 5:27-37

**Birthdays:** Joseph Bell, Roger Paladino

**Anniversaries:** Todd & Betty Stalbaum

#### Wednesday, September 24

2 Kings 6:1-23 *“Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.* (vv.16-17 NLT)

I remember exactly how I felt the first time I read these verses. I was filled with a wildfire of burning hope.

I had been struggling with severe pain in my neck and back for several years. I was exhausted from not being able to sleep. I was emotionally drained. And I was overwhelmed by feeling all alone in this battle raging inside of my body.

When Elisha spoke those words above to his servant, I felt like he was speaking directly to me. “Don’t be afraid...For there are more on our side than on theirs.” I remember closing my eyes and imagining standing next to Elisha. I looked up to see a hillside filled with the Lord’s army of horses and chariots.

I was not alone in my battle. The Lord and His army were with me. Hope began flooding through me. Followed quickly by peace. Whenever the pain flared, I kept saying again and again and again, “Do not be afraid, I am not alone. The Lord and His army of horses and chariots are all around me.”

Psalms 119:97-120; 1 Corinthians 5:9—6:8; Matthew 5:38-48

**Birthdays:** Cliff Clark, Connor Ferguson

**Anniversaries:** Alex & Maureen Douglas

#### Thursday, September 25

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 *Just because something is technically legal doesn’t mean that it’s spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I’d be a slave to my whims.* (v.12 MSG)

I had been a binge alcoholic since my teenage years. I could stop drinking for periods of time, but it never stuck. Sooner or later, I was drinking uncontrollably again. It was an insane roller coaster ride.

I wasn’t sure what was going happen when I gave my life to Jesus at 33 years old. Drinking alcohol was not illegal as a Christian, but something inside me told me that it was no longer an option for me. It was not an appropriate lifestyle choice for me.

I remember having a conversation about drinking with one of my friends who is an alcoholic. His argument was that nowhere in the Bible does it say drinking alcohol is a sin. And he was right about that, but it does say not to get drunk because it is debauchery (Ephesians 5:18).

For me it is simple, I can’t drink alcohol because I become a slave to it. So, while it is legal, it is not spiritually wise or appropriate for me. Therefore, I don’t drink. (22+ years sober.)

2 Kings 9:1-16; Psalms 83, 146, 147; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**Birthdays:** Kristin Conlan, Hank Hornsby, Kevin Landress, Olivia Maxwell, Diane Shurm

**Anniversaries:** Richard & Sonja Kingdon

#### Friday, September 26

Matthew 6:7-15 *“The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.”* (vv.7-8)

One day, in my very first Bible Study, I was asked to pray the closing prayer. I panicked. I mean totally panicked—palms sweating, heart racing kind of panic. One of the women rescued me by saying the prayer. The next week rolled around and once again the leader of the group asked me to pray the closing prayer. All the same panicked feelings boiled up inside of me.

“I can’t!” I protested. “I don’t know how to pray.”

Then one of the other women said something that changed my life. “Kirsten, you do know how to pray. Prayer is just a conversation between you and God. There are no right or wrong words to say.”

I prayed that day. Nothing fancy. Just very simple, heartfelt words between me and God. A conversation.

Prayer is not a formula, a program, or a complicated technique. It is your one-on-one conversation with God. Who’s never too busy, never too tired, and never unavailable. You can tell Him anything and everything. The best part is that He’s only a whisper away.

2 Kings 9:17-37; Psalm 88; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

**Birthdays:** Vivi Ambs, Daniel Butts, Lisa Everett, Meredith Gardner, Chris Miller

#### Saturday, September 27

Psalms 90 *God, it seems You’ve been our home forever; long before the mountains were born, Long before You brought earth itself to birth, from “once upon a time” to “kingdom come”—You are God.* (vv.1-2)

For most of my adolescent and adult life, I felt like I never fit in anywhere. I always felt like I wandered on the fringe of relationships. Never fully engaged. Never fully embraced.

Then I met Jesus. I suddenly belonged. It was like being welcomed home after a long absence. It was having the confidence of knowing I was loved, fully loved. He is my home. With him, I fit in. I am fully embraced.

It was, and still is, the best feeling in the world to know that Jesus is my Home. That he created me, and you, because he wanted to be in relationship with each of us. He wanted us to be part of his family. He loves being our Home.

2 Kings 11:1-20a; Psalm 87; 1 Corinthians 7:10-24; Matthew 6:19-24

**Birthdays:** Jonathon Durcan, Sandy Hornbacher

**Anniversaries:** Gavin & Denise Mackinnnon, Vincent & Florence Smith

*by Kirsten Aufhammer*

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