

All Saints Church  
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

October 5-11, 2025

Sunday, October 5

Psalm 118 *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.* (v.22 NASB)

As a young man Sir Issac Newton was said to be absent-minded, neglected chores, and more notably disappointed his college tutors. At 23, Abraham Lincoln apparently served the Illinois militia starting as a captain but finished a private. He was defeated seven times in politics before his Presidency. Walt Disney was said to have been so poor at one point that he ate dog food. His first studio went bankrupt. Was told he lacked imagination from the Kansas City Star. And later received 300 rejections notices from banks for startup projects.

While today’s reading is, of course, believed to be a central prophesy of Christ, it also speaks of what seems to me as God’s love of the element of surprise. David and Goliath. The stuttering Moses. The mustard tree (likely *Brassica nigra*). Newton. Lincoln. Disney.

In many ways my faith has amounted to an endless series of challenges from an unsuspecting carpenter who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and proved to have more tricks up his sleeves than anyone can shake a stick at.

2 Kings 20:1-21; Acts 12:1-17; Luke 7:11-17

**Birthdays:** Sonja Kingdon, Mike Locke, Betsy Owens, Christian Rismiller, Suzanne Saltsman, Claire Smith

**Anniversaries:** Harold & Sue Pate, Benjamin & Lori Wurtzel

Monday, October 6

1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1 *Let no one seek his own good but that of his neighbor.* (v.24)

The hardest thing about Christianity for many is whether or not Jesus was real. Did he really turn water into wine and feed 5,000 people? Did he raise Lazarus from the dead? Did he resurrect?

Subsequent to my own epiphany at age 16, these were never hard questions for me to believe. They actually made sense. Despite the ubiquitous and articulate voice of skeptics, I never had a problem with the tales of Christ. Even today, I still find the accounts extraordinarily wonderful and believable.

No, the hardest thing about following Christ for me is in denying myself in deference to others. Putting their needs ahead of mine. Losing my life in order to find it. I am grateful to live in this country, but I am so often in conflict. The American culture I live in promotes, feeds, and affirms selfishness. It worships self. The Sermon on the Mount does not. It leaves a question always before me: how, Lord, do I live in this world?

2 Kings 21:1-18; Psalm 106:1-18; Matthew 8:28-34

**Birthdays:** Jennifer Dymond, Harry Pool, Bob Shinn

Tuesday, October 7

Psalms 123 *Be gracious to us O LORD... for we are greatly filled with contempt.* (v.3)

In the 2017 film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* one of my favorite actresses, Frances McDormand, plays *Mildred*, a bitter parent who lost her daughter by an unsolved rape-murder. Mildred’s anger soon becomes very public and at one point a priest visits to admonish her, to which Mildred responds by declaring the priest himself guilty by association—with pedophiles discovered in priesthoods.

Granted, any mother facing such unbearable devastation has a right to unfettered rage, at least I would agree. But as a friend also watching commented,

Mildred’s contempt at the priest stretches logic. For which I also agreed. Because it would follow that everyone would then be guilty by association to companies, families, even cultures.

The film reminded me at how my own rage can steer off course and of James who warned the tongue is a “tiny member yet how great a forest it can set aflame.” When I have revenge it always feels sweet—but, ugly. Forgiveness, though far more difficult, brings a healing and a resolve that is different from revenge. It’s harder, but better.

2 Kings 22:1-13; Psalms 120, 121, 122; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22; Matthew 9:1-8

**Birthdays:** Robert Larsen, Harry Pool IV

Wednesday, October 8

2 Kings 22:14—23:3 *“...because your heart was tender... I have truly heard you...”* (v.19)

Ancient scripture is very clear that God chose Israel early on as a special nation. But the book of Kings clarifies time and time again that no one gets carte blanche, not even Israel. Ancient Israel was a pendulum. Bad king. Good king. Back and forth.

Today’s reading is one of the heart-warming ones. Josiah, a king at only 8 soon learns of the treachery of previous rulers. He tears his shirt in shame of the past to which God seems taken aback, is moved by the King’s humility and, consequently, promises to delay His wrath.

I recall an elder once saying that God is a person and that Scripture says we can grieve the Holy Spirit. It is profound to me that we can cause such a grief. But as today’s reading teaches it is also remarkably profound that repentance and humility can also move a loving God. And that possibly such a single person can even turn the tide of history.

Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34; Matthew 9:9-17

**Birthdays:** Robert Murrell, Tyler Reece

Thursday, October 9

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.* (v.4)

A pastor once said that the reason there are so many people in the world is that God needs all of us to be able to fully express Himself.

There is something about the endless expressions that exists in nature—and in humans—that has always amazed me. There is the vast variety of plant life, of terrain, of weather throughout creation. Colors of the spectrum. The Chemical table. Even clothing design is endless. How many different ways are there to clothe a person?

How many different designs in architecture? And so, Paul suggest are our spiritual gifts. Endless, yet distributed “individually—just as God wills.”

I have a neighbor right now who is smart, good looking, immensely popular, engaging, inviting, curious, adventurous, and always celebrating other people’s gifts rather than being jealous or envious of them. I venture to say my neighbor unwittingly teaches, by example, precisely Paul’s message. Gifts are timeless and wonderful. My neighbor helps me want to celebrate them in others, and be grateful.

2 Kings 23:4-25; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Matthew 9:18-26

**Birthdays:** Will Estes, Jane Ellen Shelby

**Anniversaries:** Jeff Prickett & Linda Warren

Friday, October 10

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 *And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you.”* (v.21)

This year the US Chamber of Commerce reported there are 8.5 million job openings but only 6.5 million unemployed US workers. At the same time our

southern border is brimming with immigrants facing an ironic political pressure to ward them off.

Today’s immigration is complex. But there is a sentiment reminiscent of wealthy Sodom and Gomorrah whose leaders reasoned: “Why should we suffer wayfarers, who come to us only to deplete our wealth? Come, let us abolish the practice of traveling in our land” (Sandhedrin 109a).

In contrast, Paul’s message is inclusive. That not only might I have different talents from others but, just as important, that I recognize my need for them. The antithesis being a spirit of superiority, discrimination, and disconnect which, apparently, the Corinthians wrestled with. Sodom and Gomorrah was a wealthy land of milk and honey but had natives who hated strangers. What I learn from Scripture is that I should not be so quick to disregard others. Not just for their sake. But for mine as well.

2 Kings 23:36—24:17; Psalms 140, 142; Matthew 9:27-34

**Birthdays:** Ava Reynolds, Wendy Schafer

**Anniversaries:** Sascha Rizzo & Shari Bartz

Saturday, October 11

1 Corinthians 12:27—13:3 *...if I have all the faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.* (v.2)

Scholars tell us that by Jesus’ time the faction between Samaritans and Jews was so strong Jewish travelers were said to cross over the river Jordan rather than pass through Samaritan territory. As one scholar put it “rather than contaminate themselves.” Even though Samaritans faithfully worshiped Yahweh they were considered heretical for various reasons. I can never hear today’s reading enough. It and Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan are powerfully haunting.

I am capable of enough self-righteous indignation to believe anyone who doesn’t think the way I do is heretical-comparable. I have learned how to argue and be pretty good at it. My college education taught me how to support beliefs with research, scholars, and even ancient text. And frankly my epiphany left me so affected I feel at times to have the faith to move mountains.

But if my scholarship and lofty faith leads me to avoid “contaminating” myself with others, Paul says all that is for nothing. I am nothing. Certainly less than a selfless and caring heretic.

Jeremiah 35:1-19; Psalms 137, 144; Matthew 9:35—10:4

**Birthdays:** Elizabeth Hock, Paul Owens

*by William Bacon*

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