

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

February 22-28, 2026

Sunday, February 22

John 12:44-50 *"I have come into the world as light, so that no one who has faith in me should remain in darkness."* (v.46 NIV)

One of the dictionary definitions of "light" is spiritual awareness and illumination, and though Jesus certainly offers us spiritual awareness and illumination, his words and life give us much more. Because he is the light which has come into the world, we now see the world differently. The Christian sees nature and its mysteries as the creation of a loving God who revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ. In the magnificent words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, nature is "charged with the grandeur of God."

For those who believe in him, Jesus the Light also casts out all darkness. He enables us to see his creation with awe and wonder. He dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. He reveals the sharp contrast between the ways of the world and the works of God. No physical, spiritual, emotional, or moral darkness can remain in those who trust the God of love and light.

Daniel 9:3-10; Psalms 63, 98; Hebrews 2:10-18

Birthdays: Jeffrey Blydenburgh, Kyle Brown, Jennifer Ho, Carson Story

Anniversaries: Roger Lee & Catherine Hinman

Monday, February 23

1 Corinthians 1:1-19 *I appeal to you, my friends, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: agree among yourselves, and avoid divisions; let there be complete unity of mind and thought.* (v.10)

On the night before he died, Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples "that the world may know that you sent me and you loved them as you loved me." The unity of Christians in faith and love can witness powerfully to the love of God and offer an irresistible invitation to those who don't know Him to accept Christ as their Savior.

Unfortunately, we Christians do not often manifest the unity Christ prayed for. Our congregations all too easily become battlegrounds over the most trivial matters. Secular and Christian periodicals daily provide convincing evidence of the tendency of Christians to fight with one another over the slightest provocation. The Corinthian church forgot, and the contemporary church continues to forget that the source of our unity is the Christ who was nailed to the cross. How can the church proclaim him when its members are so ready to crucify one another?

Jesus has called us to a better way.

Genesis 37:1-11; Psalms 41, 52; Mark 1:1-13

Birthdays: Dennis Greenwald, Rick Henderson, Rick Proctor, Sascha Rizzo

Anniversaries: Steve & Pam Coutant, Ryan & Colleen Scordato

Tuesday, February 24

1 Corinthians 1:20-31 *Jews demand signs, Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ nailed to the Cross; and though this is an offense to Jews and folly to Gentiles, yet to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, he is the power of God and the wisdom of God.* (vv.22-24)

The image of Christ nailed to a cross doesn't find much favor in Christian circles these days, even among members of denominations where crucifixes are likely to be displayed and honored. To the secular world, the cross is even more of a mystery. This fact is exemplified by the salesperson who asked

a woman buying a cross whether she wanted a plain one or the one with the little man on it.

Paul proclaimed a Christ nailed to the cross. He proclaimed an offense and foolishness to the world. He contradicted what a sinful humanity wanted in a god: a god made in the image and likeness of humans, a god who condoned human lusts and exalted worldly power. Paul pointed to the power and wisdom of the God-man nailed to the cross and told us to "boast" about this Lord. If the image of Jesus nailed to the cross causes us discomfort, if the depiction of the suffering God makes us uneasy, how can we find in him "our righteousness, our holiness, and our liberation" (1 Corinthians 1:30)?

Genesis 37:12-24; Psalm 45; Mark 1:14-28

Birthdays: Beth Kelly, Sally Simmons

Anniversaries: John & Piper Mandigo

Wednesday, February 25

1 Corinthians 2:1-13 *I resolved that while I was with you I would not claim to know anything but Jesus Christ, Christ nailed to the cross. I came before you in weakness, in fear and in great trepidation.* (vv.2-3)

Some of the members of my church have urged me to preach more "resurrection sermons" stressing the joys of life and appealing to the inherent "goodness" of the human spirit. I confess that I often preach about the cross, perhaps because I believe that we all need to be reminded of the lengths to which God would go to give us true happiness and joy, and perhaps because I see in the cross of Jesus God's solidarity with suffering humanity.

Paul felt so strongly about proclaiming the crucified Christ because he experienced in his personal fears and inadequacies the power of Christ revealed by faith in God's grace. There are moments in our lives, times of fear, anxiety, aimlessness, sinfulness, and loneliness, when our only recourse is to the crucified Christ. On those occasions, Christ the teacher, Christ the miracle worker, Christ the light, and Christ the truth and the way, give way to the Crucified One who by his cross redeems our suffering and brings us peace.

Genesis 37:25-36; Psalm 119:49-72; Mark 1:29-45

Birthdays: Maggie Bilby, Kelly Newman, Dan Yarbrough

Anniversaries: Wayne & Francie Dear, John & Emily Kann

Thursday, February 26

Mark 2:1-12 *When he saw their faith, Jesus said to the man, "My son your sins are forgiven."* (v.5)

One of God's great blessings in contemporary Christianity is the ministry of healing. Evidences of God's power abound in the healing of physical illnesses, the relief of emotional problems and distress, and the restoration of relationships. God continues to work miracles in our midst just as Jesus did some two thousand years ago.

Miracles of physical and psychological healing, however, tend to distract us from the greatest miracle of healing: the forgiveness of sin which leads to reconciliation with God. The greater miracle for the man who was paralyzed was the forgiveness of his personal sin which Jesus pronounced over him.

Sometimes, we are disappointed when physical and emotional healing doesn't happen. That shouldn't come as any great surprise to us: the only miraculous healing that God absolutely guarantees to those who come to Him in faith is the forgiveness of our sins.

Genesis 39:1-23; Psalm 50; 1 Corinthians 2:14—3:15

Birthdays: June Adams, Nick Lucchesi

Friday, February 27

1 Corinthians 3:16-23 *Surely you know that you are God's temple, where the Spirit of God dwells. Anyone who destroys God's temple will himself be destroyed by God, because the temple of God is holy; and you are that temple.* (v.16)

Scholars tell us that the Greek word for "temple" used by Paul refers to the sanctuary, the very place in the temple structure where God dwells, and that the "you" refers to the local congregation. As a devout Jew, Paul once believed that the great Temple of Herod in Jerusalem was the place where God's glory dwelled in a special way. The passionate disciple of Jesus understood that the Spirit of God is present wherever Christians build their life together on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Individual Christians are also the temples of God when they build their lives on the foundation of Christ. Individually and corporately, Christians become the dwelling places of God's glory. If I believe this to be true, why do I treat this temple so shabbily with my weak faith, my sins of the flesh, and my willingness to seek spiritual wisdom in the cunning of the worldly wise?

Genesis 40:1-23; Psalms 40, 54; Mark 2:13-22

Birthdays: Jeanne Builder, Scott Peelan

Anniversaries: Ryan Plumley & Laurie Goyack

Saturday, February 28

1 Corinthians 4:1-7 *My friend, what makes you so important? What do you possess that was not given to you? And if you received it as a gift, why take the credit to yourself?* (v.7)

So much effort in American society is expended on self-promotion. Resume writing workshops teach us how to describe our work experience so that even the humblest tasks can enhance our prospects for employment. Television has a glut of award shows which honor the "best" this or that. The number of "lifetime achievement" awards seems to grow exponentially every year.

Each one of us is tempted to believe that we are responsible for the blessings we have received, that we have earned them through our own efforts. Paul reminds us that we are all stewards who are called to be trustworthy and warns us that we are to avoid the pitfalls of pride and judging others. We have received all things as a gift, from life itself to the abilities which have enabled us to achieve.

An awareness of our utter dependence on God even for those things we are inclined to take credit for may make us less willing to assert our claims and to presume God's commendation for all we do. We may find ourselves saying "Thank you, Lord" many times daily.

Genesis 41:1-13; Psalm 55; Mark 2:23—3:6

Birthdays: Katie Halligan, Emma Rodrigues, Diane Thornton

by Daniel Crawford

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