

## All Saints Church Good News Daily

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

May 24-30, 2026

### Sunday, May 24

Deuteronomy 16:9-12 *And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name...* (v.11 NIV)

For centuries, and even today, many Hebrews have recited *birkats*, short prayers of praise and thanksgiving for the beginning of the day, the end of the day, before and after meals, at harvest, etc. It is a habitual exercise to praise and thank God for all He provides as one goes about their daily life.

For Christians, Christ now makes His dwelling place in our hearts, mind, and souls. We may not harvest grain, but how often do we thank God for the jobs we do have? The housing and food our income helps us afford? Even the hard lessons learned that shape our faith?

We have prayers in the back of our prayer books that often go unnoticed. There are also short services for families to use in the morning, noonday, evening, and at bedtime (Compline.) I urge you to thumb through them. Consider making a few of these resources part of your daily devotions. You might find your outlook shifts towards the positive more often.

Psalm 118; Acts 4:18-21, 23-33; John 4:19-26

**Birthdays:** Steven Cavett, Audra Croup, John Ressler

**Anniversaries:** Dennis & Cynthia Greenwald

### Monday, May 25

1 Timothy 1:1-17 *The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.* (v.5)

It seems more and more people want to buck the system. Rules are restrictive, commands are oppressive, laws are antiquated. To the casual viewer, the commands in the Bible may seem more “Thou shall not” than anything else. Christian values are seen as too strict, out of touch with society, and negatively motivated.

That could be no further from the truth. Jesus said that the first commandment is to love God and the second is to love neighbor—everything else depends on doing these two things (Matthew 22:39-40). God sets boundaries out of love. They are designed to protect us and provide guidance, so we do not stray into trouble.

A Chinese adage states that the obedient dog is allowed to roam within the fenced yard while the disobedient one is chained. There is freedom in obeying what God commands. It opens us to receive His love guiltlessly and to realize He watches over us.

We are used to following our GPSs without question instead of veering off on our own, so why do we have the tendency to buck the Holy Spirit’s promptings?

Proverbs 10:1-12; Psalm 25; Matthew 12:22-32

**Anniversaries:** Simon & Churchill Thompson

### Tuesday, May 26

Matthew 12:33-42 *Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”* (v.38)

If I am honest, I have asked God the same thing. But my intentions were sincere. I wanted a holy flashlight shining into the fog of my situation. Some sign I was in His will and headed in the right direction, that He heard me, and would be right there beside me.

These Pharisees had a different motive. They wanted proof *in order* to believe. Jesus gives examples of how Gentiles in ages past believed and repented, so why was it, He asked, that those who called themselves children of God were so reluctant to open their hearts and spiritual eyes?

Perhaps because the rituals had become their center of worship. When people concentrate more on the rules than the giver of them, they will do one of two things: they become prone to judgementalism, or they turn away in disbelief and dismay because the rules are too rigid.

Let’s not close our eyes, hearts, and minds to the mysteries of God even if they don’t fit into the way we have always done things.

Proverbs 15:16-33; Psalms 26, 28; 1 Timothy 1:18—2:8

**Birthdays:** Gloria Dixon, Nicole Lucchesi

**Anniversaries:** Matt & Danielle Behrmann

### Wednesday, May 27

Psalm 38 *LORD, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God. Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.* (vv.21-22)

This psalm, contributed as being from David, is one of desperation. David certainly faced dangerous episodes in his life, some of his own doing, some because of whom he was called to become. However, there are two things we can notice that may help us when we call out to God.

First, he was contrite. He admitted he was a sinner. He humbled himself instead of being angry at God for not giving his anointed special treatment. No entitlement mentality here.

Second, he knew who to turn to when unfairness, danger, or strife loomed. He did not “lean on his own understanding” but instead fell on his knees. He did not try to battle his enemies without relying on his Lord for guidance and protection.

A young boy asked his dad if he could hold his hand as they crossed a bridge over some rapids. The dad replied that instead *he* would hold *his son’s* hand. When the boy asked what the difference was, the dad told him, “Because I will never let go.”

Proverbs 17:1-20; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; Matthew 12:43-50

**Birthdays:** Jack Lawton, Jon Snyder, John Stevens, Suzanne Turbyfill

**Anniversaries:** Chad & Heather Seiler

### Thursday, May 28

Proverbs 21:30—22:6 *Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.* (v.4)

These proverbs have the same thread running through them. Following God leads to better things than following the ways of humanity, which is often misguided, self-motivated, and scheming. If we learn at a young age that God’s ways, even if we do not understand them, are the best way, then even if we stray from these ways, His love will call us back. Each one of us has been like the Prodigal Son at one point, haven’t we? How wonderful it is to fall humbly into the arms of a forgiving, loving Father than a punitive judge!

Don’t be misled by prosperity gospel talk. Riches that come to the Christian are eternal ones that neither moth nor time can destroy. We may or may not be blessed with material wealth in this life, but when we realize that all is from God and we are mere stewards of what He provides, then our attitude of gratitude will enrich us abundantly. So, parents and grandparents, teach the children well... and forget not the lessons God has taught you.

Psalm 37:1-18; 1 Timothy 4:1-16, Matthew 13:24-30

**Birthdays:** Brooks LaRue, Tamra Leary, Fran Morin, Richard Oehmler, Beverly Philips, Cade von Weller

### Friday, May 29

1 Timothy 5:17-25 *But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.* (v.20)

Teachers and preachers who know God’s ways and practice them receive a double honor. They are examples for newer Christians to follow, and they receive God’s favor as well. But if one in authority falls from grace, that person needs to be reprimanded in front of and by his or her peers. Transparency is key.

We have all seen or heard news reports of pastors, priests, and ministers who have committed heinous acts then tried to cover them up. Glen C. Taylor, a Canadian psychologist and pastor, wrote *Fruitful Boughs Broken*, a book that provides biblical examples of how those in leadership who have sinned should be treated within the Body of Christ, some based on these passages in 1 Timothy. Both victim and offender need help.

We are all human—we all fall short, as Paul states in Romans. There must be an opening for repentance as well as reprimand, counseling as well as rebuke. When resulting actions are both punitive and grace-filled, the whole Body of believers benefit and healing begins.

Proverbs 23:19-21, 29—24:2; Psalm 31; Matthew 13:31-35

**Birthdays:** Jim Kelly, Barrett Plsek, Sheran Reich, Merritt Wrighton

**Anniversaries:** Edward & Carla Shuman

### Saturday, May 30

Matthew 13:36-43 *Whoever has ears, let them hear.* (v.43b)

Not everyone will get it. It was true over two thousand years ago, and it is still true today. If there has been one theme running through the passages this week, it is that we must open our minds to hear and receive God’s ways. We often don’t, even as believers. Like David, we can sin. But like hm, we are also called to repent and return.

Christ died on the cross and carried our sins so we can have the grace of forgiveness. But we have our role to play as well. It is not given *carte blanche*. How prepared is your soil this week? Has it been fertilized with God’s Word? Has the soft rains of mercy fallen on it? Or are there hard clumps of doubt, sin, and faith-drought that are preventing God’s blessings from taking root?

Whoever has ears, let them hear also implies that they should then respond to what they have heard and been taught through Scripture. Faith, like love, is not an emotion. It is a verb.

Proverbs 25:15-28; Psalm 30, 32; 1 Timothy 6:6-21

**Anniversaries:** Andrew & Elyse Starling

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