

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

August 16-22, 2026

Sunday, August 16

Judges 16:15-31 “O, God, please strengthen me just once more.” (v.28b NIV)

What a waste. How often that has been said since Samson. Samson was a young man who appeared to have it all. The Lord had blessed him with great physical attractiveness and strength and prepared him to lead the Israelites against the Philistines.

What an opportunity! But Samson lacked (or ignored) discipline and obedience. This is evident in the abundance of his arrogance.

What would we say about Samson today? Doesn’t work to his potential? Short attention span? Does not work and play well with others? Has trouble controlling his temper? Doesn’t choose friends wisely? Is easily deceived? Maybe all of the above?

In spite of all this, God heard his prayer and answered it, just as He does today with you and me. No matter what we’ve done, no matter how long we’ve been separated from the Lord, He’s willing to answer our prayers for help.

Whether we need spiritual or physical strength, if we ask, we will receive. God does answer us—whether we’re powerful, like Samson, or just needy, like you and me. Go ahead and ask. God is waiting to strengthen you “just once more.”

Psalm 118; 2 Corinthians 13:1-11; Mark 5:25-34

Birthdays: Anna Carpenter, Scott E. Miller

Anniversaries: Shawn & Liz Stewart

Monday, August 17

Acts 7:44—8:1a “*The Most High does not live in houses made by men.*” (v.48)

Before Stephen was martyred, he made this unforgettable speech to the Sanhedrin. He gave them a comprehensive history lesson about their ancestors: Moses, Joshua, David, Jacob, Solomon. He pointed out that their ancestors built buildings to please God and in which God could dwell, but that God didn’t dwell only in buildings.

Stephen knew the temple building was important but was stressing that the building was not more important than God. God is everywhere—not just in buildings. God will enter our hearts when we open those hearts to receive Him.

When Stephen said, “The Most High does not live in houses made by men,” he wasn’t spouting any new, radical thinking. He was quoting ideas set forth by Solomon in the Old Testament. Then he went on to remind his audience that their ancestors made a practice of persecuting prophets, including Jesus Christ. Enraged, they stoned Stephen and killed him.

Not too different from today, is it? We frequently become angry when someone points out imperfection in our lives. We may not “kill” a person, but rather, kill a friendship.

At the end of this chapter, Stephen asks forgiveness for his persecutors, just as Jesus did. When someone points out my shortcomings, do I accept it with love, or strike out? Am I like Stephen, or like his persecutors?

Judges 17:1-13; Psalm 106:1-18; John 5:19-29

Birthdays: Courtney Bugia, Cedric Burkhardt, Rick Forrest, Elle Hornsby,

Ben Bankowitz, Robert Van Valkenburgh

Anniversaries: Paul & Mary Rang

Tuesday, August 18

Acts 8:1-13 *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.* (v.4)

Isn’t it interesting that this still goes on today? In our present mobile society, we find families no longer live their entire life in the house in which they were born. Nor do they worship with the same parish family their entire lives.

What do we do when we move, when we’re “scattered”? We find a home for our family’s physical shelter and then look for our new spiritual family. Wherever we go within this country, or to foreign soil, we “preach the word.” We may not have a prepared sermon each Sunday if we’re not clergy, but we still “preach the word.” We preach who we are and what we believe by our words and actions every single day.

If we indulge in excesses of food or beverages, we’re preaching who we are. If we boast, show pride or gossip, we’re preaching who we are. Conversely, if we insist on spending time with family activities, we’re also preaching who we are. If we work at living the Christian life, we’re preaching who we are.

We’ve all heard, “You may be the only Bible someone reads today.” By our words and by our actions, we’re preaching. What are you preaching? Be sure you’re preaching the Word of God, not the word of man, no matter where you’re “scattered.”

Judges 18:1-15; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; John 5:30-47

Birthdays: Marie-Francoise Allard, Holly Allport, Chelsea Christensen,

Julia Dalessandro, Glenna Harmon, Jim Van Kleunen

Anniversaries: Tom & Susannah Dance

Wednesday, August 19

Acts 8:14-25 *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.* (v.14)

At this time in history, there had been intermarriage between the poorest people in Samaria and the foreigners who had been settled there by the Assyrians. Those of mixed race were considered “half-breeds” by the “pure” Jews to the south, which resulted in intense hatred between the two groups.

It’s understandable that the apostles found it difficult to believe that the Samaritans had been converted. So, they did what is still being done today: they sent experts from the “home office” to check it out. They found it hard to believe the Samaritans were true believers. But Peter and John knew that the Holy Spirit was for all people—Jews, Gentiles, circumcised and uncircumcised alike—so they were happy to be with the Samaritans to pray with them and preach the Good News to them.

Later in today’s reading, we find Simon, the sorcerer, mistakenly believing that he could buy the power of the Holy Spirit. It didn’t take Paul long to let Simon know that the power of God was not for sale.

There are still those who believe they can “buy” grace. As Peter says, “Repent of this wickedness and pray.” That’s the way to receive the gift of God.

Judges 18:16-31; Psalm 119:145-176; John 6:1-15

Birthdays: Kathi Brown, Carter Hetz, Dee Lamar, Rob Little, Maylin McBride,

Phyllis Phipps, Isla Pool

Anniversaries: Steve & Nancy Cavett, John & Sandy Race

Thursday, August 20

Acts 8:26-40 “*How can I understand what I’m reading unless someone explains it to me?*” (v.31a)

Have you ever had someone so openly ask for an explanation of Scripture? What a wonderful invitation to witness. Here Philip leaves a very successful preaching ministry to go on a desert road just because the Lord tells him to.

He meets a man on this road who is in charge of the Ethiopian treasury and is reading Isaiah but not understanding it. Here is an important man, probably a convert to Judaism, who has traveled a great distance to worship in Jerusalem. He was reading from the Old Testament about Jesus Christ and didn’t realize it! After

Philip told him the Good News of Jesus, the man asked to be baptized. What can we learn from this?

This man was sincere in his desire but needed help. Those reaching for Jesus Christ don’t always ask so openly. When they do, we need to be ready with the right information. We also need the sensitivity to discern how to best explain Jesus—who he is, the importance of being a follower, his availability to all people, the meaning of baptism. We need heart knowledge as well as head knowledge to understand the full meaning of the Good News so that we may share it when we’re asked.

Job 1:1-22; Psalms 131, 132, 133; John 6:16-27

Birthdays: Piper Bartoszek

Friday, August 21

Acts 9:1-9 *Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples.* (v.1)

Why was Saul such a zealot? He was a legalistic Pharisee, well-educated and respected, but his actions reveal how seriously threatened he felt by these Christians. Why else would he pursue them all the way to Damascus to bring them back to Jerusalem?

But a funny thing happened on the way to Damascus. Saul was confronted by Jesus Christ. Not every conversion experience is this sudden or this dramatic. But just as he always does, Jesus just did what had to be done to get Saul’s attention.

It’s still happening today, too. We conveniently forget that when we sin, we’re persecuting Jesus, just as Saul did. Jesus uses whatever means necessary to get our attention and remind us to open our eyes and follow his Way.

Job 2:1-13; Psalms 140, 142; John 6:27-40

Birthdays: Wendy Ahl, Graham Anderson, Alex Mackinnon, Ethan Miller,

George Walrond, Ed White

Anniversaries: Rick & Sally Forrest

Saturday, August 22

Acts 9:10-19a *Then Ananias went to the house and entered it.* (v.17a)

Ananias gives us a wonderful example of obedience. He knew all about Saul and his plans for the destruction of Jesus’ followers. In today’s reading, he almost says to the Lord, “Do you know what you’re saying?” But Ananias was obedient. He did exactly what the Lord sent him to do. Ananias went to Saul and told him that Jesus had sent him so that Saul might “be filled with the Holy Spirit.” What a victory for the church!

Even today, occasionally we attempt to second-guess the Lord. You know the times: when the Holy Spirit is moving us in one direction, and we think we know better. In effect, we’re saying, “Sorry, Lord, but you’ve got this all wrong. You couldn’t possibly mean this.”

When we feel that way, it’s time to remember Ananias and his obedience. There are lessons to be learned in these few verses: we’re to love others, and we have an obligation to be obedient, even to those who resist the gospel. God is always with us through suffering and hardship—not to spare us from them but to comfort and lead us through them.

Job 3:1-26; Psalms 137, 144; John 6:41-51

Birthdays: Millie Clayton, Liz Sims, Whitney West

Anniversaries: Bill & Shannon Gridley, Mel & Stephanie Simon

by Jeanne Curran

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