

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

August 30-September 5, 2026

Sunday, August 30

Matthew 5:1-12 *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (v.6 NRSV)

Imagine being there on that mountainside when Jesus sat down, waited for his disciples to gather round him and then began to speak. How does it feel to be seated close to Peter, hearing James breathe, noticing John as he leans forward eagerly. What will the Master teach us today? There is always that sense of expectancy when he opens his mouth.

And what does he say? “Blessed are the...” and “Blessed are those...” Each statement opens a little window to God, a window revealing the beauty of holiness. All together they provide a magnificent stained-glass panorama of God’s life.

Jesus is giving us a word-picture of the abundance he has prepared for us. He is inviting us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. He is making us hungry for it. He knows—ah, yes, he knows—that once we experience that hunger deep within our souls, nothing else will satisfy. He knows that only those who thirst for God alone can be filled with the very goodness and the very righteousness of God. In these few words spoken from the mountainside Jesus has spoiled us for this world.

Job 11:1-9, 13-20; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Revelation 5:1-14

Birthdays: Debbie Greear, Natalie Tucker Joynson, Mark Senft, Betsy Stewart

Monday, August 31

John 8:21-32 *“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* (vv.31-32)

How do we continue in Jesus’ word? Is it not by opening ourselves to God completely—in the way of David: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts”? Is it not by expecting God in all the circumstances of our life? We know that ours are not unique circumstances. Our lives resonate with scriptural story. We continue by holding fast to what we have already apprehended and by pressing forward: for more knowledge of the Lord through the Bible, for more intimacy with the Lord through prayer.

“I am a Rock, a sure foundation.

Place your trust in me.

I am Reality.

Come, walk with me.”

Diane Andrews’ beautiful words, set to an equally beautiful tune, tell it like it is. Jesus Christ is reality, the very being of God. He wants to walk with us, to be our companion on our journey.

Some may view truth as disembodied wisdom. For the Christian, Truth is a person living out a Life to show us the Way. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Job 12:1-6, 13-25; Psalm 25; Acts 11:19-30

Birthdays: Brody Mackinnon

Tuesday, September 1

John 8:33-47 *“If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did.”* (v.39b)

The most notable of Abraham’s accomplishments was that he believed God. It sounds so simple, but it requires so much: that we believe God is; that we

believe God can make His voice heard; and that we believe God wants to carry on a conversation with the likes of us. Other than that—it’s simple!

We learn in Genesis 15 that Abraham’s belief was “accounted to him as righteousness.” Here, many years before Christ appears, is someone who chose to be faithful: to hear and obey God, not depending on his own understanding. What a magnificent story! No wonder Abraham is called the “father of faith.” He left behind the comfortable and familiar and chose vulnerability and openness to God. Just as we who are plunged into the waters of baptism with Christ leave behind our old life and choose a new life of vulnerability to God.

One thing is sure: we’ll never have the luxury of boasting (with the Pharisees) about our religious pedigree. Instead, we will join in the great spiritual and sing, “I keep so busy servin’ my Jesus, I ain’t got time to die!”

Job 12:1; 13:3-17, 21-27; Psalm 26, 28; Acts 12:1-17

Birthdays: Jennifer Chapin, Beth Moorefield, Charlie Smith

Wednesday, September 2

John 8:47-59 *“Yet I do not seek my own glory. There is one who seeks it and he is the judge.”* (v.50)

Many years ago, God taught me a “glory” lesson that I have never forgotten. I had become involved in writing liturgical music. The publication of my first service music setting was an exciting moment. I chose to call it The Melchizedek Mass for the King of Peace, because I was fascinated by the obscure story in Genesis 14 of the King of Salem bringing out bread and wine and blessing them in Abram’s presence. The eternal priesthood of Christ was clearly manifest in this little episode and it resonated with the weekly experience of vibrant eucharistic worship in my parish church.

After months of poring over the various stages of music manuscripts, the sight of the finished published copy was a thrill. Only sometime later did I notice that the cover bore the title and publisher’s name, but the composer’s name (mine!) was missing. I felt a pang of disappointment. But before I had a chance to feel sorry for myself, the Holy Spirit spoke quietly in my heart, reassuring me that I was learning a fundamental lifelong lesson about serving Christ: I was never to seek my own glory, but always and only his.

Job 12:1; 14:1-22; Psalm 38; Acts 12:18-25

Birthdays: Steven Garnett, Owen Kroeger

Anniversaries: Mark & Jeanan Davis

Thursday, September 3

John 9:1-17 *“Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.”* (v.3)

We have heard it said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And this is especially true when the beholder is God. Here Jesus gazes upon a blind man and sees a person of great potential. He does not see a handicap or a flawed creature, nor does he assign blame to anyone for the man’s condition. He sees the beauty intended by the Creator, and calls it forth as a part of the healing process. The purity of the man’s response to Jesus and the simplicity of his answers to those who ply him with questions are beautiful manifestations of a human soul being drawn to God.

My mother is 98 years old and has in recent years become legally blind. But you would never guess either of these facts were you in her presence. You could be a bristling porcupine, and she would find some soft spot in you to touch, to encourage, to draw out. And somehow, as she gazed at you, you would never know you were a “blur” in her eyes. Instead, you would feel beautiful; you would know you were in the presence of one of God’s great lovers.

Job 16:16-22; 17:1, 13-16; Psalm 37:1-18; Acts 13:1-12

Birthdays: Tanya Carpenter, Donna de Armas, Ian Smith, Ryan Williams

Anniversaries: Peter & Fleming Bartoszek

Friday, September 4

John 9:18-41 *Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”* (v.39)

The man born blind received his physical sight—yes. But the eyes of his faith were opened, too: he believed in Jesus, whom God had sent. The whole of his humanity was touched. As I read the story, my humanity is touched afresh by the wonder of it, the completeness of it, the beauty of this story. To be touched by God is to be totally touched—to be transformed.

How sad that the Pharisees missed the glory! Their pride and certitude concerning their own tradition blinded them to the Truth, who was a person standing before them. All of the good which God had sent their way down through the ages—from faithful Abraham to Moses the law-giver—had become brittle and lifeless and full of dead men’s bones. They failed to recognize God standing in their midst. They were the blindest of the blind.

God of all the patriarchs and prophets, who has wonderfully revealed Your purposes in history, and in these last days has poured out Your Spirit that Your Church may continue to do the work of Jesus, guard us from all spiritual pride, and open our eyes to see You more clearly day by day.

Job 19:1-7, 14-27; Psalm 31; Acts 13:13-25

Birthdays: Harrow Beers, Bob Bowles, Jennifer Clark, Crissy Shelby

Saturday, September 5

John 10:1-18 *“For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”* (vv.17-18a)

This little verse, tucked away amidst the metaphors about the good shepherd, is to me the heart of the Gospel message. God in Christ didn’t have to do anything for us: He was not obliged; he owed us nothing. He did it all out of pure love, it was a gift from the Father’s heart. To put it simply, in words already grafted onto our hearts, “God so loved the world...”

I have a friend who always signs off her personal letters by saying, “In His amazing love!” It’s true. By any standard at all, it is amazing how God loves us. And the most amazing part of it is that there are no strings attached; God’s love is freely given, and gives freedom to those who receive it. “Owe no one anything but to love...,” said St. Paul.

We hear a lot these days about the need for healthy boundaries. Jesus knew about this when he said, “No one takes it from me.” He sets an example for us: an example of knowing ourselves well enough to be able to give freely. We do this not out of subtle coercion or manipulation and not because we are duped, but only and always out of love. We come to know, as Jesus knew, that only an offering given freely will please the Father.

Job 22:1-4, 21—23:7; Psalms 30, 32; Acts 13:26-43

Birthdays: Wilbur Davis, Steven Gideon, Joey Shook, Nicco Vella

Anniversaries: Terry Arnn & Guinevere Grier

by Betty Carr Pulkingham

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