

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

September 20-26, 2026

Sunday, September 20

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 *“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them.”* (v.1a KJV)

We’ve heard of the Ten Commandments, the Four Evangelists and the Three Cardinal Virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13). Here are the Three Notable Duties. They speak of what we should do for others, for God and for ourselves.

Almsgiving applies to others—to be kind and generous. Praying relates to God—to spend time with Him and seek His help. Fasting concerns ourselves—to keep the lure of the world and the temptations of the flesh at a distance so we may be free to serve as God calls.

Notice that Jesus doesn’t say if we do them, but when we do them. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting are expected of us. But most people regard them as optional.

Notice that Jesus warns us against doing them for show. Of course, we like approval. The trouble is, too often, we seek it from others rather than from God (John 12:43). God is the one we must please. A smile from Him is worth more than the cheers of a thousand people.

Lord, make me humble and quiet about anything good You allow me to do.

Esther 3:1—4:3; Psalms 93, 96; James 1:19-27

Birthdays: Bryan Botic, Jack Bradstreet, Christian D’Alessandro, Sherry Hornsby, Nick Murphy, Eliza Starling

Monday, September 21

Luke 1:1-4, 3:1-14 *“What then shall we do?”* (v.10b RSV)

No sermon has done its job until the congregation is spurred to ask, as John the Baptist’s congregation was here, “What then shall we do?”

John didn’t preach just to give information; he came seeking responses. Jesus said of him that he was more than a prophet—he was a messenger (Matthew 11:9,10). What’s the difference? A prophet proclaims God’s Word to all. A messenger delivers it directly to individuals. He’s like a mail deliverer with special delivery letters who asks for signatures from the receivers.

Sometimes sermons pass over our heads and leave us untouched. What we need is to be grabbed and shaken, to be confronted and asked for a personal response. Luther said that God’s Word has hands and feet. It chases after a man, grabs him, looks him in the eyes, and says, “Thou art the man!”

Putting it another way, each person in a congregation should be a Bible translator; taking the message and applying it to his or her life to make it visible, understandable and meaningful. Do we do that?

Esther 4:4-17; Psalm 80; Acts 18:1-11

Birthdays: Angela Briddell, Wally Philips, Kai Ravndal, John Taylor, Lee Van Valkenburgh, Barbara Yergey

Tuesday, September 22

Luke 3:15-22 *“The thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”* (v.16c)

Here is a great man—in fact, up to that time there had been no one greater (Luke 7:28)—saying he wasn’t good enough to stoop down and untie Jesus’ shoes.

What a contrast to how Jesus is viewed today. People are maligning his name, smearing his character and limiting him to his times and social context.

Even in the church there are people who doubt his deity, reduce his power, question his wisdom and suspect his sinlessness.

What about us? We may not be guilty of the above blasphemies but do we assume that Jesus is just a chum on our own level, with whom we can disagree at will and whose presence we can ignore if it suits us? Are we guilty of reducing Jesus to a kind friend?

When Paul saw Jesus on the Damascus road, he fell to the ground (Acts 9:4). When John the Divine saw him in Patmos, he too “fell at his feet as though dead” (Revelation 1:17). And one day all of creation will fall at his feet and worship him (Philippians 2:10).

Do we treat Jesus with that kind of awe and respect?

Esther 5:1-14; Psalm 78:1-39; Acts 18:12-28

Birthdays: Anne Drake, Bradley Rhine, Robert Walther

Wednesday, September 23

Luke 4:1-13 *And Jesus answered him, “It is written.”* (v.4a)

Jesus was hungry, weak and alone. That’s when the devil stepped in and tempted him. Satan does that with us. He knows when we are down and weak and alone—when we are most vulnerable. That’s when he attacks.

Do we respond by reasoning with him, pitting our own understanding against his?

Look at Jesus. To each of the three temptations he answered, “It is written” or “It is said.” He took his stand on the Word of God.

Notice then how the devil also used the Word of God. He’s no dummy. He knows the Word of God too. But he twisted it. Some of us, when confronted with different interpretations of the Bible, say, “Well, let’s forget them. There’s too much argument about them.” But Jesus didn’t do that. He saw through the deception, and quoted Scripture appropriately.

Is the Word of God your guide? Is it stored in your memory for ready reference? Can you call upon it when needed?

That’s the only way to have victory over evil.

Esther 6:1-14; Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 19:1-10

Birthdays: Joseph Bell, Roger Paladino

Anniversaries: Kim & Cathy Lopdrup, Mark & Blair Nichols, Todd & Betty Stalbaum

Thursday, September 24

Luke 4:14-30 *“He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.”* (v.18a)

In his hometown Jesus preached that the Spirit of God was sending him to everybody—the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed. That sounded like good news!

But it met with frowns in the synagogue. Why? The congregation wanted these things to happen to themselves. They wanted personal proof then and there.

But Jesus pointed out that, though God’s grace is universal and continuous, miracles are particular and intermittent. That is, they aren’t necessarily supplied on demand, nor limited to a chosen few.

You see, these people were like some of us. They had made their assembly into a clique, and they felt that only those who were in the clique could get the blessings. But Jesus pointed out that God’s mercy overlaps us. Sometimes He reaches out beyond us to show mercy on some outsider, even some outcast.

Let’s not be surprised or angry. But let’s be glad that we have a merciful and all-loving God who sheds His blessings on those whom we might call ineligible!

Esther 7:1-10; Psalms 146, 147; Acts 19:11-20

Birthdays: Cliff Clark, Connor Ferguson, Titus Stutsman

Anniversaries: Alex & Maureen Douglas

Friday, September 25

Luke 4:31-37 *“Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”* (v.34b)

Sad things happen when people regard friends as enemies or enemies as friends. Here was a man who feared Jesus. He knew only one side of Jesus—this time it was his holiness that was seen but not his love.

Some individuals fear Jesus like they fear a harsh taskmaster. They think he is harsh and hurtful. So they evade him and find excuses for not believing in him. Marx and Freud have blacklisted Christianity and persuaded many others to do so. Christianity has been derided and sneered at as though it were the enemy of mankind.

But Jesus comes to help. And to do that, he sometimes works without our permission, as he did with this man. Later, no doubt, the man was grateful, as we are. And we realize we have made a grievous mistake to be afraid or to be evasive or to find reasons not to believe.

To paint Jesus as our enemy has been the devil’s strategy since the Garden of Eden. Don’t allow him to continue his smear campaign! Defeat the devil by speaking the good news to all who will hear.

Esther 8:1-8, 15-17; Psalm 88; Acts 19:21-41

Birthdays: Kristin Conlan, Hank Hornsby, Kevin Landress, Olivia Maxwell, Diane Shurm

Anniversaries: Richard & Sonja Kingdon

Saturday, September 26

Luke 4:38-44 *He arose and left the synagogue, and entered Simon’s house.* (v.38)

Do we carry our faith into our homes? It’s easy to be good in church but how do we act with our families? Are we kind and thoughtful to them?

Jesus had been in a synagogue and now entered a home. And there he found a sick woman. She hadn’t been able to worship, but the Lord came to her. And in compassion he stood over her and healed her. So grateful was she that she used her new energy to serve him and the rest of the company.

Someone said, “Charity begins at home.” And that’s true. But another person added, “It doesn’t end there.” And that’s also true, as we see in the rest of today’s reading, for multitudes of sick people came to Jesus for healing. The next day he went out into the countryside, and more people came to him for healing. The last words we read are of him going out farther and farther to preach and to help needy people.

Lord, help me to bring my faith into my home and then out to my world.

Hosea 1:1—2:1; Psalms 87, 90; Acts 20:1-16

Birthdays: Vivi Ambs, Daniel Butts, Lisa Everett, Meredith Gardner, Chris Miller, Stephanie Wright, Pearson Wright

by John Pearce

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