

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

October 4-10, 2026

Sunday, October 4

1 Corinthians 2:6-16 *The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.* (v.14 RSV)

Going for communion at our church is a very loving spiritual experience. We obey the ushers. Nobody rushes.

Not long ago, I was in the left lane, driving up a five-mile incline. A tractor-trailer was in the right lane next to me. Road Warrior pulled up within inches of my bumper, flashing his lights, blowing his horn and waving at me to get out of his way. I had no place to go. We were already above the speed limit. I sat tight. Road Warrior continued to flash and blow and wave. I stayed beside the truck, blocking Road Warrior’s advance. In frustration, he dropped back behind the truck, swung right onto the grassy shoulder, and rocketed ahead of us at 85 MPH. His aggressive, unspiritual behavior risked a dozen lives.

I wished that Road Warrior could experience our procession toward the altar. He would probably kick and elbow his way to the front of the line. But, we would have to tolerate his selfish, unspiritual behavior, hoping our example of love and peace in communion with Christ might rub off on him before he does serious damage to himself or others.

Hosea 13:4-14; Psalm 118; Matthew 14:1-12

Birthdays: Tom Andrews, Eleanor Landress, Greg Miles, Jon Plsek, Gail White

Monday, October 5

Luke 6:39-49 *“For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”* (v.45)

For 30 years I operated my own printing business. One day the board of directors of my largest customer summoned me to answer why they should continue spending over a million dollars a year with my company. After an hour of impassioned presentation about the services we render, the chairman stood up and said only, “You should have been a minister.” The meeting ended. Everybody left. I kept the account for many more years.

When a graduate school economics professor kicked me out of the degree program, he said, “The questions you ask are not ‘economic’; they should be asked in a seminary.”

If I had listened to my heart in my 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s, I might have asked myself the question “Am I doing what God calls me to do or what is convenient for me?” I spent many years doing what was easy for me and asking God to bless it. He did. But, when I began to listen to my heart, I sold my business and became a chaplain at the jail.

Hosea 14:1-9; Psalm 106:1-18; Acts 22:30—23:11

Birthdays: Sonja Kingdon, Mike Locke, Betsy Owens, Christian Rismiller, Suzanne Saltsman, Claire Smith

Anniversaries: Harold & Sue Pate, Benjamin & Lori Wurtzel

Tuesday, October 6

Psalm 123 *So our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he have mercy upon us.* (v.2)

Reading the Russian spiritual classic *The Way of a Pilgrim* has led me to re-discover the Jesus prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.” For centuries, spiritual men and women have recited this prayer endlessly, burying it deep within their souls, letting it run in their subconscious like a perpetual tape recording. It has provided peace and rest, day and night, awake or asleep.

This Jesus Prayer has become my gateway to entering a time of prayer. To ask first and only for “mercy” says volumes about how I come, humbly, before God’s throne. It means I understand my own sinfulness, my brokenness, my infidelity and prejudices, and I am depending on Him alone (not on a minister or a therapist) for mercy. I admit I have broken His holy laws.

In its own brief way, this prayer incorporates adoration, thanksgiving, confession, and intercession—the ingredients found in the longer Lord’s Prayer.

The Jesus Prayer is also totally personal. It is only between God and me. There is no place to hide. No rationalizing. No self-defense and no place to say, “the devil made me do it.” This brief, ecstatic prayer levels the ground between God and me so He can begin to work with me, on me, and for me.

Micah 1:1-9; Psalm 120, 121, 122; Acts 23:12-24; Luke 7:1-17

Birthdays: Jennifer Dymond, Harry Pool, Bob Shinn

Wednesday, October 7

Luke 7:18-35 *“And blessed is he who takes no offense at me.”* (v.23)

Albert is a 50-year-old, highly educated scientist, who brutally murdered his wife, accusing her of infidelity. After his arrest, he was placed on suicide watch in the cellblock where I am a chaplain.

“I have committed the ultimate, unpardonable sin against God,” he said. I responded by quoting Mark 3:28, assuring him that “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the only unpardonable sin.”

Webster says, “Blasphemy is an indignity offered to God in words, writing or signs, or an act of claiming attributes of deity.” We talked and prayed our way through Webster’s definition and Mark’s quotation. We recalled the words of Jesus from the cross. I learned as Albert learned. I cried as he cried. We saw that although murder is an awful sin, it is not “blasphemy,” and God wants to forgive Albert when he truly seeks it and begins to deal with his fear, anger, self-hatred, and depression.

Not many people are thanking Albert for anything today. But I want to thank him for opening his broken heart to me and letting me better understand the only “unpardonable sin.”

Micah 2:1-13; Psalm 119:145-176; Acts 23:23-35

Birthdays: Robert Larsen, Harry Pool IV

Thursday, October 8

Psalms 131 *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother’s breast; like a child that is quieted is my soul.* (v.2)

I wish God could quiet my soul like our daughter quieted her 2 1/2-year-old son. After a wonderful visit with us, they prepared to go home. However, little Ellis decided he wanted to watch Barney, his favorite video. His mother said, "No, you can see it later, at home.” Ellis cried, screamed, and stomped his feet.

His mother took him, lovingly, in her arms, laid him down on the rug, kissed him and began to talk sweetly into his ear. She changed the conversation, away from Barney. She also changed his dirty diaper at the same time. Within a minute, Ellis was smiling as he climbed into the car, clutching his Barney video, so he could view it at home.

I know God could quiet my soul that quickly if I would allow him. I scream and kick and stomp, just like Ellis, because I want results now. I want things done today. I want it faster, cheaper, and done my way, instantly.

God has only three answers for you and me. “Yes” means God sees it my way. “No” or “later” are hard for me to accept because they call for faith and patience. This requires me to allow God to lay me on my back, kiss me, and whisper lovingly in my ear...while changing me.

Micah 3:1-8; Psalms 132, 133; Acts 24:1-23; Luke 7:36-50

Birthdays: Robert Murrell, Tyler Reece

Friday, October 9

Psalm 140 *I say to the LORD, Thou art my God; give ear to the voice of my supplications, O LORD!* (v.6)

Ever heard of the “Litany of the Barbells?” I participate in it when I exercise at the gym. We swing metal plates in all directions, press against strong springs, stretch on torture machines, and flop around on floor mats.

A skeptic might not see or hear this worshipful litany, as we twist and swing our arms and legs. But some of us are deep into our relationship with God while we strain ourselves. I pray while running on the treadmill. Gary’s Bible is propped open as he rides the power cycle. Several of the men and women are active in home Bible study groups. While Mike pumps iron, I pray for his brother who is in prison.

Is this litany in the Prayer Book? Certainly not. But by stretching and straining our bodies, we are adoring God and enjoying our temples of the Holy Spirit. By our presence at the gym, we confess we need His help to stay alive and in shape. We petition Him for health and strength.

Webster says a litany is “a series of invocations and supplications with alternate responses.” Listen to the rhythmic clank of metal weights and you will hear, in the responsive grunts and groans, joyful invocations and supplications you never heard before.

Micah 3:9—4:5; Psalm 142; Acts 24:24—25:12; Luke 8:1-15

Birthdays: Will Estes, Jane Ellen Shelby, Bush Wrighton

Anniversaries: Jeff Prickett & Linda Warren

Saturday, October 10

Luke 8:16-25 *“For to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”* (v.18)

My college fraternity is raising \$200,000 to refurbish the fraternity house. \$150,000 came in quickly. Some of our most successful brothers gave \$3,000 to \$5,000. Many other gifts of \$100 and \$200 were sent. However, only 200 of the 800 living brothers have given. Why?

I have tried to contrast “to him who has will more be given” in light of the 600 who have failed to give. Each man has a college degree, many served in the military, and most are actively employed. Why, I wonder, would men who shared three meals a day for three years, who experienced fraternal love, who vowed to support the brotherhood for life, now fail to send even \$1 at this time of need?

I examined some individual lives. Several failed in their careers, were divorced, or retired early. Then I realized I was examining the wrong side of the equation. I should have been studying “from him who has not.” Even though they have jobs and homes and families and cash in the bank, these men must have experienced broken hearts, anger, and selfishness in life that has weakened their spiritual commitment to the brotherhood and to perhaps a lot of other things.

In many ways, the fraternity is a mirror of the church and the world. Thank God for those who give out of the abundance of their healthy, thankful hearts.

Micah 5:1-4, 10-15; Psalms 137, 144; Acts 25:13-27

Birthdays: Ava Reynolds, Wendy Schafer

Anniversaries: Sascha Rizzo & Shari Bartz

by Laird Mortimer

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