

Good News Daily
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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Sunday, August 26

Psalm 146 *I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.* (v.2 NIV)

When times are tough—health is an issue, relationships are in trouble, or finances are low—we get concerned and come to God asking, seeking, praising for a solution. When times are easier—life is good, health is good, finances are adequate—we get complacent. That’s not what the Lord wants. He wants us all the time, in the good and the bad. He expects an attitude of gratitude no matter what our circumstances.

The Christian group, Casting Crowns, says it better than I can in the following lyrics: “And as your mercy falls I raise my hands and praise. The God who gives and takes away. I’ll praise you in this storm and I will lift my hands; that you are who you are, no matter where I am. And every tear I’ve cried; you hold in your hand. You never left my side, and though my heart is torn, I will praise you in this storm. We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives. It’s time for us to more than just survive. We were made to thrive—joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable, love unstoppable—anything is possible.”

Praise the Lord always and in all ways. Ponder that.

Job 4:1-6, 12-21; Psalm 147; Revelation 4:1-11; Mark 6:1-6a

Include in your prayers: Cindy Croushore, Carol Layton, Sandy, Sam, Mirabelle Wrist, Janie Greene, Joey Mitchell, Wally Bates, Kaye Bischoff, Erin McClain, Steve, Drew Fogg, Mark Connell, Rocky Albrect, Pat Hegarty, Trish Hegarty, Tom Hegarty, Joe Hegarty, Patricia Malloy, Patricia Vreeland, Michael, Marcia Pollard, Pat Davenport, Lynn Smith, Sebastian Terrell, Stan and Shirley Connell, Uppuluri Rajesh, Sean Clegg, Jim Long, The Gooley family, Mark Seymour & family

Monday, August 27

John 6:52-59 *Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”* (vv.53-54)

Was Jesus trying to make his followers become cannibalistic? Definitely not. What he was saying was he wanted his followers to be so close to him they would consume everything he said, read, felt, and understood. He wanted them to abide in him, and he in them. Have you ever been that close to someone? It is the picture of what a true marriage should be. A man and a woman are so close to each other they know each other externally and internally. They literally consume every part of each other’s lives—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Ponder that.

Job 4:1, 5:1-11, 17-21, 26-27; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Acts 9:19b-31

Include in your prayers: Nico Clothier, Julia Montgomery, Sarah Lawler, Rob Steiner, Perry, Pam Heatley, Vi Matthews, Jimmy Gustafson, Carlos Salmán, Arnie Selna, Stephen

Johnson, Jr. & Jennifer Corson, Jenny Bischoff, Guy Carpenter, Scott Breuer, Althea Lewis, Tom Johnson, Susie, Todd Baron, Thenesa Marclante, Tiffany, Ian and Matt, Katie & Tim, Bob Dipilla, Daniel Bishop, Ralph Martinelli, Natalie Lozano, Dan Berg and girls, Bob Meadows, Sue and Sam Schott, Brandon Juarez, Kathy Clegg, Hartel family, Janice Kell

Tuesday, August 28

Acts 9:32-43 *“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. (v.34)*

Peter was just traveling about the country and he decides to visit some believers in Lydda. He found a man, Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

We see miracles every day. Do we turn to the Lord? We should be thankful for each day. Did you know the earth rotates on axis of 23.8° from straight up and down? If that angle changed 1° either way, we could all burn or freeze! Do we give thanks for that simple miracle? People are cured of various chronic conditions. Do we give thanks for those miracles? Babies are born every day; truly a miracle. Do we give thanks that we just enjoy? Ponder that.

Job 6:1-4, 8-15, 21; Psalms 5, 6; John 6:60-71

Include in your prayers: Karin Armbruster, Ricardo Acuña, Charlie Gasperino, Trey Harris, Joanna Aras, Marilyn Lyren, Margaret Nicholas, Kay Bailey, Debra Lasek and Noel Lasek, Dombrowski Family, Frank Lepore, Mustapick family, Steve, Jan and Lois, Tom and Jan Bradley, Peter Pawlikowski, Bob and Barbara Thorne, Elaine S., Barbara Nelson, Magdalena Lovejoy, Marj Johnson

Wednesday, August 29

John 7:1-13 *“No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” For even his own brothers did not believe in him. (vv.4-5)*

Jesus never performed miracles on demand. He was not a show off. He performed miracles so that people might believe in him—that he was the Son of the living God. Yet even his brothers did not believe in him. How about you and me? Do we need a miracle to believe in Jesus? Or can we just receive him in faith—believing, trusting, and obeying? What does it take for us to believe and testify to the truth? Does it take a miracle? Or is all that is required is faith? Just as I can only answer for me, you can only answer for you. But as the Scriptures say in Ephesians 2:8-9, we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Ponder that.

Job 6:1, 7:1-21; Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 10:1-16

Include in your prayers: Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Richard and Margaret Downing, Lance Block, Valentine Houyvet, Rodney Bivens, Helen, Sue Drinkwater, Bernie Parker, Amy Astion, Gerard and Andrea & their families, Kelly McCarthy, Kim Jackson Matraw and family, Tara Polk, Yvonne Reiner, Joe Bishop, Katie Kish, , Lori Zenobia, Connie and Joe D’Alessandro, Richie Keen, Helen Caterer, Joy Skeffington

Thursday, August 30

John 7:14-36 *“Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.”* (v.18)

Jesus never ran around puffing his chest out bragging about the things he could do. He only did what the Father taught him or told him to do. Everything he did was to bring glory to the Father. Is it the same in our lives? Do we do things so someone else can get the credit? Or do we tend to be self-centered and look for all the glory for ourselves?

Jesus tells us to stop judging by appearances. He associated himself with the lowest of the low in the stratus of people at the time. He never gave any consideration to outward appearance, but always looked for the condition of the heart. Should we not do the same? Ponder that.

Job 8:1-10, 20-22; Psalm 18:1-20; Acts 10:17-33

Include in your prayers: Ruth Dans, Kristi Bronkema, Debbie Rannie, Lois Berning, Grace Wasko, Shirley Hazen, Fran Labossiere, Howard Smith, Patricia Herbert, Ryan Miller, Nancy Scarpa, Laura Davis, Abigale French, The Kinard family, Laura, John Schmidt, Rosemary Gerstenberg, Adam Daily, Sean and Becky Talbot, Rebecca Hance

Friday, August 31

Psalm 16 *Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my rock secure. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.* (vv.1, 5, 8)

I wrestle with a chronic condition, Parkinson’s disease. So I find the words of the psalmist very comforting. I had a career in the Coast Guard. When I was at sea and a storm would bear down on us, I could take refuge inside the ship. It was warm, dry, and comfortable. Jesus is like the ship.

Everything I need has been provided by the Lord. Not all the wants, but the needs. Even though the illness brings discomfort, I can stand on the rock of Jesus Christ. All other ground is sinking sand. I keep my eyes always on the Lord. In the eye of the storm he remains in control. His anchor always holds no matter how hard the wind blows. Ponder that.

Job 9:1-15, 32-35; Psalm 17; Acts 10:34-48; John 7:37-52

Include in your prayers: George Dzama III, Keith Van Cleave, Phil Toren, Wendy Williams, Nan Hanaway, Dru Angst, Richard Dunstan, Cristian Clothier, Carley, Tamlyn, Steve Cella, Marie Buller, Sheila Dionne, Baby Fagnano, Tim Gooley, Frank LePore, Cameron, Wallace family, Pam Gorman, Raymond Longo, Dennis Shanahan, Elsie Southwick, Manny Gomer, Delores Osborne, Mary Ann Goodfield, Fred Best

Saturday, September 1

John 8:12-20 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (v.12)

Have you ever thought about how most crimes are committed when it is dark? That’s because the perpetrator thinks he will not be seen. Similarly, most sins occur in secret because the

sinner does not want to be found out. But rest assured, no secrets are held from the Lord. Jesus illustrated that when he said he was the light of the world. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life—eternal salvation. Have you ever given any thought to why we sin? We all carry around original sin because of the Fall. I call that sin the noun. We all have a besetting sin also. It may be different for each one of us. I call it sin the verb. Why do we do it? Because we like it, we think it brings pleasure—but it really only brings darkness. That’s why Jesus came: to shed light on our darkness, so he could redeem us. Ponder that.

Job 9:1, 10:1-9, 16-22; Psalms 20, 21; Acts 11:1-18

Include in your prayers: our country: for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations: for our armed forces, especially those now in danger: including: Harold Fitch IV, Sarah Fitch, Gregory Campbell, Nicholas Beswick, Brandon Baila, Dean Joseph Parker, Capt. Griffin Bird, Austin and Mary Willis, Lieutenant Ryan Morie, Houston, General John Shepherd, Russell Clark, Peniel Reid, and their families. Pray for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East. Please pray for Todd and Patsy McGregor and the people of Madagascar.

by Richard Mead

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