

available through our connection and relationship with Christ. Why don't we wait for Christ to lead and guide us? When the self-murmuring starts, our focus should be on seeking the Lord and casting all our cares on him. He's always there for us.

Leviticus 23:1-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17; Matthew 7:1-12

Birthday: Mary Hudson, Thad Cherwin, Erin Arnold

Friday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m. A Way Out
9:30 a.m. Life Group
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: Wedding Guild

Saturday, May 5

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 *May the Lord lead you into a greater understanding of God's love and the endurance that is given by Christ.* (v.5 GNT)

In Matthew 7:13-14, we are told, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." This is not a warm and fuzzy Scripture. This is in red letters in my Bible. These are the words of Jesus. In its simplest terms, there is a good side and a bad side. One has a narrow entry and the other is wide.

The wide gate can be viewed as those who have chosen not to believe in Christ. It may also include those who believe that all people are good and there are lots of Gods, and if you are good, you will have eternal life with one of them. It could also include those who believe that going to church and doing good deeds—without having a relationship with Jesus—is sufficient to enter the narrow gate. I think about Peter and Judas. They were Jesus' friends and disciples, walking with him daily and yet, when it came down to choosing, oh, how hard it was for them.

The good side, the narrow gate, presents quite a challenge in so many ways, but will lead us to life. I pray for all who haven't chosen the narrow. And I pray for those of us who have, to be strengthened in faith to be able stand for Christ at all times. I pray, too, for God's truth to be ever present in this world; that He continues to beckon those walking both the narrow and the wide.

Leviticus 23:23-44; Psalms 75, 76; Matthew 7:13-21

Birthdays: Kathryn Schultz, Vincent Miraglia, Clay Kanzler, Dave Bassion, Cory Zartman, Nathan Weidman, William Rader

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
8:00 a.m. Life Group Leaders Meeting
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women
12:00 p.m. NarcAnon "Clean at Noon"
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
6:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Kleen N Krazy"
8:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Not Alone"

Today's Ministry: Worship Assistant

by Lisa and Charlie Clayton III

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"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

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St. Mary's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

April 29 - May 5, 2018

Number 17

Sunday, April 29

Psalm 24 *The earth is the LORD's and all it contains, the world, and all who dwell in it.* (v.1 NASB)

When we were first married, my husband and I took a class called Crown Ministries. It is a great class that teaches people how to handle finances from a biblical perspective. We could stand to take it again! There are approximately 2,350 verses in the Bible about how to handle money and the consequences of not handling it God's way. It teaches that everything we have is God's. Early in the class, there was an exercise to deed of all "our" worldly assets to the Lord—that was a wakeup call. We had many well-intentioned plans to spend, save, and invest that never took the Lord into account. "Our" money, children, homes, and jobs all belong to the Lord.

Lord, help us to be good stewards and allow Your word to guide and direct our paths.

Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Psalm 29; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 4:16-30

Anniversary: Scott & Sue Miller

Sunday's Calendar

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Baptism
9:10 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in Courtyard
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
3:00 p.m. Jazz and Classic Concert in the Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. NarcAnon Business Meeting
6:00 p.m. Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

Today's Ministry: Sunday Worship Assistants

Monday, April 30

Psalms 57 *Have mercy on me, O God! Have mercy on me!* (v.1a NET)

The Greek phrase *Kyrie eleison*, meaning “Lord have mercy,” is translated all over the world as a response in church liturgies—its use dating back to around 1300 AD. It is found in Gregorian chants and also in one of my favorites songs to sing in church: *Kyrie eleison*, mercy, always tender, always healing, always balm on the open wound. When I sin, when I don’t listen, when I take a moment to ponder my many iniquities, I know that He is waiting no matter what. His grace pulls me up to His throne of undeserving mercy to heal, shed light, and offer forgiveness so that I might step back into this world with faith afresh.

Leviticus 16:1-19; Psalms 56, 58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Birthdays: Tiernan Watkins

Monday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
5:30 p.m. ACA Families
6:30 p.m. Life Group—off campus

Today’s Ministry: Table Hoppers

Tuesday, May 1

Leviticus 16:20-34 *He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat’s head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.* (vv.21-22 NIV)

Who broke that? “So and so did.” Who left the security gate open? “What’s his name did it.” Why is that out of plumb? “The manufacturer allows tolerances.” Etc. etc. Scapegoats are just as abundant on construction sites as they are everywhere else. The scapegoats come in from the wilderness and mess various things up and leave the premises, never to be found again. When something goes wrong everyone points at the person who is not in the room as the culprit. I was, and still am, pretty good at finding a scapegoat to duck my offenses as well. I am in awe that my sins and shortcomings were, and are continually, laid at the cross and that Christ removes my transgressions as far as the east is from the west.

Today we thank You, Lord, for forgiving us and for offering Your powerful and unconditional love that covers all our sins and shortcomings. Psalms 61, 62; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Birthdays: Elizabeth Moran, Cris Branden, Jeremy Brown

Tuesday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing
6:00 p.m. Overeaters’ Anonymous

Today’s Ministry: Ushers

Wednesday, May 2

Leviticus 19:1-18 *The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’”* (v.1)

This statement is followed by some very wise instructions for all people to strive to achieve. Respect your father and mother, don’t deceive one another, don’t lie, be fair, don’t steal, don’t gossip, and don’t seek revenge or bear a grudge, are among them. God says, “Don’t do it!” These aren’t mere suggestions. He doesn’t tell Moses to discuss why these things aren’t good for us. God isn’t into negotiating, He is holy, and He is the sovereign King of Kings! He knows that by abiding in His word we will set ourselves apart from the world’s ways.

The Old Testament seems so harsh sometimes, but the truth is, it has to be. We fight to justify our behavior, we behave badly when we are wounded, and we have old patterns that are so hard to break. The hard truth is that they will never produce the fruits of the Spirit that God so wants for us to have. We are called to obey His word! He knows that we will fail miserably, but He also knows the good that will come from us by simply aspiring to be holy and to seek His ways. God will take care of our short falls as we repent and grow in our relationship with Him. He has given us instruction through His Word and the Trinity, which is a gift beyond words to embrace.

Psalm 72; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28; Matthew 6:19-24

Birthdays: Charlie Lippincott, Monica Elliott

Wednesday’s Calendar

6:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
4:45 p.m. Mary’s Kitchen
5:30 p.m. AA “Daily Reflections”
6:00 p.m. Life Group
8:30 p.m. NarcAnon “Klean and Crazy”

Today’s Ministry: Vacation Bible School

Thursday, May 3

Matthew 6:25-34 *“Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”* (v.27 NLT)

Worrying is an easy but unproductive path to take when problems arise. Early in my career, before I was cognitive of risk and reality, I was eager to chase all sorts of business transactions. Eventually, I began to realize that I was in over my head with work, commitments, and capacity. At first, I would worry and ask myself, “What about this outcome? What if that happens? Could this come to be?” After a while I found that worry did not work very well, and was not effective in helping me solve life’s problems.

My wife Lisa and I began going to our church’s Tuesday night healing service to worship, pray, and enjoy the fellowship of others. The healing service bore a genuine example of people who knew how to cast their cares on Jesus and live in his sovereignty.

I strive daily to pray and surrender my life and problems to Christ’s control. I am a work in progress, yielding is not natural. I want to put my all worries at the foot of the cross. I am seeing that Christ can move mountains of worry, and the more I yield to him the more peaceful I become. Come to him all that are weary and burdened and he will give us rest.

Leviticus 19:26-37; Psalms 70, 71; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Birthdays: Sandy Haynes, Angela Bouchard

Thursday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Altar Guild
5:30 p.m. ACA Men’s Group
6:30 p.m. Life Group
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. AIAnon “Stepping Stones”

Today’s Ministry: The Vestry

Friday, May 4

Psalm 106:1-18 *Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold.* (vv.12-13 NIV)

There are days when multiple problems seem to collide. The phone prescreens an irritating person calling in; multiple text messages arrive simultaneously announcing a difficult situation; emails alert you of pressing other needs. The sometimes “mental beat down” flows into the physical. It is interesting that everything we need to combat this discouragement is available—and just a thought and prayer away from our reach. The reading today from Psalms 106 shows how quickly the Israelites, like myself, forget about the power of God. The power to push aside the temporal confusion and cares of the world is instantaneously