Anniversaries:
Chris & Vanessa Gumm, Beth & John Suitor

Today’s Ministry: Lay Lectors

Saturday, July 8
Psalm 144

Man is like a breath, his days are like a fleeting shadow. (v.4)
This means more than it used to as I am now in my seventies. After a nursing career spanning 52 years, I am retiring. How did those decades come and go so quickly? I do not feel much different than when I was young but one glance in the mirror proves I am. I do not feel that I was much more respected in society. For me this is a reminder that what we see on the outside may not accurately reflect the true self. We do not know how many days we have but together we will treasure each one.

As mentioned in yesterday's reflections, there's a special person in my life who has brought a relationship that is new and exciting but wonderful. I believe we learn from them all.

The sun rises and sets, the days go by. Some are happy and some are sad. Life provides us many lessons, some painful and some at least outwardly difficult it must be for our Heavenly Father to see us not follow His commandments.

In this passage we’re told that tax collectors and prostitutes have listened and believed God’s word more than men and women who were much more respected in society. For me this is a reminder that what we see on the outside may not accurately reflect the true self. We do not know someone’s heart, but God does. A humble heart, open to others, will serve us well as we as a family and community move forward.

As a daughter and later as a parent, there have been times I did not do what my father (and mother) wanted, and I am keenly aware that at times our children did the same. It is frustrating to see our children make mistakes and not be able to redirect them. How much more difficult it must be for our Heavenly Father to see us not follow His commandments.

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When our Heavenly Father speaks, we need to listen and believe. For Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.” (vv.31-32A NIV)

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Monday, July 3
Luke 22:52-62 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly. (vv.61-62)

Peter’s betrayal of Jesus, denying him three times as predicted, is both a wake-up call for us and an example of the power of forgiveness. As one of Jesus’ chosen, it’s hard to digest the impact this had on Jesus as he was anticipating his death on the cross the next day. As with Peter, we are not perfect people. We are weak, we fail, we try again and again. Still, we are loved unconditionally, forgiven, and always given another opportunity to move on. We must learn to recognize our own sinfulness, our humanity. We cannot heal ourselves, but the Lord can and does, over and over again.

I am proud to be a Christian because I know I am loved despite my failures. But do I share this faith with others or have I, too, at times found it easier not to admit? 1 Samuel 10:17; Psalm 106:1-18; Acts 7:44—8:1a

Birthdays:  
Sheridan Baker, Jeffrey Bates, Jim Bowdish, Savannah DuPELL, Craig Franzen, Liam Lorr, Laura Rangel, Kevin Sullivan, Jack Thyrre

Anniversaries:  
Dr. Terry & Paula Scheid

Tuesday’s Calendar:  
Church Closed  
7:00 a.m.  Hour of Power AA  
9:30 a.m.  Women’s Bible Study  
9:30 a.m.  Life Group ONLINE  
12:10 p.m.  No Healing Service Today

Today’s Ministry:  
Hospitality Ministry

Wednesday, July 4
Acts 8:1-13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 1 Samuel 11:1; 1 Samuel 13:5

In this passage Philip, one of the twelve apostles, was preaching and teaching in Samaria. The gospel came alive as the crowds witnessed miracles—physical healings of disease, the disabled, and the mentally ill. Evil spirits fled, the paralyzed were able to walk again, wholeness of body, mind, and spirit was being restored.

Evil spirits fled, the paralyzed were able to walk again, wholeness of mind, body, and spirit was being restored. Simon was considered to have divine powers and able to perform magic. This healing was real, genuine, life-changing—not quasi or magical. Astonished, he followed Simon and became a believer.

Have you ever experienced the healing that comes from our loving God? I have, and it is profound. (v.3a)

Astonished, he followed Simon and became a believer. Philip asked. “How can I, he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” (v.30-31a)

Reading the Bible, studying, and sharing helps us understand and often brings insights and meaning to the Scriptures. Sometimes they are so vibrant and alive, so relevant to my faith journey. At other times, I feel I am missing something.

Through regular worship, the healing ministry, sharing, study, and prayer, God’s words take on new meaning, new depth. Passages or prayers that once seemed rote and routine speak to me more clearly and reach places that need God’s touch.

This prayer from the Book of Common Prayer beautifully expresses this search for meaning: “Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and evermore hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Be patient, listen, share, pray… and if needed, ask for help. 1 Samuel 13:5-18; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Luke 23:11-25


Tuesday’s Calendar:  
7:00 a.m.  Hour of Power AA  
10:00 a.m.  Praying Hands (1st & 3rd Mondays)  
3:00 p.m.  Daughters of the King (2nd Mondays)  
5:45 p.m.  ACOA  

Today’s Ministry:  
Hospitality Ministry

Wednesday, July 5
Acts 8:14-25 Peter answered, “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.” (vv.20-21)

Money, or the love of money, cannot buy happiness, health, salvation, or faith. Yes, it helps not having to struggle to pay household bills, college tuition, or medical expenses, but it is not the answer to finding peace and wholeness. We are cautioned to keep our eyes focused on Jesus, our rock, the one who brings stability to our lives.

Listen to the words of the Collect of Purity found in the Book of Common Prayer: “Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

God knows our hearts, our intentions; nothing is hidden from Him. He loves us as we are—vulnerable, imperfect, wounded, blundered. He meets us where we are. This is where healing begins, where love enters in. Remember, from Him, “no secrets are hid.” That can be scary but it’s worth letting go and letting God in. 1 Samuel 12:1-6, 16-25; Psalm 119:145-176; Luke 23:1-12

Birthdays:  
Claire Deegan, Teddy Mayfield, Jonathan Prevate, Maeve Rogan, Alexis Stuckey

Anniversaries:  
Lon & Nan King

Wednesday’s Calendar:  
Men’s Bible Study  
7:00 a.m.  Hour of Power AA  
9:30 a.m.  Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
10:00 a.m.  Life Group  
4:30 p.m.  Mary’s Kitchen  
6:00 p.m.  NAMI  

Today’s Ministry:  
Intercessory Prayer Group

Friday, July 7
Psalm 142 When my spirit grows faint within me it is you who know my way. (v.2a)

God knows us personally and profoundly. He is always present, even when we may not be aware. These words touch me, “…it is you who know my way.” As an active participant in the healing ministry at my church, I believe God hears our prayers and answers them. I have also learned that His time is not always my time.

Have you heard the passage from Ephesians that Gods wants to give us abundantly more than we can ask or imagine? Well, He does! I have been single for over twenty years, have found peace with myself and with my life, only to have my life change dramatically in recent months. A dear friend from childhood has reentered my life. He’s been a gift, a blessing, an answer to prayers from long ago. Never would I have thought my life would change so profoundly, that a chapter I had closed would be reopened. Truly God knows us, loves us, and is always providing in unimaginable ways. Thanks be to God.