

Birthdays: Lin Campbell, Will Worlinsky, Misty Broderick

Anniversary: Billy & Tiffany Hughes

Friday's Calendar

Pittenger Parking Lot Closed
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: Mary's Kitchen

Saturday, July 14

Matthew 24:32-51 *Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.* (v.44)

To talk about the 2nd coming of Christ is to risk being looked on as a wild-eyed fanatic. But nothing should be more natural to the Christian. The return of Jesus is meant to be a comfort to the Church. It is an assurance that we are not alone, that God is not unconcerned about us and is planning to return for us.

Verse 36 should draw us away from being overly concerned with predictions about when it will happen. "No one knows, not even the angel," Jesus said. Even though God has revealed a great deal to us, including His love, His mercy, His justice, and His son, He has not given us the specifics about the end.

This is a great blessing because it awakens hope in our hearts by reminding us of a very important principle: the fact that God has begun a work is the assurance He will complete it. The fact of Christ's incarnation is the guarantee of his return. Max Lucado comments, from When Christ Comes, "For the Christian, the return of Christ is not a riddle to be solved or a code to be broken, but a day to be anticipated." May we live in joyful preparation for that day.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalms 20, 21; Romans 10:14-21

Birthdays: Louise LeTourneau

Saturday's Calendar

Pittenger Parking Lot Closed
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
6:30 p.m. Nar-Anon "Kleen N Krazy"
8:30 p.m. Nar-Anon "Not Alone"

Today's Ministry: Mary's Library and Bookstore

by *Chris Findley*

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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

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Sunday, July 8

Mark 1:14-20 *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.* (v.15 ESV)

In the U.S. we have some trouble understanding the notions of monarchy and kingship which are frequently used in the Bible. This is unfortunate. Not because we necessarily should have an earthly king, but because we miss the power and the joy assumed by the announcement of the arrival of God's kingdom.

This is an announcement of victory and fulfillment. This kingdom represents the dominion of God, not bound by geography and not thwarted by mankind's disobedience. While earthly kings and rulers may falter and fail, the ruler of this kingdom is steady and sure. This Lord loves his people and longs to be known and followed by them.

The coming of this kingdom demands a response. We cannot sit on the fence! The coming of the righteous kingdom demands a turning away from all things that are not part of this kingdom. We cannot remain unchanged by this announcement. Jesus calls us to believe, to stand in deep faith. This is not a one-time action, but a continuous action which involves trust in the facts about the King, the kingdom, and letting that shape one's life. It is *good news*.

Numbers 27:12-23; Psalms 146, 147; Acts 19:11-20

Birthdays: Tom Newton, Kate Gilbert, Phoebe Zayas, Brian Brown

Sunday's Calendar

REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT SUNDAY
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Coffee Hour - Smith Hall after 10:30 A.M. Service

Today's Ministry: Flower Guild

Monday, July 9

Romans 8:26-30 *The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* (v.27b)

Does it seem your days are marked with weakness and frustration? Does your hope wane in the turbulence of life? Do your prayers seem hollow and empty? If any or all of these describe you, then exhale a sigh of relief. The Spirit is praying for you (v.26) and God's will is set on bringing you home.

The will of God is directed at your future, but is not limited to it. Remember, the kingdom is now! Nothing can snatch the future of the Christian from its moorings. Trouble, calamity, and heartbreak may steal our joy, but they cannot steal our hope and status before God. Why? Because God’s desire, His will, is for you to be like Jesus. If you’re following Him, it’s because *He* called you to begin with and made restoration with Him possible.

You’re headed for glory and because that, too, is God’s will, Paul speaks as if it already has happened (v.30). When it is God’s will, it’s as good as done. Our job, as Paul says earlier in Romans, is that we “present [ourselves] to God as those who have been bought from death to life” (6:13b). What a life it is!

Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Matthew 23:1-12

Birthdays: Widget Webert, Bob Carpenter, Pat Eisenhardt, Sally Johnson

Anniversary: Paul & Anne Krauss

Monday’s Calendar

Pittenger Parking Lot Closed
 7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 10:00 a.m. Apples to Apples Group
 5:30 p.m. ACA Families

Today’s Ministry: Heritage Society

Tuesday, July 10

Psalm 5 *Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.* (vv.1-2)

I imagine that as you read the Psalms for today you may have nodded in understanding. I did. Perhaps you, like me, have prayed through tears and through anger, wondering why God seems so far away?

No one can deny those times—they are part of the reality of life. The key is that there is a resolve. The psalmist gains perspective by reviewing the truth. God is still God. We serve a righteous God whose rule, whose kingdom, is established and ultimately all things find their resolve in Him.

On the cross, Jesus felt our agony when he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46b). Not only is God’s rule established, but we serve a God who did not distance himself from our pain, but chose to experience it. Therefore, like the psalmist we can confidently cry, “But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you” (v.11). He is nearer and more compassionate than we imagine.

Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34; Psalm 6; Romans 8:31-39; Matthew 23:13-26

Anniversary: Donald & Lauren Rabenere

Tuesday’s Calendar

Pittenger Parking Lot Closed
 7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing
 2:00 p.m. Jane’s Group
 5:30 p.m. Soul Care
 6:00 p.m. Overeaters’ Anonymous

Today’s Ministry: Hospital Visitors

Wednesday, July 11

Matthew 23:27-39 *So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.* (v.28)

Hypocrisy does untold damage. Jesus knew that hypocrisy was deadly to people’s faith and in today’s passage he charges the leaders with this grievous sin.

Hypocrisy is dangerous on a number of levels. First it is deceptive to others. When we are hypocritical we are living a lie. When we are hypocritical, what people see is not the truth but a mask. It is an inauthentic witness and sooner or later an observable one that brings discredit on the Lord we serve.

Secondly, hypocrisy is dangerous because it is a lie we tell ourselves. We can fool ourselves into thinking that the only thing that matters is our external life—only that which is seen by others. This is not true. The change wrought by Jesus in the life of the believer is geared toward the heart and mind as today’s passage points out. We, too, can look good on the outside and inside be full of “dead people’s bones” (v.27).

We are called to an authentic faith which, because of the deep change in our heart and mind, brings about a change in living and relating to the world. May we seek the internal change—the harder road—that we may not be found deceiving others or ourselves.

Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Psalm 119:1-24; Romans 9:1-18

Birthdays: Linda O’Keeffe, Sylvia Jones

Anniversary: Jim & Jane Anthony

Wednesday’s Calendar

Pittenger Parking Lot Closed
 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 Groups
 8:30 p.m. Nar-Anon “Klean and Crazy”

Today’s Ministry: Lay Readers

Thursday, July 12

Deuteronomy 3:18-28 *You shall not fear them, for it is the LORD your God who fights for you.* (v.22)

Deuteronomy means “second law” and is the retelling of the deliverance of Israel and the years leading up to their entering the Promised Land. This book, told through the voice of Moses, recaps the events found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. And in chapter 3 we see Moses reminding the people of an important habit they must cultivate—trust.

The people are preparing to enter into the Promised Land; their sojourn in the desert is almost over. Despite their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, despite the bread from heaven, despite the victorious battles they have just come through, they’re worried and afraid. Their fear had been so strong when they first saw the land and its occupants, they refused to enter. The Lord punished them by declaring that none of those who came from Egypt would see the Promised Land. Only one of that generation, Caleb, who tried to convince Israel to take the land as the Lord had directed, would indeed enter it (Numbers 13:26—14:24).

The commandment most repeated in Scripture is “do not fear.” How often, despite what we have experienced and known about our God, do we continue to fear? Remember whose you are and what He has done!

Psalm 18:1-20; Romans 9:19-33; Matthew 24:1-14

Birthdays: Alex Ralicki, Carly Collins

Thursday’s Calendar

Pittenger Parking Lot Closed
 7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 5:30 p.m. ACA Men’s Group
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon “Stepping Stones”

Today’s Ministry: Life Groups

Friday, July 13

Romans 10:1-13 *For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.* (v.10)

In many circles the word “saved” has been so overused it has lost some its original spark. But it is an accurate word to describe the effect of Jesus on our lives. Christ is literally the difference between life and death. And until we come to the point of realizing our “deadness” prior to our encounter with him, we will never be comfortable with acknowledging that Jesus has indeed “saved” us.

He has saved us from our nagging and guilty consciences, from our fear of death, and from our fear—dare I say—of living. For our lives can be very scary and difficult. Sometimes nothing seems capable of alleviating our pain or frustration or filling in the sense of pessimism that we feel. The one that calls on Jesus is indeed saved. When we confess Jesus is Lord, as Paul suggests today, we acknowledge that we are not in control and don’t have all the answers. Then we believe and trust in the utter truthfulness of the power and love of God that sent Jesus to redeem us. Being “saved” is a gift open to all. Have you accepted it? Are you accepting each day?

Deuteronomy 31:7-13, 24—32:4; Psalms 16, 17; Matthew 24:15-31