



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

Daily Devotional Readings, Parish Prayers, and Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 27, 2025 — May 3, 2025

Good News Daily Devotional Readings

Sunday, April 27

John 14:1-7 *“Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the way.”* (vv.1a, 6a NRSV)

I am the way. My way is the way of sacrificial love. It is the way of willing acceptance of suffering whenever necessary for the sake of all those whom I have created and love. Put your hands into my wounded hands, and trust Me. Don't be afraid...

Christ's way is the way that will lead ultimately to fullness of life and love and joy for all those of us who believe, and trust, and follow him. A living, loving relationship with him must surely be the greatest treasure on earth that we could ever possibly have.

God's way is the way of love— love for Him and love for one another.

Through all the centuries we humans made in His image have believed that our I-know-better-than-God way is preferable. We have always turned against God and against one another. All the violence, the wars, the poverty, and the starvation that our world is so full of today are caused by our continuing to believe in our I-know-better-than-God way instead of responding to His call to follow Him in His way of sacrificial love.

Lord Christ, grant that we all may learn to “know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly.”

Isaiah 43:8-13; Psalms 146, 147; 1 Peter 2:2-10

Birthdays: Eric Lull

Anniversaries:

Sunday, April 28

John 17:1-11 *“This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”* (v.3)

John tells us at the end of his Gospel (20:31) that his purpose in writing it was “so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” And in this prayer Jesus prays that we may know his Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom the Father has sent, which tells us in his own words, that he is the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah.

To come to believe that our Lord Christ is the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah demands much more from us than just saying so in words. If our belief is real, it will challenge us to try to surrender to Christ as the center of our lives and to struggle to obey his two great commandments of love— love for God and love for one another. Nothing could ever bring us greater suffering or more indestructible joy. We shall be fulfilling the purpose for which God gave us His precious gift of life— that we might learn to love Him and one another and that we might have eternal life.

Daniel 1:1-21; Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 John 1:1-10

Birthdays: Kristine Thomas, Jacey McDonald

Anniversaries:

Tuesday, April 29

John 17:12-19 *"Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth."* (v.17)

The psalmist tells us (119:160) that the heart of God's word is truth, and here Jesus prays that his disciples be blessed, hallowed, made holy in the truth, the truth which billions of subsequent believers have dedicated their lives to proclaiming by word and deed. And what is this truth? It's all that Jesus taught and lived and died to reveal of the Father's love and of His daily call to us to become more truly what we already are—human beings made in the image of God by love, in love, and for love.

The world that God made is so awesomely beautiful at any time of year! Picture the mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, lakes, and the oceans which He created. And then think of His most wondrous creation of all—we human beings created that we might learn to know and love Him and one another.

Lord Christ, grant that we all may learn to "know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly."

Daniel 2:1-16; Psalms 5, 6; 1 John 2:1-11

Birthdays: Ann Mills

Anniversaries: Paul & Malu Fairchild

Wednesday, April 30

John 17:20-26 *"That they all may be one."* (v.21a)

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they all may be one." Jesus prays here for all the billions of believers like us throughout the ages who have tried for love of him to give themselves wholeheartedly in thought, word, and deed to proclaiming that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He prays that all these billions of believers and the first disciples all may be one. Our unity with these first disciples comes from the incredible blessing that we share—our living, loving relationship with Christ and from the wondrous joy of knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

A spiritual director of mine once told me that she thinks each one of us is God's promise to His universe that He continues to love and care for it. What an awesome responsibility! To represent Christ by words and deeds to everyone whose path crosses ours. Someone once wrote that Christ has no hands, or feet, or voice on earth today except ours.

Daniel 2:17-30; Psalm 119:1-24; 1 John 2:12-17

Birthdays: Donald Clemons, Ila Burgardt, Jenna Cronk, Jeffrey Nelson, Alison Alexander, Brielle Becerra

Anniversaries: Drew & Sara Scudday

Thursday, May 1

Luke 3:1-14 *And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"* (v.10)

When I first read our Gospel reading from Luke for today, I could find little or no connection between it and what we have been reading so far this week from John. But the more I thought about it, the more I found it really does have a lot to do with the unity Christ prayed for among all of us billions of believers and his early disciples. John the Baptist and his God-given wisdom are indeed still relevant for us today.

When the crowds followed John into the wilderness and heard him preaching about repentance and forgiveness, they asked him, "What then should we do?" He told them very plainly what he thought they should do. If they had more clothing than they needed or more food than they could eat, they should share both food and clothing with those who had none. And none of them should ever exploit, use, or bully others.

Luke tells us in his book of Acts that the first Christians "who believed were of one heart and soul... and there was not a needy person among them" (Acts 5:32 and 34). As believers in our own day, we might ask ourselves: "What then should we do?"

Daniel 2:31-49; Psalm 18:1-20; 1 John 2:18-29

Birthdays: Susie Kiker

Anniversaries: Geoff & Holly Morgan

Friday, May 2

Luke 3:15-22 “*You are my Son, the Beloved.*” (v.22)

In our Gospel reading for today, we hear the Father telling Jesus, “You are my Son, the Beloved.” In the story of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36), the Father tells us, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” Mary tells us in the story of the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) to “do whatever he tells you.” They give us the very best answer we could possibly have to yesterday’s question: “What then should we do?”

We are listening to the Beloved Son when we read the Scriptures, share in his life, death, and resurrection at the Lord’s Supper, and when we grow in love and compassion toward one another. We listen when we pray, for real prayer is always dialogue—talking and listening.

We listen so that we can learn to “do whatever he tells us.” We long to surrender to Christ as the center of our lives.

Our heart’s desire is to follow him, trust him, give ourselves to him, and respond to his great love for us with love for him and love for one another.

Daniel 3:1-18; Psalms 16, 17; 1 John 3:1-10

Birthdays: Sarah Anderson, Anita Narvaez

Anniversaries:

Saturday, May 3

Luke 4:1-13 “*If you are the Son of God.*” (v.3)

Our Gospel reading for today is the story of Jesus’ temptation, and it is the story of our temptation, too. As we have said before (Sunday), we humans made in God’s image have always believed that our I-know-better-than-God way of living is preferable to His way of love. We have always turned against God and against one another.

Jesus was tempted first to satisfy his own physical needs before all else. He was tempted to self-glorification rather than the doing of what he believed to be God’s will. And he was tempted to compromise with evil. Temptations you and I have faced all our life long.

Jesus resisted every temptation because of his relationship with his Father. You and I are strengthened, guided, empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the same. Our living, loving relationship with our Lord Christ is the reason for our blessed hope and for our greatest joy.

Daniel 3:19-30; Psalms 20, 21; 1 John 3:11-18

Birthdays: Michaela Jenkins, Bill Farrell

Anniversaries:

by Sister Mary Michael

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Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer: O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Parish Prayer Requests

Pray for: St. Nicholas', Spring Branch

Pray for our weekly intercessions: Pray for St. Mark's, Corpus Christi; and St. Mark's, San Antonio.

Pray for our parishioners: Travis Kiker*, Brandi Woehler*, Nancy Priest*, Christopher Weaver*, Dolores Jones*, Bob Thompson*, Helen Lynch*, Caroline Barnett*, John Throop*, Geoffrey Martin*, Jon Swanson*, Tom Braley*, Martin Wizorek*, Katherine Turner*, Karen Rhodes*, Tom Foster*, Martha Hubby*, Beverly & Charlie Hamlett*, Alma & Patrick Garcia*, Terry and Linda Francis*, Ed & Angela Springer*, Richard Lynch*, John Worthington*, Rodney & Catherine Gillespie*, Stephanie Cady, Judy Thompson, Nancy Emback, Kent & Judi Gates, Dan Schlicher, Teresa Reynolds, Kirby Turner, Virginia Lukefahr, Caitlin Spence

Pray for those who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces.

Pray for those who have died.

Pray for family & friends:

Richard Needham* - *brother of Sue Needham*

Robbie Branco* - *parent of STES student*

Andrei Wahlstrom* - *brother of STES student*

Greg Norz & Cari Woolf Norz* - *son-in-law & daughter of Frank Woolf*

Tami Perez* - *daughter of Beverly Wheeler*

Rusty Felter* - *father of Matt Felter*

Peter Brazy* - *friend of Kathy Lathrop*

Kathy Rieth* - *friend of Kathy Lathrop*

Ayla Marie Clark* - *daughter of Mary & Ed Clark*

Catherine Armitage* - *niece of Mary & Ed Clark*

Helen Richt* - *aunt of the Cady's*

Anna Gibson* - *aunt of the Cady's*

Patrick Griffith* - *friend of Letty Slavich*

Jan Deines* - *sister of Carol Keith*

Tanya Lemons* - *daughter of Terry Francis*

Raquel Davila* - *sister-in-law of Rick & Amanda Rodriguez*

Cathy Cole-Perez* - *parent of Greg & Lizzie Perez*

Ed Bateman* - *son of Barbara Baugh*

Russell Schlicher* - *brother of Dan Schlicher*

April Hancock* - *friend of John Throop*

Lauren Huerster* - *friend of Karin Anderson*

Eric Knight* - *friend of the Lynch Family*

Larry Lathrop* - *brother-in-law of Kathy Lathrop*

Tami Peasinger - *cousin of Stephanie Cady*

Greg LePage - *friend of Nancy Wallace*

Mary Paglea - *friend of Helen Lynch*

Ayda Gonzalez - *friend of St. Thomas*

Marylizabeth Green - *friend of Ayda Gonzalez*

Parents of Ayda Gonzalez - *friends of St. Thomas*

Kathryn Whipple - *mother of Lisa Drozdick*

Bailee - *granddaughter of Merlene Salmans*

Hayley Drozdick - *family of Lisa Drozdick*

Colleen Eskridge - *friend of Stephanie Cady*

Gertie - *sister of Stephanie Cady*

Susan - *friend of Maria Weaver*

Peggy Green - *friend of Gretchen Benne*

Lawson Benton - *friend of Gretchen Benne*

Bryce Palmer - *friend of Gretchen Benne*

Chris White & Denise White - *family of Mary Wells*

Jeanine Maloney - *sister of Kathy Lathrop*

Jim Summitt - *father of Carrie Turner*

Kevin - *brother of Kent Gates*

Sally Bouchard - *friend of Sue Needham*

Lena - *daughter-in-law of Nancy Leming*

Mary Ann - *friend of Debra Copeland*

Rick Lipsey - *friend of Christopher & Hollis Lyon*

Ken Smith - *friend of St. Thomas*

Megan Kaufmann - *friend of Sarah Anderson*

Helen Hanso - *sister of Virginia Lukefahr*

Patrick - *friend of Virginia Lukefahr*

To submit names to the Prayer List, email stthomaschurch@tom1604.org. Please indicate whether the person is a parishioner, family member, or friend and if they should remain on our long-term prayer list or short-term prayer list.

Short term request will be listed up to **six weeks** unless otherwise noted.

Clergy

The Rev. Mike Michie, Rector

The Rev. Allie Melancon, Vice Rector

The Rev. Don Wilkinson, Assisting Priest

Church Staff

Sarah Anderson, Member & Growth Coordinator

Ryan Becker, Minister of Music

Laurel Christensen, Assistant Children's Music Director

Marci Fair, Operations Manager

George Guerra, Sexton

Samantha Neumann, Communications Director

Caleb Phares, Video Production Manager

Kellie Phares, Children's Minister

PJ Waite, Children's Music Director

School Staff

Allison Newman, Head of School

Vestry

Kristine Thomas, Senior Warden

Robb Swain, Junior Warden

Jeff Nelson, Treasurer

Rusty Biechlin, Chancellor

Lorraine Babcock

Matt Felter

Warren Franz

Bill Frerichs

Joel Martin

Lloyd Norris

Steve Slavich

A'Lann Truelock

Katy Urias