ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SCHOOL

Daily Devotional Readings, Parish Prayers, and Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries
October 25, 2026 – October 31, 2026

Good News Daily Devotional Readings

Sunday, October 25

1 Corinthians 10:15-24 *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.* (vv.16-17 NRSV)

I love partaking of the Holy Eucharist—Communion—for several reasons. First, because I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ "in the breaking of the bread." Second, I truly believe Christ is spiritually present in the Sacrament, so I am humbled to receive him into my sinful self. Third, this Sacrament is, as St. Paul says here, a means of unity for the Body of Christ. Or at least, it should be. When our parish gathers to commune, we are certainly one in Christ.

However, across Christianity, differing understandings and interpretations of the Lord's Supper, along with varying Communion rubrics and practices, often cause division in the Church—much to our Lord's chagrin, I'm sure. At least in The Episcopal Church we welcome "all baptized Christians" regardless of denomination or background. I pray that one day all believers will be able to "partake of the one bread" together, excluding no one. If you have the opportunity to attend a church that serves Communion today—go get Jesus into you!

Esther 3:1-15; Psalms 63, 98; Matthew 18:15-20

Birthdays: Robin Jones, Mitzi Roberts
Anniversaries:

Monday, October 26

Esther 4:1-17 *"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* (v.4 NIV)

Who knows whether you—the reader—have come to your position, for a specific mission, at such a time as this? Or any of us, for that matter? God wants us to make a difference in the world. He has a plan for our lives even before we are born. Take, for example, the prophet Jeremiah. God said to him (1:5), "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations."

Sometimes I think of life as a giant chess game, where—because of free will—we get to move the pieces around. But God is on the sideline, nudging us to make the right moves because He knows the outcome of the match. And there are times the Lord has to shake up the board and remove some pieces. No matter what, His will be done, because it is right, good, and for our benefit. Let's trust God on that—starting today!

Psalms 41, 52; Revelation 11:1-14; Luke 11:14-26

Birthdays: Alfredo Silva
Anniversaries:

Tuesday, October 27

Psalm 45 *All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth of gold. In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.* (vv.14-15 BCP)

I confess: Whenever Psalm 45 comes up in the Daily Office, I turn to Psalm 46, because I'd rather 'hear,' "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Not that the imagery of a royal wedding isn't lovely in Psalm 45, but it doesn't minister to my needy soul the way Psalm 46 does.

So, as I accepted the challenge to write about Psalm 45, I tried to think of this royal wedding poetry as applicable to the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9), when, in the world to come, Christ will take unto himself his bride, the Church. Jesus compares the coming of his kingdom to a marriage feast in his parable of the

foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13). Here, he teaches that we are to be awake, ready for, and awaiting the Bridegroom (Jesus) to come.

"Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9b) is part of the Roman Catholic Eucharistic liturgy, and some Episcopal parishes also incorporate it. I say this privately before I receive Communion, followed by "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you. But only say the word and I shall be healed" (Matthew 8:8). Hopefully, I am prepared!

Esther 5:1-14; Revelation 11:14-19; Luke 11:27-36

Birthdays: Jose Narvaez
Anniversaries: Christopher & Deborah Murphy

Wednesday, October 28

Psalm 119:49-72 *Remember your word to your servant, because you have given me hope. This is my comfort in my trouble, that your promise gives me life.* (vv.49-50)

This psalm is the longest in the Bible, so it's not surprising that a lot of it has to do with keeping—as well as loving—God's commandments. But again, I confess that when it comes up in the Daily Office, I tend to turn to the evening psalm(s) because unlike the verses above—which are inspiring—I don't seem to get much out of it.

Every Maundy Thursday following the Holy Eucharist, our parish holds a one-hour prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, in answer to Jesus' question to His disciples on the last night of His life: "Could you not watch with me for one hour?" (Matthew 26:40b ESV). One year, I spent that hour reading all the way through Psalm 119. It was quite a revelation, and meant a lot to me. I think the difficulty of reading it in the Daily Office is that we get this mammoth psalm piecemeal. Sometime, take awhile and read Psalm 119 all the way through. It will give you hope and comfort.

Esther 6:1-13; Revelation 12:1-6; Luke 11:37-52

Birthdays: Ann Grace Michot, Jule Rodriguez
Anniversaries:

Thursday, October 29

Revelation 12:7-17 *And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.* (vv.7-9 NRSV)

I want to jump up and down and cheer when I read a Bible passage such as this one. At the present time, our world seems overcome with evil. Daily, we hear of terrible wars, starvation, oppression, injustice, disease, death, and moral corruption beyond belief. Our only hope for an end to the horrors of this present reality is the coming kingdom of God—and we must hold onto that vision when things are bleak.

St. Michael the Archangel is one of my favorite spiritual beings because of his valor and power, and his dedication to defending God's people against the enemy of our souls. An icon of St. Michael watches over my desk, and daily I try to pray the "St. Michael defend us against the wickedness and snares of the devil" prayer written by Pope Leo XIII in 1886 (Google it).

Someday the father of lies, the "deceiver of the whole world" will be conquered, and God's glorious kingdom will reign forever. Don't you just love happy endings?

Esther 6:14—7:10; Psalm 50: Luke 11:53—12:12

Birthdays: Jennifer Arnold, John Throop, Kathy Wilkinson
Anniversaries:

Friday, October 30

Luke 12:13-31 [Jesus] *said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life… your Father knows* [what you need]. *Instead, seek God's kingdom, and these things will be added to you"* (vv.22b, 30b, 31).

"Would you rather worry or pray?" I was once asked. I freely admit, I'm an anxious person, unlike my phlegmatic husband. He doesn't worry unless he has a reason to. I worry until I have a reason not to. In fact, I suspect

a lot of people are anxious and always have been, which is why Jesus tended to say often, "Peace be with you," and "Fear not."

Actually, I stopped worrying about my life when I was a seminarian in the 1990s. A banking/property mess prevented me from accessing any saved money, and the church I served as a student pastor only paid a small stipend. One evening as I returned from the parish, my car needed gas. As I absentmindedly pumped, I suddenly remembered I only had a couple of dollars and coins, and I stopped. The amount on the pump matched *exactly* what was in my change purse—no more, no less. The next day, a member from the church I attended showed up at my door with a bag of groceries. I must have been seeking God's kingdom as I studied to become a pastor, because the Lord was certainly "adding things" to me!

Esther 8:1-17; Psalms 40, 54; Revelation 13:1-10

Birthdays: Leah Hosey, Heather Shipley
Anniversaries:

Saturday, October 31

Psalm 55 *Day and night the watchmen make their rounds upon her walls, but trouble and misery are in the midst of her. There is corruption at her heart; her streets are never free of oppression and deceit.* (vv.11-12 BCP)

Whenever I read these verses, I think of America's inner cities, some of which I've lived in (New York, Washington DC). I now reside in Pennsylvania, and some days the news out of Philadelphia or Harrisburg seems only to be about dishonest politicians, violent murders, car crashes, and other disasters.

But like so many of the psalms, Psalm 55 ends on a hopeful note: "Cast your burden upon the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous stumble. For you will bring the bloodthirsty and deceitful down to the pit of destruction, O God" (vv.24-25). Once again, reassurance that God's good will triumph over evil, and His Light put the darkness to flight. Good things to remember on Hallowe'en, which has become increasingly more gruesome. I prefer to observe it as the evening before All Saints' Day. That is my "spiritual birthday," and our church's Mass which observes this Feast is a glorious, joyful celebration of all God's holy ones—canonized and not—with soaring hymns and inspirational Scripture. Alleluia!

Ezekiel 20:1-17; Revelation 13:11-18; Luke 12:32-48

Birthdays: Katerina Gutierrez, Kumar Peeris
Anniversaries: Jose & Anita Narvaez

by Nina George-Hacker

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer: Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

Parish Prayer Requests

Pray for: St. Nicholas', Spring Branch
Pray for our weekly intercessions: Pray for All Saints', Corpus Christi; and All Saints', San Benito.
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*, Kathryn Woehler*, John Worthington*, Rodney & Catherine Gillespie*, *Randy Meriwether, Byrne & Stephanie Cady, Judy Thompson, Cora Beckcom, Art Roch, Beverly Wheeler, Carol Ann Britt, Kate Benne, Patti Evans, Bob Andrews, Lisa Drozdick, Beth Turner
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* – *former parent of STES student*
Greg Norz & Cari Woolf Norz* – *family 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 Family*
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*
George & Darcy Needham* – *family of Sue Needham*
Scott Simon* – *parent of STES student*
Erin, Shelby, & Aria Ball* – *family of Sherry West*
Rylynn Rodger* – *friend of St. Thomas*
Charles Rueve* – *father of Lisa Nelson*
Lena* – *daughter-in-law of Nancy Leming*
Marcie Aduddell* - *friend of The Slavich Family*
Kristie Miller – *friend of St. Thomas*
Janet Deyong – *friend of The Beckcom Family*
Nancy Pittman – *friend of Sue Rathbone*
Peter Holdren – *friend of St. Thomas*
Don Gabriel – *friend of Mary Wells*
Brian Brown & Family – *friends of Maria Weaver*
Makenna - *friend of St. Thomas*
Mike Baird – *friend of The Lukefahr Family*
Bobby Garza – *friend of John & Carol Keith*
Bob Coffman – *friend of Stephanie Cady*
Patricia Adams – *friend of John & Carol Keith*
Chris & Denise – *son & daughter-in-law of Mary Wells*
The Greer Family - *friend of Gretchen Benne*
Mateo & Iliana – *children of Debby Gil*
Lill – *friend of Mary Carter*
Diana & George Geis – *parents of Mallory Geis*
Lori Klein – *friend of Robert & Chloe Seiler*
Carolyn Reynolds – *sister of Linda Albrecht*
Chip Valosio – *brother of Linda Albrecht*
Roger Olson – *friend of Wayne Stoeber*
Al Rath – *friend of Wayne Stoeber*
The Bianco Family – *friends of Wayne Stoeber*
Kalen Alvarez – *friend of St. Thomas*
Renee Benson – *friend of St. Thomas*
Olivia Dzurovcik – *friend of Gretchen Benne*
Tom & Karen Keck – *family of Gretchen Benne*
Alison Adams' Friends & Family – *friends of Gretchen Benne*
Mai Wang – *friend of The Drozdick Family*
Ryan Robertson – *grandson of Linda Albrecht*
Susan & James Todd – *parents of Lucinda Todd*
Daniel Holger – *friend of Bob Andrews*
Allyson Hoidoo – *friend of St. Thomas*

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.