



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH + SCHOOL

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

June 15, 2025 — June 21, 2025  
Good News Daily Devotional Readings

### Sunday, June 15

Matthew 18:1-14 *"Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* (v.3 NRSV)

(And our Lord hoisted the small, warm, earnest, and probably smelly boy onto his knee where the child sat quietly within the circle of Jesus' arm and looked up at him rapt, listening to his story.) How does our Lord want us to become like children? Surely not in a child's state of ignorance of creation and human relationships, not even ignorant of the difference between good and evil. Surely, He wants us to grow into the full capacity of our God-given minds and bodies and souls. And God has given us the curiosity to learn and the spirit to question, even the freedom to disobey Him. We can never recover a child's innocence though we are forgiven hundreds of times over.

In every good human father, there are shadows of our heavenly Father. In the child of a good human father, we can find what Jesus wants us to recover: trust. That child knows that his father will stay by his side in strange places, will hear him calling in the dark. Because he trusts his father, he will accept his father's teaching and find comfort in his discipline. He is happy by his father's side in the shadow of his love.

Human fathers fail at times from weariness and ignorance and fear. Our heavenly Father does not weary. We can trust Him to teach us, to correct us, to find us in the dark, and be with us where we are, at home.

2 Chronicles 32:1-23; Psalms 93, 96; Revelation 15:1-8

**Birthdays:** Carol Dornbluth, Darby Moran

**Anniversaries:** Keller & Lisa Drozdick

### Monday, June 16

Acts 1:1-14 *As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.* (v.9)

A small boy was asked by his Sunday School teacher to draw a picture of Jesus' ascension into heaven. He found no problem with that and worked on the picture earnestly. At the bottom of his picture were twelve men (one erased) looking skyward, noses up. At the top of the picture were two large brown shoes—all that could still be seen of Jesus on his way to heaven.

Human souls, God knows, are dwellers in time and space. Our visions of heaven have to be described in terms of things we can touch and see here— thrones and banquets, shepherds and fishermen, bread and wine. They are all good pictures for now. But as we grow in God in Christ, these forms and symbols aren't good enough. We are like creatures that grow too large for their skins, too cramped for their shells. Our concepts of God grow too great to be contained in earthly vessels. God draws us out into deeper understandings.

The Hubbell telescope has shown us a creation beyond our present powers to comprehend, galaxies beyond galaxies, worlds beyond worlds, and they may be only a corner of God's mind. He is here by our sides, speaking to us in words we understand, but we cannot presume to confine Him within any human form or definition.

"Do flaming suns his footsteps trace through corridors sublime,  
the Lord of interstellar space and Conqueror of time?"

*Howard Chandler Robbins*

1 Samuel 1:1-20; Psalm 80; Luke 20:9-19

**Birthdays:** Hannah Wolfburg, Donna Marcum, Jane Fleischer, Ed Hernandez, Paulina Guarjardo

**Anniversaries:**

## **Tuesday, June 17**

Psalm 78:1-39 *Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not true to his covenant.* (v.37)

Two very large components of our original sin must be greed and very bad memories. God is abundantly generous. He pours out over us everything we need to live and move, breathe and love. But we gobble up His gifts, take more than we need and keep them from others who suffer without them. We destroy His gifts through our perverted use of them.

The sons of Eli seized the sacrifices of others for themselves; in Jesus' day, the scribes took the best seats in the synagogue and devoured widows' houses. Judas sold his friend for a handful of coins. "Yet (God) being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often, and did not stir up all his wrath ...."

We forget so easily. God gives us water in our wilderness, and we complain because we do not have better meat and bread for our tables. He brings us out of the deserts and wars of our own making and into His promised land, but we can still be like those of old: "Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not true to his covenant." Remembering must be a primary element of our prayers, remembering what we have been given through every generation, through all the years of our lives, for the treasures we possess today. God's mercy is a profound mystery. We discover it when we remember.

1 Samuel 1:21—2:11; Acts 1:15-26; Luke 20:19-26

***Birthdays:*** Luciano Barraza

***Anniversaries:***

## **Wednesday, June 18**

Luke 20:27-40 *"Now he is God not of the dead but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."* (v.38)

We waste too much of our lives waiting for heaven. Old hymns (happily not often used these days) describe our life on earth as "a veil of sorrow," "a place of toil and woe," "the weary way," a place of banishment. There were stalwart old saints who lived their lives aloof, holding life at arm's length while they yearned for the Golden Shores, who closed their eyes to the glories God heaped around them even in their veil of tears.

But the earth is the Lord's and all that therein is; He Himself has made us and set us down in this place. This life is part of our eternity with God. He is present with us now as He will be in eternity. The Celtic people's steady awareness of God's presence is in their prayers. He is their constant companion even in the most mundane circumstances. He keeps the weave even on the loom, He hastens the butter on the cream. He walks their fields with them, hauls in their nets with them. He talks with them by their firesides. In sleep, His arm is beneath their heads.

We are walking the way Jesus walked; our calling is to do his work here and now, taking up pain and sorrow and transforming it into good. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, heaven is not a distant promise. It is woven into our earthly sojourn. "Take hold on life," a good Methodist hymn sings. "Take hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally!"

1 Samuel 2:12-26; Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 2:1-21

***Birthdays:*** Caitlin Spence

***Anniversaries:*** Kip & Jody Giles, John & Jackie Worthington

## **Thursday, June 19**

Acts 2:22-36 *"Know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."* (v.36)

"This Jesus" was all over the place in the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic homes of my childhood. I averted my eyes from the pictures of the Sacred Heart with their pale, thin, sad Jesus peeling off his shirt to show me the blood dripping from the burning heart inside his ribs. The Presbyterian Sunday School Jesus was reproachful, never satisfied with me. His clothes were an irritation, glistening white instead of the disciples' serviceable brown. He dragged his robe about on the ground but it never got dirty; it didn't get wet when he walked on water. I was always content with God, but Jesus was an embarrassment about whom I was reluctant to speak.

How did I come to love him? I read about him in a book—the Bible, for a fact—all in one evening without stopping for chapter and verse. I saw him there with my soul's eye. I saw a magnet for souls, friend of stern mercy, incorruptible truth, indestructible power, comfortable with us, walking the common way with us, dying with incredible courage.

Our pictures cannot contain him; our words cannot describe him. Perhaps we need new words for him, words that we will stumble over so that we will look at him again, discover him anew.

1 Samuel 2:27-36; Psalms 34, 83; Luke 20:41—21:4

***Birthdays:*** Mara Yachik, Grant Bowen, Garrett Fox

***Anniversaries:***

### **Friday, June 20**

1 Samuel 3:1-21 *Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!"* (v.4a)

In very ordinary times eternity breaks through. C. S. Lewis called it "surprised by joy." We look up from a homely task, and the room is filled with eternity. The light doesn't change, but there is a new dimension to commonplace things. We look at a tree we have looked at a thousand times, and suddenly it is radiant with God. We look out at a familiar congregation and for a moment feel the power of people who believe in God; we hear the songs of old heroes.

The moment passes even as it comes. We have done nothing to bring it; we can do nothing to bring it back. We don't know what to do with it, so like Samuel we go about our ordinary work. But we have seen it, a memory of loveliness we have never known, of a place where we have never been. We wait for it to come again. We live as though it will.

Psalm 88; Acts 2:37-47; Luke 21:5-19

***Birthdays:*** Fiona English, Mercedes Perez, Nicole Banigo, Barbara Schmitz

***Anniversaries:***

### **Saturday, June 21**

Psalm 90 *For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.* (vv.7-8)

We would like to leave the God of Wrath to Old Testament people all of whom had not been blest with the concept of a God of infinite mercy. Unfortunately for us, the idea of God's wrath persists into the New Testament. Even today, when cruelty, corruption, and vice rule in so many places, we still cry, "How long, O Lord, how long until your anger destroys them?"

God's wrath is not likely to come in fire and brimstone, in the terrible horsemen, or in the great dragon or beasts from the sea. It may be at work already in His tough love, letting His disobedient children experience the results of their sin.

God does not tolerate evil. He does not tolerate the tolerance of evil. He is incorruptible. He has, He does, and He will destroy evil, but He does not abandon those whom evil has entangled and deformed.

On the anvil of His love, He remakes us.

1 Samuel 4:1b-11; Psalm 87; Acts 4:32—5:11; Luke 21:20-28

***Birthdays:*** Corey Clemons, Brooke Greathouse

***Anniversaries:*** Wayne & Jill Stoeber

***by Lydia Dorsett***

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**Collect:** Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Prayer:** Lord our God, give us your Spirit, we pray, that we may learn to understand what we are and what tasks you have set for us. We thank you for all the light you give us. Grant that we and many others may come closer to knowledge of the truth and be at peace about all that belongs in your hands, our Father in heaven. Keep us now and forevermore in your almighty hand. May we know your goodness and the blessing it brings. For through your goodness we can endure even the hardest days and be victorious in the battle of life. *Amen.*

## Parish Prayer Requests

**Pray for:** St. Nicholas', Spring Branch

**Pray for our weekly intercessions:** Pray for St. Peter & St. Paul, Mission; and St. Alban's, Harlingen.

**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, Teresa Reynolds, Kirby Turner, Virginia Lukefahr, Caitlin Spence, Maria Weaver, Lisa Nelson

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

**Pray for those who have died:** Eloise Garza Benavides.

### 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*

George & Darcy Needham\* - *brother and sister-in-law of Sue Needham*

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*

Rauri Fey - *friend of Kathleen Stephens*

Sarah - *neighbor of Mary Wells*

Sandi Batik - *sister-in-law of Bob Andrews*

Penny Simone - *friend of Nancy Wallace*

Kathy Jamison - *friend of Stephanie Cady*

Caroline Herrera - *friend of St. Thomas*

The Cancino/Ramachandran Family - *friends of St. Thomas*

To submit names to the Prayer List, email [stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto: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

ALann Truelock

Katy Urias