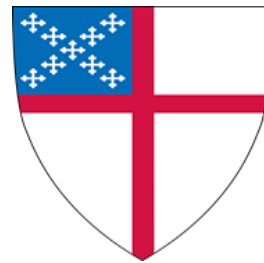




Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Prayer List & Newsletter



May 9, 2020

LESSONS FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1. Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
2. Acts 7: 55-60
3. 1 Peter 2: 2-10
4. John 14: 1-14



Psalm 31:1-5

Psalm 31

Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies to the leader. A Psalm of David.

1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

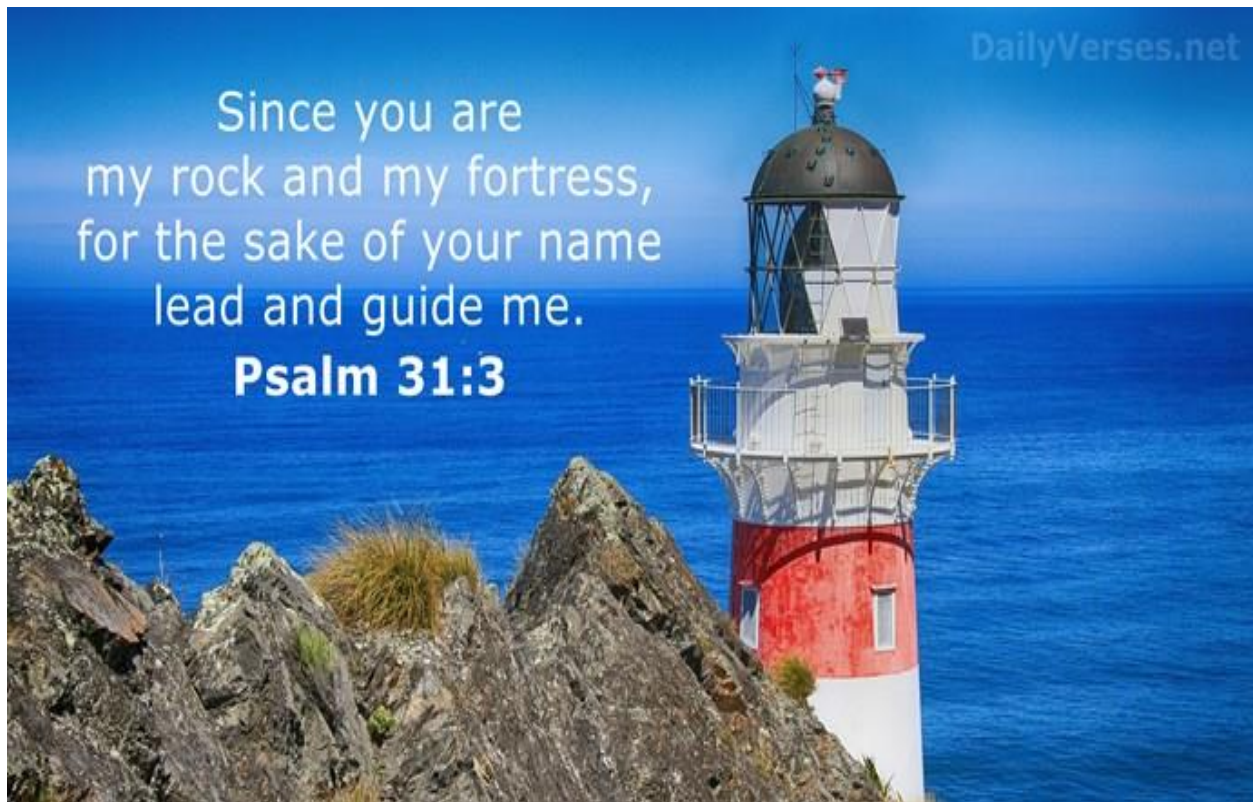
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Psalm 31:15-16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.



Acts 7:55-60 New International Version (NIV)

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:55-60 Martyrdom of Stephen

Acts 7:59-60...Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

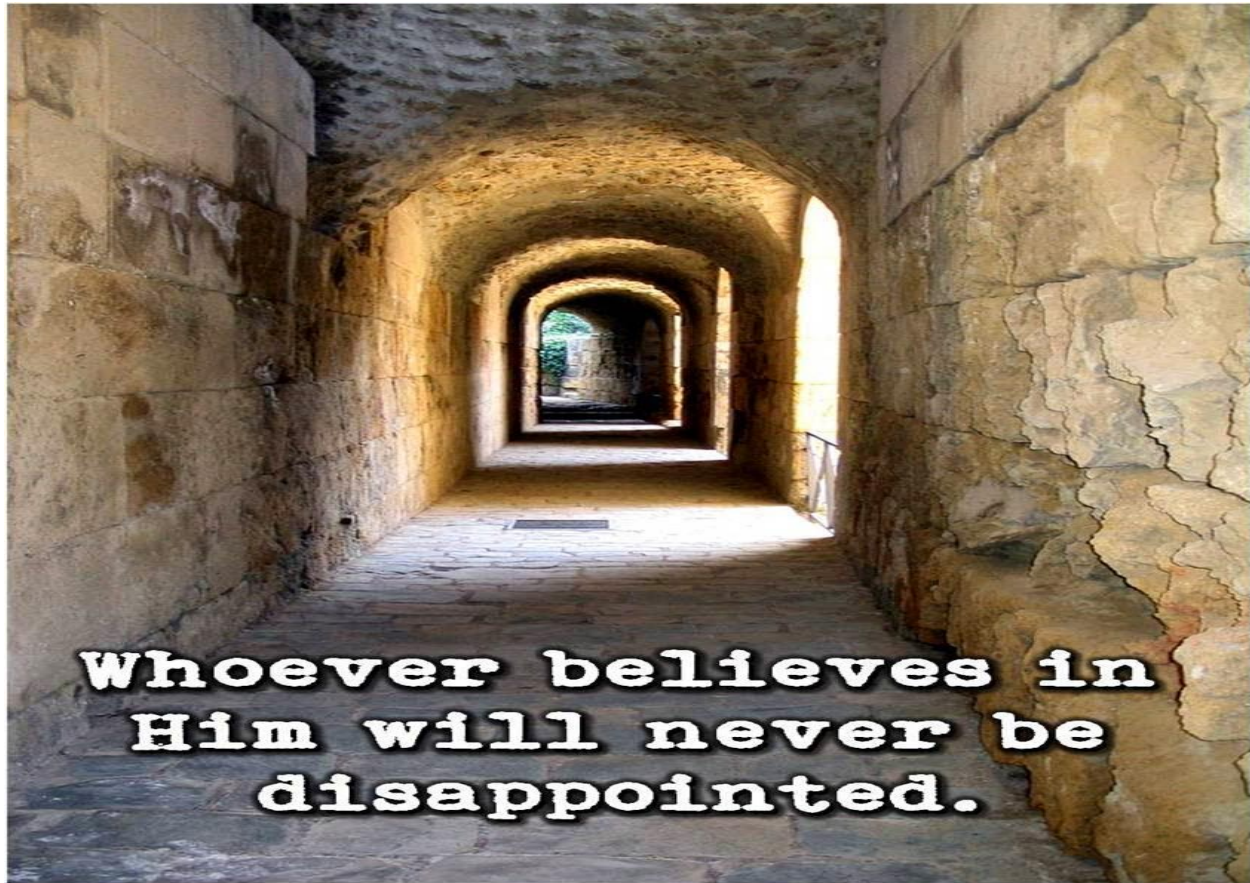
Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.



2 Peter 1:3-10 English Standard Version (ESV)

Confirm Your Calling and Election

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to[a] his own glory and excellence,[b] 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,[c] and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities[d] are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers,[e] be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.



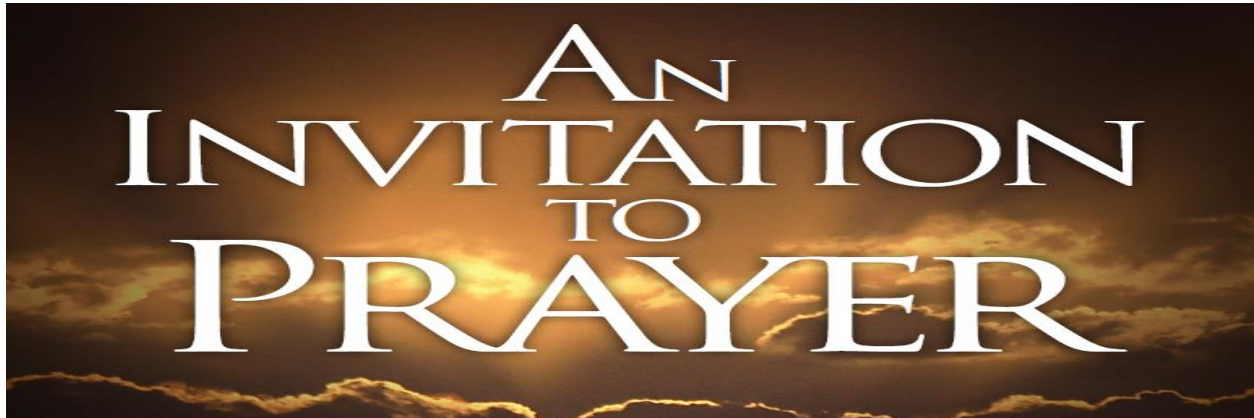
John 14:1-14 Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

My Parish Family & Friends Prayer List



George & Marilyn Bacon Karen & Victor Sarah, Selina

Marsha Baldwin

Carl Bucking Scott Bucking

Mary Cranmore

Theresa Dowd John Dowd

Desmond Foster Anthony

Carmen Grant

Flo Hayward Nicole, Adam & Justin

Edwin Hilbrandt

Ellen James Hillman Jennifer, Catherine & Louie, Oliver

Anne Hogan

James Ifill

Bob Imbriani Robert & Samantha, Dylan, Kate, Reid

Doreen Imbriani Brian & Heather, Violet, Noah

Debra Jacobs

Diane Jacobs

Evelyn Jacobs

Anthony & Ngozi Kanu Chudi, Ike, Uzo

Paul & Susan Kaszubski John, Jaclyn

Lizette Kendrick Timia Moore

Dorothy McGlynn

Carol & Donald Russer David & Family

Karen Russer

Andrea Sabbatini

Betty Sabbatini Beth & Family

Joann Schneiderman Cheryl Lesley, Robert & Gabriella Lesley Robbie

Amy & Lisa, William, Shane, Corey Schmidlin

Lynn Shortell Billy Gun

Annmarie & Randy Thomson Joshua, Logan

Renee Tolliver

Paul Taylor

Arlene Vrede

Lorraine & Everest Campbell Andrew Ryan Shawn

Susan & Michael Breidenbach Michael, Christopher, Matthew

Joyce & Hugh Butler Kim & Craig Paul, Grace, Julie Heather, Thomas & Joanne, Sam

Beth & Chris Lent Zander, Tina

Oddie & Karla McLaughlin Cody, Shyla

Margaret Moorhead

Ifoma & Goodwin Onyeikl Chi Chi, Collins, Chishar

Robert & Emily Ring

Lexia & Shain Reece Shannon, baby

Desiree Giddings

Ola Akinyemi

John Akinyemi

Toyin Akinyemi

Yolanda Ochiobi

Megan & Jimmy Dascoli

Renee Giddings



MOM'S LOVE AND THE DIALECTIC OF DEVOTION

“Whatever else is unsure in this stinking dunghill of a world, a mother's love is not”.

James Joyce (1882-1941).

A major theme of human social experience which transcends the boundaries of cultural tradition and time is the redemptive quality of a mother’s love for her children. Growing up and facing the brokenness of the physical world has always been a formidable challenge, perhaps never more so than at the present time. It is not hard to witness the ever-present scourges of rampant disease, drug and alcohol addiction, racial and ethnic division and environmental degradation at every corner that we may care to turn. Yet, as this contentious era has taught us, the only path to liberate ourselves from the prison of existential misery is through caring and dedicated service to others. To find oneself is literally to lose the self-referential basis of identity.

Not coincidentally, that is the exact description of the ingenious impulses which animates virtually all loving and devoted mothers. As rendered in Proverbs 22: 6, “ start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Many of the greatest lessons we learn during the formative stages of our lives comes directly from mom, who is most often the epicenter of compassion in most families.

The same woman who tended to our physical and emotional needs and sheltered us from harm is also the one who teaches us that the brutal demands of a competitive world does not excuse us from maintaining a moral ethos informed by a well-tempered sense of kindness and generosity. Portia's soliloquy in Shakespeare's controversial play “The Merchant of Venice” lends a direct insight into the timeless wisdom acquired by a mother troubled by the turmoil in her midst:

“ The quality of mercy is not strained

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven

Upon the place beneath

It is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and that takes”

That expression of mercy is encapsulated in the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The one chosen to carry forth the Light of the World is the epiphanic height of maternal devotion, which expresses by the grace of God His unbounded love for all His children. As stated in Luke 1: 46-47, Mary acknowledges that “ my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.”

Any mother's love, in its purest form, lives as the ultimate example of spiritual enlightenment. It embraces the totality of sacrifice, the impetus of living for others, remains the foundation of human freedom attained by and with the loving guidance of God. Individual liberty, as noted by John Stuart Mill, is simply impossible to realize unless it is supported by a coherent and rational social order. The primal building block of that entity is rooted in a mother's and unceasing love for her children, which most closely approximates God's unconditional love for us all, in all ways and all times.

So while it is painfully obvious that all mothers and those they love are bathed in the briny waters of human imperfection, we should also never forget at this current Mother's Day that the seeds of the love these special women have planted is the basis by which any heavenly garden on earth may aspire and dare to grow.

God's Peace (Happy Mother's Day!) Carl Bucking May 2020

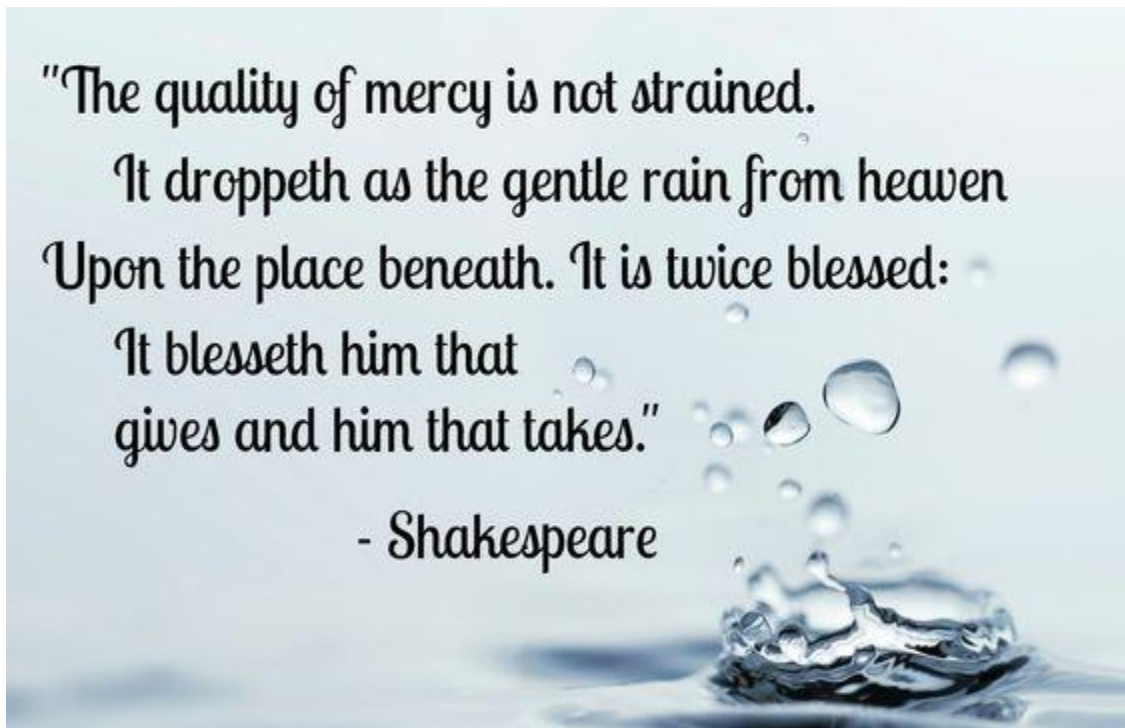
“The quality of mercy is not strained.

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven

Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed:

It blesseth him that
gives and him that takes.”

- Shakespeare



Bible verses for tough times

Worried? [Psalms 23; 46](#), [Matthew 6](#) Planning the future? [James 4:13-17](#)
Discouraged? [Psalms 37](#); [James 5:7-11](#) Does God seem far away? [Psalms 46](#)
Frustrated? [Psalms 90](#); [Hebrews 12](#) In doubt? [Jeremiah 29:11-13](#)
Tired? [Isaiah 40](#); [Matthew 11:28-30](#) Building a new home? [Psalms 127](#)
Bereaved? [John 16:11-33](#) Money problems? [Psalm 37](#)
Too busy? [Ecclesiastes 3:1-15](#) Bitter and critical? [I Corinthians 13](#)
Lonely or fearful? [Psalms 91](#) Need peace? [Matthew 11:25-30](#)
Feel rejected? [Colossians 1](#); [1 Peter 1](#) Need assurance? [Romans 8:1-30](#)
Sick or in pain? [Psalms 6](#); [Isaiah 26](#) Leaving home? [Psalm 121](#)
Depressed? [Psalms 34](#); [71](#), [Isaiah 40](#) Discouraged? [Psalm 126](#)
Jealous? [Psalms 49](#); [James 3](#) Don't understand what God is doing? [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)
Sleepless nights? [Psalms 4](#); [56](#); [130](#) Faith needs encouraging? [Hebrews 11](#)
Family problems? [Ephesians 6:1-10](#) Hated because of your faith? [John 15](#)
Done something wrong? [Psalm 51](#) Losing hope? [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#)
Need courage and strength? [Joshua 1:5-9](#); [Psalm 27:46](#) Alone and scared? [Psalm 23](#)
Facing a crisis? [Job 28:12-28](#) Hard times? [Psalm 9:9](#)

[@naeemcallaway](#)

When life
changes to be
harder, change
yourself to be
stronger.

FROM THE BISHOP

New Target Date for Phased Reopening

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

We begin this short communication with words of praise and gratitude for the tremendous efforts being made across the diocese to maintain communication, times of prayer and study, and caring for the needs of our most vulnerable within and beyond our congregations. The real struggles of this pandemic have been met with much grace and holy care by our clergy and people.

We write also today to share with you that after careful consideration and consultation with local health care providers, public health officials, and our own hospital personnel; and in coordination and prayerful consultation with the Bishops of New York, we together have determined that the target date for what may be the beginning of a “phased-in” commencement of public gatherings for liturgy will be July 1, 2020.

In the next few weeks, a group of clergy and lay leaders will meet with us, via zoom, to begin the process of determining a phased-in plan which will respect the need for social distancing, and other serious health safety considerations in order to begin to gather people for liturgy while we await the creation of a vaccine and/or treatment for COVID-19. This group will also consider the necessary liturgical adaptations that will be set by the diocesan bishop.

We understand that setting the date of July 1st as a target to begin in-person gatherings is a disappointment to us, but the science and medicine are clear, and our first and most serious consideration must be the safety of the most vulnerable around us. Weddings, funerals and other liturgical events will have to be postponed and when rescheduled will have to conform to the distancing guidelines of the CDC and the State Department of Health and have the permission of the diocesan bishop.

For now, let us fully engage the creativity of online gatherings for prayer, worship, and formation, remembering that Zoom and other platforms of electronic communication do not convey consecration of the elements remotely in the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist and therefore is not permitted. We are so grateful to all of you for the generosity and genuine, holy caring that has been evidenced these last several weeks. Let's engage further in this time of exile and continue to support and encourage one another in our life together as we remain apart.

Be safe, be careful, keep praying. With our love, prayers, and gratitude,

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano Bishop of Long Island

The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf Assistant Bishop of Long Island

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey Assisting Bishop of Long Island

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin Assisting Bishop of Long Island