

Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 11, 2025 Mother's Day

Acts 12:6–17 (or Judith 10:1–8); Psalm 69:1–3, 13–17, 30–34; Philemon 1:1–2, 7–16; Luke 13:10–17

Consulting the Calendar

1. Famed Cubs player Ernie Banks used to say, whether or not his Cubs were playing a double header: "It's a beautiful day for a ballgame...Let's play two today!"
 - a. He started playing in the Negro Leagues in 1950 with the Kansas City Monarchs
 - b. He played for the Cubs from 1953 to 1971 as a shortstop and then after an injury as first baseman
 - c. He was inducted into the Major Leagues Hall of Fame in 1977
 - d. His catchphrase wasn't just about double-headers. It was a phrase full of optimism
 - e. People would stop him on the street and ask him to say his famous phrase
 - f. It became his signature (the title of his biography), and a symbol of his perspective
 - g. His nickname was Mr. Cub, because he was such an embodiment of the team, but his other nickname was Mr. Sunshine because of his personality.
 - h. "It's a beautiful day for a ballgame...Let's play two today!" is therefore not at all about baseball games, but it's an uplifting view of life and its possibilities.
2. In today's Gospel passage, we have a limiting view of life as the religious authorities criticized Jesus for healing on the holy day
 - a. The authorities were upset Jesus performed a miracle of healing on the Sabbath
 - b. It may not make sense to us, but the way they viewed the day of rest was very much trying to honor God by resting
 - c. It wasn't about having a day off, but it was about spending that day in reflection, worship, and yes, rest
 - d. And it applied not just to those who were Jewish, but also to any people who were part of their household and foreigners
 - e. But the interpretation, as you might expect, had shifted over the centuries since Moses shared the commandments from God
 - f. And Jesus makes mention of it, when he pushes back on their criticism:
 - i. You untie your animals and lead them to the trough to drink
 - ii. If you can justify that kind of work, shouldn't it be a good thing to heal someone? Isn't that good work, allowable work?
 - g. For Jesus, any day of the calendar was a good day to heal
 - i. It's a beautiful day for serving God.
 - ii. Do good deeds of love. Perform acts of kindness.
 - h. And for the record, Jesus also taught that our connection to God couldn't be limited to that one holy day of the week
 - i. Serving God, healing, teaching, those were activities for the whole week
 - ii. There is no calendar limiting when we worship God, no calendar which limits when we love one another
 - i. His teaching was for a consistency in our being, in our behavior
 - j. There is no turning on/off our identity as children of God, as part of community
3. I invited you to share with one another some of the words of wisdom given to you by your mom or your parent, or that special person who helped raise you

- a. Their words of wisdom weren't meant to be footnotes in your day, but rather be the kind of foundational statements which framed who you would become
- b. Two phrases come to mind from my mom
 - i. Ponlo todo en manos de Dios (put everything in God's hands)
 - 1. God holds you and so put all your worries in God's hands
 - 2. It was empowering: let go and let God
 - ii. Hay más tiempo que vida (there is more time than life)
 - 1. This one took me longer to wrap my head around it, because I always was in a hurry, trying to do do do.
 - 2. There is time, more than enough time. Be present and do what's needed without fretting over the calendar
- 4. You'll help preach the sermon today. Here are some of the words of advice / wisdom which have helped shape you. I'll be sure to share all of them on Facebook
 - a. Be the change you want to see in the world -Ghandi
 - b. Don't raise your children the way that you were raised. Instead raise them the way that Jesus world. Patience, love, compassion and correction. Always do better for them than you had yourself.
 - c. This too shall pass
 - d. Always be kind
 - e. "When they pass the plate, you have to do your best." I first heard this in her declining years and overly-medicated. Perhaps she was recalling a childhood instruction regarding the offering plate. (Her family was not wealthy.) I jokingly quote this when there's a meal that I especially like.
 - f. When you face those who seem to be an enemy, try to find something good in them and make them a friend. Often that is what they need more than anything.
 - g. Children and adults should never go hungry in this country.
 - h. "There is always a third day." (She might have heard that at church)
 - i. Stop using drugs right now
 - j. Take good care of your teeth
 - k. Best foot forward. Take a breath. See what you are doing through. It is your destiny to be kind and help. Sleep in the car ride.
 - l. "Be a doctor" (Nurses get the crap jobs. Doctors get to tell people what to do and are paid well to do it.)
 - m. Smile – it makes people wonder what your doing. Extra/bonus – Shit fire – it saves matches.
 - n. Be yourself. Be unique. Grandma would say that she didn't want to see someone who looked just like her walking down the street.
 - o. Always look out for number one.
 - p. My mother said "I don't care what anyone says...I think your freckles are beauty marks."
 - q. Be true to yourself because nobody else will

- r. Learn typing. That way you can always be a secretary if college doesn't work out. PS. I earned an engineering degree from Purdue.
- s. You can do anything you put your mind to.
- t. You get one chance to live, live it to the most.
- u. You can't control who you fall in love with. So be careful who you date.
- v. "What after that? Always think of what the consequences of your actions. Does it reflect who you are?"
- w. Stop fighting me. I am on your team.
- x. If Pete told you to jump off a bridge-would you?! (Dumb friends don't give good advice)
- y. Do your best
- z. My mom told me "Don't be a pushover."
- aa. Always wear clean under wear?
- bb. Always wear clean under wear
- cc. You get further being kind than being right.
- dd. Be kind to yourself.
- ee. Be kind
- ff. Always show love
- gg. If you can't say anything nice don't say anything at all.
- hh. You can be loyal to someone without always agreeing with them.
- ii. Don't quit your job unless you have another job waiting for you.
- jj. Work hard. Play hard.
- kk. A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet.
- ll. Don't worry – pray. People are more important than things.
- mm. Things will always get better
- nn. I will never give you advice unless you ask for it.
- oo. Always be kind and loving. Whatever you do, do it well. Trust God and Jesus Christ always.
- pp. Always leave a space better than you found it.
- qq. Stop picking on your sister. Dream big William. We're always here for you.
- rr. Always say thank you with a smile.
- ss. Always be kind and treat others the way you want to be treated.
- tt. To be a better friend. To be patient. To pick up my toys. To be quiet at church. To be kind when I can. To not worry too much. To walk away when people are mean to me. To be calm when my dog [sktrt] (sorry, we couldn't work out the handwriting)
- uu. Homemade dinners made with love.
- vv. Welcoming. Hospitality. Generosity. Selfless.
- ww. Clean your room! Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
- xx. Teach your children how to be gentle.
- yy. People are more important than things.
- zz. To love others through acts of service.

- aaa. Be nice
 - bbb. By example – READ!
 - ccc. Says Susie Jones: “Be your best self”
 - ddd. In times of trouble, give it time. After a while, everything will go back to normal, but you’ll be stronger.
 - eee. Trust in the process – practice patience in everything you do.
 - fff. Unconditional love for everyone.
 - ggg. Work hard and keep a clean house. Your garden and flowers are for others, not just yourself.
 - hhh. Give to others.
 - iii. Don’t be afraid to ask questions.
 - jjj. “Once you are a ‘mother’ (parent) you are always a ‘mother’ (parent)!”

 - kkk. What other advice did your mom give you? It’s always a good day to live by that advice
5. Look at the calendar and realize that in a world that hurts, today is a beautiful day to offer comfort.
- a. In a world which looks for wisdom, today is a beautiful day to channel the down-to-earth ideas from our elders.
 - b. In a world of uncertainty, today is a beautiful day to admit we don’t have all the answers and help ask more questions
 - c. In a world broken by injustice, today is a beautiful day to follow Jesus and do the right thing
6. Today is a beautiful day to serve, to heal, to love. Today and every day.