



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ ✦ Compassion ✦ Community



A Personal Note from the Dean

As many of you know, I underwent emergency surgery last Sunday Morning to remove my appendix and a small hernia. I am recovering well, albeit a bit more slowly than I would like--not more slowly than predicted, just than I would like. Thank you for your notes of concern and prayers. I also want to thank the staff for stepping up and doing what is necessary during this time of convalescence. I plan on preaching this Sunday--no, not the sermon I had prepared for last Sunday. I appreciate your prayers during this recovery time.

**In Christ,
Neal+**

Gratitude

This has been a week of gratitude for me. There is nothing like being given an object lesson in your immortality to give you a big dose of gratitude. (I promise: this is the only Sunday you will hear about my appendicitis from the pulpit.)

I have been inundated with love both during the surgery and hospital convalescence to my recovery at home. I have been so encouraged by the many people who have asked about me, the emails, texts, and phone calls. I have been buoyed by the prayers that have been lifted to the throne of heaven on my behalf. And I am grateful for the measure of health I experience.

It is wonderful to know that we are sustained by a God that loves us. That was what was underlying Jeremiah's lament. God had called him to do a particularly difficult thing in prophesying to Israel. He was accused of being a traitor by both the people and the king; the king mocked him to his face, threw him into a cistern, and left him for dead. It was God's love—and love for his people—that sustained him through his dark days.