

Good News Daily

**Volume
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Sunday, October 23

Psalm 63 *Oh God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.* (vv.1, 5 NLT)

Physical hunger and thirst are needs humans can't ignore. We can satisfy those needs with bread and water. Yuck! I'd much rather have a feast. When I think of a feast, I think of delicious, abundant food that goes beyond just filling my empty stomach. Also, feasting is not just about the food served, it's about the fellowship that takes place as well. Consider this analogy in our relationship with God. He doesn't ask us just to be satisfied with knowing Him as Savior. That's the main course for sure. But then He adds Redeemer, Comforter, Teacher, Protector, Friend, etc., and the frosting on the cake (so to speak) is a personal God who listens to our every thought and actually replies with love. He shares His thoughts with us by the power of his Holy Spirit within.

Oh, my! Let's sit down and have a feast with Him. Let's delight in tasting of His goodness and sing of His love forever.

Esther 3:1-15; Psalm 98; 1 Corinthians 10:15-24; Matthew 18:15-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba (The Episcopal Church of Cuba) The Rt Revd Griselda Delgado Del Carpio; The Rt Revd Ulises Prendes, Suffragan Bishop

DIOCESAN CYCLE: All Saints Episcopal Church, Morton, The Rev. Matthew C. Dallman, Priest in Charge, Designate; Goweko Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Tiyishime Amon, Vicar; Mission of St. Luke, District of Cerro Colorado, Arequipa, Peru, Rev'd Ricardo Vergara, Vicar.

Monday, October 24

Esther 4:1-17 *"Who knows that perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"* (v.14b)

God positioned Esther as queen so that he could use her position to save his chosen people, the Jews. God also positioned Mordecai, Esther's uncle and surrogate father, to teach her God's truth and remind her of her identity and calling. God could have used anyone or any means to save his people from Haman's evil schemes, but he gave Esther and Mordecai the opportunity to be part of his plan.

What has He positioned me (us) to accomplish? I have been positioned to teach and remind others that the Spirit of God is with us all the time. He never leaves me, even when I don't feel it. Learning to live in the consciousness of that truth transforms my life. I don't have to wonder what He is asking me to do in any situation, I just have to ask and He will show me. That's how much He loves us!

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

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ikeduru - (Owerri, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Maduwike; Ikka - (Bendel, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Peter Onekpe

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Laurie R. Kellington, The Villages, FL.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Adrienne Ives' birthday.

Tuesday, October 25

Luke 11:27-36 *"No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house."* (v.33)

I happen to have a red letter Bible (Jesus' words are written in red ink) and it always brings such emphasis to Jesus' character! His words are often confrontational and cause me to examine myself at deeper levels than are comfortable. Who is the Light? Jesus is, of course, so allow me to re-phrase. No one declares Jesus is Lord of her life and keeps it a secret. Now sometimes that can be uncomfortable! I want to be ready in and out of season to share that Jesus has rescued me from sin and my own sinful choices to be angry, bitter, afraid, and unforgiving. I can share with others the appreciation I feel right now for the healing of a family member and for restoring broken relationships. It is never too late for him to heal me, even from wounding experiences from my childhood that continue to affect my behavior in the present.

Lord Jesus, my heart lives in the hope of the day when I will be with you forever. Thank you for your death and resurrection that makes it possible. You are my Savior and King!

Esther 5:1-14; Psalm 45; Revelation 11:14-19

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ikwerre - (Niger Delta, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Blessing Enyindah

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Heavenly Father, bless those who heal and tend the sick; doctors, surgeons, nurses and care-givers.

Wednesday, October 26

Psalm 119:49-72 *Remember your promise to me; it is my only hope. Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles. I reflect at night on who you are, Oh LORD; therefore, I obey your instructions.* (vv.49-50, 55)

When I feel disconnected from God I often use alphabet praises. They go like this: A: The Lord is always with me; almighty Advocate. B: Jesus, bountiful giver, is the Beloved of God and so am I. C: My Creator counsels me. D: My daddy God divinely intervenes in my life. E: He is from everlasting to everlasting, eternal love. F: Fountain of life, I walk in his favor, bearing much fruit. G: Our good God is full of grace. H: My home, healer, hope is the holy and high and lifted-up One. I: The great I AM, incarnate Savior. J: Jesus, just judge and the joy of my heart. I can go all the way to Z: Zealous to accomplish all he has planned for me. He is pleased with our never-ending praises and appreciation. Praising God refocuses my heart and mind on what really matters—Him!

Lord Jesus, complete the work you have begun in us right up to the very day of your coming again. Amen!

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

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ikwo - (Enugu, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Kenneth Ifemene

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Dr. David W. Peters and Sarah Bancroft, Austin, TX.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Chris Bennett's birthday.

Thursday, October 27

Revelation 12:7-17 *"Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."* (v.12)

Our adversary, the devil, goes around like a roaring lion looking to devour someone. The kingdom of darkness has a weapon of attack, and it is deception. If I believe lies about God, myself, and others, I am in a dangerous position. Satan will take full advantage of the things I believe if I do not trade them in for God's truth. If I believe anyone else can save me but Jesus Christ, I am deceived. If I believe I am unloved, rejected, or abandoned, God can bring the truth that I am loved, accepted, and always in the shelter of His mighty protection. Knowing God's Truth as stated in His Word is the best offensive weapon I have against this devil who influences our world for evil.

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

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ikwuano - (Aba, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Chigozirim Onyegbule

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Canon Martha J. Bradley, Springfield.

Friday, October 28

Revelation 13:1-10 *This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.* (v.10c)

When the Jewish people were being threatened by Haman in Esther's story, all the people fasted and prayed for strength and courage and for God to intervene. In the United States we really don't experience persecution on a regular basis, but in many parts of the world it is an everyday occurrence. So what is my part? I can pray for those being persecuted and also I can help supply material needs. There are internet websites that update believers as to how to pray; there are also lists of supplies needed in other countries. We can begin by praying Psalm 54.

Come with great power, Oh Lord, and rescue Your persecuted people! Defend them with Your might. Listen to my prayer. Pay attention to my plea, for violent people are trying to kill them. Make the evil plans of their enemies be turned against them. We will praise You, Lord, because You are good. Amen!

Esther 8:1-17; Psalms 40, 54; Luke 12:13-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ilaje - (Ondo, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Fredrick Olugbemi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Richard A. Swan, Decatur, Ordination to the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Mark Smith's birthday.

Saturday, October 29

Ezekiel 20:1-17 *"But the people of Israel rebelled against me, and they refused to obey my decrees there in the wilderness. They wouldn't obey my regulations even though obedience would have given them life."* (v.13a)

This passage is preceded by God telling his people through Ezekiel, "How dare you come to me for a message when you are still worshipping your idols."

Why wouldn't they obey God? Because they preferred to do things their own way. Does that sound familiar? Instead of trusting the God who had rescued them, they worshipped things they had made. Trying to figure out things for myself is an idol that frequently rears its head in my life. In Proverbs 3 we are told not to lean on our own understanding, but to follow God in all our ways and he would direct us. That is the path of life. Worshipping my own understanding is the path of death. How can I stop leaning on my own understanding and trust Jesus more?

Holy Spirit, I need your help, your love, and your power. Please increase your life within me so that I can be transformed into Father's obedient child.

Psalm 55; Revelation 13:11-18; Luke 12:32-48

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ile - Oluji - (Ondo, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Samson Adekunle

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, grant us the fullness of your grace, that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly kingdom.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Alley Roberson's birthday.

by Charlene Laird