



READING 1 – 2 Kings 4:42-44

*A reading from the second
Book of Kings*

⁴² A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said.

⁴³ “How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked.



But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'" ⁴⁴ Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18)

/R/ The hands of the Lord feed us; he answers all our needs.

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

/R/

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;
You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

/R/

The Lord is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

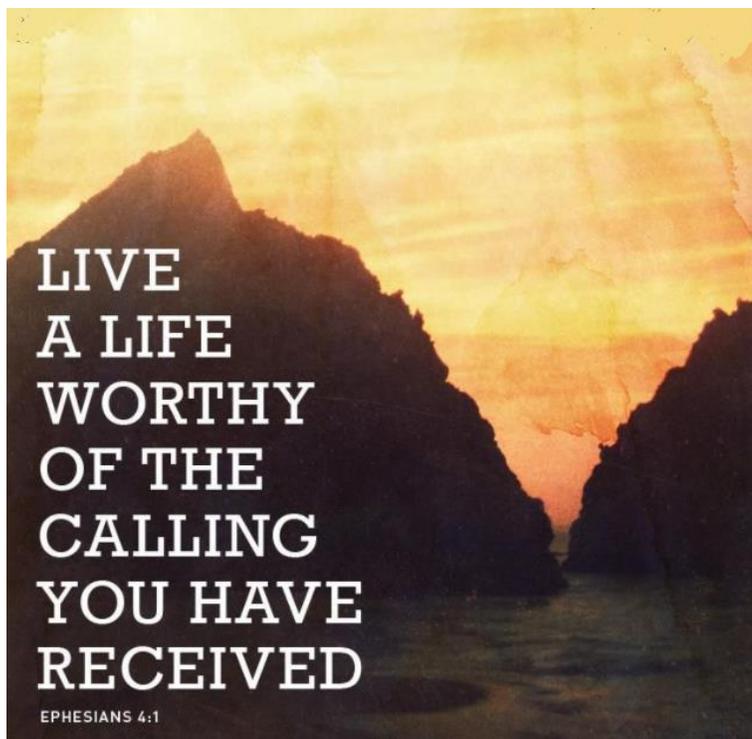
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READING 2 – Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



(Luke 7:16)

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

*A great prophet has risen in our midst.
God has visited his people.*

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL – John 6:1-15

A reading from the joly Gospel according to John



¹ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Dear God,
Thank you.

We thank you, Lord for all that you give to us - the food we eat, the lives we live, and our loved ones near and far away. Please send your blessings, Lord, we pray. Help us to always live our days with thankful hearts and loving ways. Amen

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE ANCHOR FOR OUR SOULS (Hebrews 6:18-19)

18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.



Dear God,
Some days, I feel that you are distant, and I find it difficult to sense your presence. This is especially true if my circumstances are rapidly changing. When these feelings enter my mind, please remind me that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. My Savior has not moved – his love for me is powerful, eternal, and unshakeable – and Jesus is an anchor for my soul, no matter what happens. Whenever I sense my relationship with you growing cooler, help me to stop and take time to examine my heart. Perhaps, I have been distracted from seeking you? Or, perhaps, I am so concerned about the details of my life that I have let my relationship with you suffer? Worse still, have I compromised any biblical principles or have I let sin enter into my life? Never let me forget that, like a boat in rough waters, it is easy to drift away from you if I am not anchored to your Word. Help me return to you by opening Scripture, and listening to your voice – then, no matter what happens, I will certainly be strong, immovable, and steadfast as you draw me close and reveal to me the nearness of your presence.

Amen

A PRAYER CONCERNING LISTENING WITH PATIENCE (Luke 8:15)

15 Those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.



Dear God,

We live in a fast-paced world, where everything seems to demand an instant choice. But, please remind me that nowhere in Scripture do you tell anyone to rush into a decision. While there may be times that I may desire to hear from you quickly, it is certain that you will never tell me to hurry forward blindly. Unfortunately, Satan, the enemy, always encourages us to act immediately – because his desire is to rush us along the path of trouble and destruction. The devil knows that if you cool off, and think long enough about a decision, you will make a better choice – and, thus, thwarting his ultimate plan. Help me understand, God, that if I feel an overwhelming urge to act spontaneously, I should immediately pull in the reins. Then, instead, let me listen to you patiently and persistently – even when doing so stretches my faith. Let me find comfort in knowing that you have promised to speak to my heart – so I can expect you to do so faithfully. Remind me that you likely will not tell me everything the moment I desire the information, but instead, you will guide me one step at a time, waiting until all of the details are in their proper places for my good – and then, you will instruct me in how to proceed.

Amen

**A PRAYER CONCERNING GOD'S
SOVEREIGNTY
(Psalm 91:15)**

15 He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

Dear God,

When troubles arise, I find it easy to imagine the most negative outcomes to my challenges. It may start off as something small, but before long, my mind quickly deteriorates into imagining the very worst. Of course, that usually makes the situation seem far more severe than it really is. When this happens, please remind me that, since the beginning of time, you have never been out of control of your creation for even a fraction of a second. Recognizing and accepting your sovereignty is vital for my inner peace – quite simply, it means that nothing related to me is beyond your loving care and watchful eye. Help me understand and believe that you are my Protector – you are responsible for carrying out your purposes for me and meeting my needs as I obey you. No matter what happens, you have a plan to bless me and reward me in eternity – which means that everything I experience, even the “bad” things, you will turn for my good if I trust you as my sovereign Lord. So, God, please stop me from imagining the worst, and instead, let me praise you as my Savior for always giving me your very best.

Amen

