

April 1st Readings

[EZEKIEL 1:1-3:15](#)

[HEBREWS 3:1-19](#)

[PSALM 104:1-23](#)

[PROVERBS 26:24-26](#)

Psalm 104:1-23

The first twenty-three verses of Psalm 104 celebrate the story of creation found at the beginning of the book of Genesis. This psalm begins, as many do, with praise to God in His glory and might. It reminds us that God is the Creator and is in control and that God made and provides for all living things, both plants and animals (both clean and unclean), as well as mankind. This psalm reflects upon each of the first six days as God works on His creation, and that the order of creation (day and night, seasons) continues to the very day the psalm was written, and by implication, continues at God's discretion.

Verses three and four imply that God created the angels and that they change form at his direction and for his divine purpose. In Ezekiel 1 beginning in verse four (also a reading for today), we read of Ezekiel's vision of God which begins with wind, clouds, and fire. These three things are also used in the psalm to describe the angels.

As forgetful humans, we need reminding of God's power and care for us. This psalm reminds us that the world and the good things in it are gifts from God. Genesis 1:31 says, "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." Have you noticed God's creation today? Have you thanked Him for it?

April 2nd Readings

[EZEKIEL 3:16-6:14](#)

[HEBREWS 4:1-16](#)

[PSALM 104:24-35](#)

[PROVERBS 26:27](#)

Hebrews 4:1-16

The website Dictionary.com lists thirty-seven different definitions for the word “rest”. Yet none of these mention “his rest” or “God’s rest”. Hebrews 4 lets the reader know that the promise of entering God’s rest is still available since verse six states “...it remains for some to enter it...”. So how does one enter “his rest”? Verse two says that they heard the “good news” but some did not believe. Later in verse six, some people who heard and received (believed) the “good news” didn’t enter because they did not obey. Verses 11-13 promises us that God knows our thoughts and intentions and that we will be required to account for them. That’s scary! What horrible thoughts have we had in the heat of anger or in fear?

The last three verses of Hebrews 4 give comfort that Jesus, while Holy (the Great High Priest and Son of God), was also human and tempted but remained perfect and sinless. Therefore, as a man, He understands our weaknesses and because of His sacrifice we have confidence that He will help us (give us mercy and grace) when we are weak. This is the privilege of having a personal relationship with God, and entering His rest is the reward for obedience.

April 3rd Readings

[EZEKIEL 7:1-9:11](#)

[HEBREWS 5:1-14](#)

[PSALM 105:1-15](#)

[PROVERBS 26:28](#)

Psalm 105:1-15

Psalm 105 verses 1-15 give thanks and praise God for His faithfulness to His people, the miracles He performed on their behalf, His works and judgements. This is a psalm of gladness. It reminds the reader of covenants and promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that those covenants were kept, and the promises fulfilled. Verses 12-15 recount times when God took very special care of His “anointed ones” (the family of Abraham), allowing no harm to come to them.

Even though the events celebrated in Psalm 105:1-15 happened many years before the psalm was written, it is a great reminder that God is faithful and keeps His promises. Today, Christians are afforded similar covenants and promises. We can be assured that God will be faithful and that we receive special care if we are faithful and obedient to Him.

April 4th Readings

[EZEKIEL 10:1-11:25](#)

[HEBREWS 6:1-20](#)

[PSALM 105:16-36](#)

[PROVERBS 27:1-2](#)

Psalm 105:16-36

Verses 16-36 of Psalm 105 re-tell the story of Joseph, giving insight into the real reason that Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. God was fulfilling His plan for Joseph to save his family from famine. On the surface, we wonder how being sold into slavery could have any kind of positive outcome. As it turns out, it was very good for Joseph and for his family. This event also sets the stage for the beginning of the exodus and the release of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

This is a great example of how God works – how He sets us up to do His will, and how, if we are patient and trust Him, things will work out better than we ever expected. Have you ever made a poor choice or had an adverse event in your life that ultimately worked out for good? If so, thank God for it.

April 5th Readings

[EZEKIEL 12:1-14:11](#)

[HEBREWS 7:1-17](#)

[PSALM 105:37-45](#)

[PROVERBS 27:3](#)

“A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.”

Proverbs 27:3

Have you ever moved rocks with your bare hands? They're heavy and rough. They may have creepy-crawlies living under them, so care must be taken before they are moved. Have you

ever shoveled sand? It won't stay where it's put – unless it's put into a container. It's heavy, too. Moving stones and sand without the benefit of mechanized equipment is hard work.

The proverb states that a fool's provocation is heavier than both stones and sand, but what is a "fool's provocation"? One definition for a fool is one who lacks judgement, and of course, provocation in this context means something said or done that makes someone else angry. So, a fool's provocation could be a gossip, a liar, a busy-body, a trouble-maker, someone who is rude or insulting, or someone who must always have things their way. Have you ever been around one of these people? Of course you have – they are everywhere! Dealing with these people can be exhausting. Personally, I'd rather move stones and sand.

April 6th Readings

[EZEKIEL 14:12-16:41](#)

[HEBREWS 7:18-28](#)

[PSALM 106:1-12](#)

[PROVERBS 27:4-6](#)

Psalm 106:1-12

Psalm 106 begins with thanksgiving to God for His care and continues with a confession of sin and rebellion after leaving Egypt. Even though the Israelites rebelled against God, He saved them at the Red Sea. This was just one of many times where the Israelites tested God. They quickly forgot the things He did for them. Yet they sang His praises each time He helped them. That's just like us, isn't it? We cry for help, then forget who it is that helps us.

This calls to mind an old song we used to sing. "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done." When we count those blessings, we remember who sends them our way. I don't know about you, but it would take me quite a while to count all my blessings!

April 7th Readings

[EZEKIEL 16:42-17:24](#)

[HEBREWS 8:1-13](#)

[PSALM 106:13-31](#)

[PROVERBS 27:7-9](#)

Psalm 106:13-31

These verses recount some of the incidents that occurred during the time of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. They were rebellious and they disbelieved and disobeyed God. He punished many of them instantly. Yet again, time after time, they disobeyed. When I read these accounts, I want them to obey and do what God says, even though I know how the story goes. It amazes me that they know that God can and has killed them on the spot for their disobedience, but they continued to disobey. Why? Why won't they straighten up and fly right, as my grandmother used to say?

God's care and compassion extended to them over and over, as it does to us today. Just as they sinned in those days, so do we. One of these days will be the end for each of us and our punishment or our reward will be eternal. We need to straighten up and fly right.