

GOD SPEAKS

READ ISAIAH 61:1-3, 5-7

*This Word from God is excerpted from a study prepared by Rev. Dr. Peter Meier for **God's Sending Heart**, Study 23, "Now is the Time!" Download the entire devotion and book at thegreatsending.org.*

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation, 2 Corinthians 6:2

We may be most familiar with these verses from Isaiah because we've heard them in the New Testament. In chapter 4, Luke tells us that Jesus is in the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth. The attendant gives Jesus the scroll from Isaiah, which contains this chapter. Jesus reads the first two verses, rolls up the scroll, and hands it back to the attendant. He sits down. Everyone is watching. Jesus begins by saying, "Today, as you listen, this Scripture is fulfilled."

[Isaiah] told of the purposeful sending, with authority, of Messiah, the Anointed One. This is Jesus. This is what Jesus came to do, and this is what Jesus did... All of these word pictures [in this Scripture] are pictures of the beauty and wholeness we have in Jesus.

And our response? The result of Jesus' work in our lives is to glorify Him. We glorify Him as we participate in God's mission, partnering with God as those who are sent. Isaiah describes this purposeful sending in verse 5: Strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and foreigners will be your plowmen and vinedressers. Isaiah is talking about us. Gentiles have a role in the missio Dei. Together with the Jews, we Gentiles partner with God in building His Church!

God's work in us calls us to action. His work in us is beautiful beyond description. We rejoice greatly and exult in all He has done for us. God uses us to share His work with all the nations. Look around your neighborhood, community, workplace, school, where you hang out with your friends. Keep your eyes and ears open for those who are hurting and troubled, those who are captive to fear and despair. You have what they need! You have the Good News, which heals the brokenhearted! The LORD has appointed and sent you with authority to proclaim liberty to the captives and the time of God's favor!

Now is the time of the Lord's favor - now is the time to realign ourselves with God's mission purpose so that eternal joy will be theirs (v7)!

I greatly rejoice in the LORD, I exult in You, O God! As You anointed Jesus to carry out His work as Messiah, You have also anointed me in my baptism to fulfill my purpose, namely to share Your gifts with people in my life. Use me, O Lord, to speak of the Good News of Your healing and beauty so that others will recognize that they, too, are people You have blessed. Move them, in response, to live in righteousness and praise before all the nations! Amen.

Isaiah
61:1b

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners

CALL TO PRAYER

Luke 10:2

The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.

SET YOUR ALARM FOR 10:02



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June

MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



**EQUIP, EMPOWER, ENGAGE,
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS.**



- 1 Lord, as this new month begins, guide my steps. Let your light shine through my actions and words. May I walk in your grace and seek your will in all I do today.
- 2 Heavenly Father, provide me with the peace that passes understanding. In moments of anxiety, remind me of your sovereign control. Shield my heart and keep my mind focused on your truth.
- 3 Creator God, thank you for the beauty of this summer season. Help me to notice the intricate details of your creation today and praise you for your majestic handiwork.
- 4 Lord Jesus, teach me to love others as you have loved me. Give me patience with those who frustrate me and compassion for those who are hurting.
- 5 Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today. Empower me to live boldly for your Kingdom. Give me the words to speak life and hope into every conversation.
- 6 Father, thank you for all the new vicars and church workers that will be serving in the Florida Georgia District. Bless their ministries and the communities they serve.
- 7 Lord of the Sabbath, we praise you for the installation of pastor Wilfredo Ramirez who will be serving at Christ Lutheran in Lakeland and Grace Lutheran in St. Cloud.
- 8 God of wisdom, give me discernment for the decisions I face this week. May your Word be a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
- 9 Lord, I lift up those who are sick and suffering. Bring your healing touch to their bodies and your comforting peace to their minds. Be their strength today.
- 10 Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of family and friends. Bless our relationships, deepen our bonds, and help us to encourage one another in faith.

- 11 Jesus, help me to carry my cross daily. When the road is difficult, remind me of your sacrifice and give me the endurance to run the race set before me.
- 12 Provider God, thank you for meeting my daily needs. Give me a generous heart so I can hold my resources loosely and bless others as you have blessed me.
- 13 Lord, I pray for my community and its leaders. Give them wisdom to govern justly. May your light penetrate the darkness and bring hope to my city.
- 14 Sovereign Lord, I quiet my heart before you on this day of worship. Speak clearly to me through your Word and your people. May my life be an offering to you.
- 15 Father, guard my tongue today. Let my words be used only for building up, not tearing down. Put a watch over my mouth and keep me from idle gossip.
- 16 Lord, deliver me from temptation. When the enemy tries to deceive me, give me the strength to stand firm in your truth and the courage to flee from sin.
- 17 God of all comfort, draw near to the brokenhearted. For those grieving today, be their close companion and wrap them in your steadfast love.
- 18 Jesus, you are the Bread of Life. Satisfy the deep hunger in my soul. Keep me from seeking fulfillment in worldly things that fade away.
- 19 Holy Spirit, produce your fruit in my life today. Let love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control be evident in all I do.
- 20 Lord, prepare my heart for worship. Strip away my distractions and pride so I can come before you with clean hands and a pure heart.

- 21 **Father's Day** | Heavenly Father, bless earthly fathers today. Give them wisdom, patience, and strength to lead their families in your ways. Thank you, God, for being our perfect, loving Father.
- 22 Lord, I surrender my plans to you. If my desires do not align with your will, gently redirect me. I trust that your ways are higher than mine.
- 23 God of hope, fill me with joy and peace as I trust in you. Let my life overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, shining brightly in a dark world.
- 24 Lord Jesus, teach me to serve humbly. Wash my pride away, just as you washed your disciples' feet. Show me who needs my help today.
- 25 Father, I pray for the persecuted church around the world. Give them courage in the face of danger and comfort in their suffering. Let their faith remain unshaken.
- 26 Creator, as the week draws to a close, thank you for your faithfulness. Every good and perfect gift comes from you. I praise you for your steadfast love.
- 27 Lord, help me to forgive those who have wronged me, just as you have freely forgiven me. Remove any root of bitterness from my heart.
- 28 Holy God, as I gather with fellow believers today, unify our hearts. May our corporate worship be a sweet aroma to you, and may we be equipped for good works.
- 29 Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. Guide me when I feel lost and protect me from harm. Thank you for never leaving the one behind.
- 30 Lord, as this month ends, I reflect on your goodness. Thank you for your daily mercies. Step forward with me into tomorrow, holding my hand in yours.