Christ The King Episcopal Church

40 Charleston Road, Willingboro, NJ 08046

Tel (609) 877-2987 ctk@christthekingnj.org https://www.christhekingnj.org

Worship Plan for Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

8th Sunday after Pentecost – The Holy Eucharist Rite Two THE WORD OF GOD



Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Fr. Vernal Savage Cellular telephone # (609) 850-9044

Email address: <u>priest@christthekingnj.org</u>

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Senior Warden: Hubert Lambert

Junior Warden: Jermaine Smith

Welcome to Christ the King Episcopal Church

Welcome to Christ the King Episcopal Church in Willingboro, NJ, a vibrant and growing Episcopal parish in Willingboro, Burlington County, New Jersey. Over the past 60 years, the fabric of Christ the King has been woven by the Spirit from the lives and gifts of diverse people; their desire to live their faith through worship, service, study, and stewardship; and the ever-evolving life of Burlington County itself.

Our parish is guided by its mission to share God's love for all people. Together we seek to build relationships with one another and with our neighbors, to cultivate compassion, to deepen our knowledge and spiritual practices, to work for justice rooted in essential human dignity, and to live as conscientious contributors to the life of our city and the Anglican Communion worldwide. As we grow together in service and love, we know ourselves, first and foremost, as followers of Jesus.

We are delighted to welcome you today; thank you for the gift of your participation and prayers. If you are new to Christ the King, please introduce yourself to a member of the clergy or one of the Ushers.

Special Welcome

We welcome Ms. Wendy Bernard who has joined us this morning to sing to the glory of God. We thank you for making the time to be with us.

Entrance Rite

Meditation: ... In The Presence of Jehovah

Processional Hymn #372 - Praise To The Living God.

Opening Acclamation (BCP p-355)

The people standing, the Celebrant say:

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect of Purity (BCP p.355)

The Celebrant say,

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The following is said together, all standing

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day: PROPER 10 (BCP Pg.231)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People**: And also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: 2nd Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19...... Regina Lamptey

The people sit.

¹David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

^{12b}So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. ¹⁸When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: 24 Regina Lamptey

(Said antiphonally, alternating between the Leader and

People)

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<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, *
    the world and all who dwell therein.
  <sup>2</sup>For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
    and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
  3"Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? *
    and who can stand in his holy place?"
  4"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
    who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
    nor sworn by what is a fraud.
  <sup>5</sup>They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
    and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
  <sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
    of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
  <sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates;
  lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
    and the King of glory shall come in.
  8"Who is this King of glory?" *
    "The LORD, strong and mighty,
    the LORD, mighty in battle."
  <sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates;
  lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
    and the King of glory shall come in.
  10"Who is he, this King of glory?" *
    "The LORD of hosts,
    he is the King of glory."
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Celebrant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 Dan Gunning The people sit.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly

places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn # 427...... When Morning Gilds The Sky.

The Gospel

All stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. 21But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. (Mark 6:14-29)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Hymn

Verse 1: "Alleluia", Verse 2: "God is With Us"

THE SERMON...... The Rev. Fr. Vernal Savage

The Nicene Creed (BCP-358)

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (BCP-392, Form VI)

All remain standing.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence:

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Sally our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers; especially Rev. Vernal Savage.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence:

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence:

We will exalt you, O God our King.

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence:

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them.

Who put their trust in you. We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The People or Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Peace Hymn: LEVAS #160 This Little Light Of Mine.

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Revelation 4:11

Offertory Hymn #436 Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts.

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly

country where, with [and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

People and Celebrant:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

Fraction Anthem [LEVAS 268] Christ Our Passover (BCP p. 364)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore, let us keep the feast. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore, let us keep the feast. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Sanctus: [LEVAS 269] Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Distribution

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen] The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen] Grant us peace.

Communion Hymn – LEVAS #111 Come, Thou Fount.

Ablution Song Hallelu.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest, gives the blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Retiring Hymn #390 - Praise To The Lord, The Almighty.

Deacon - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Thank you, Lord, Thank you, Lord, Thank you, Lord I just want to thank you, Lord.

Vs. 2. Been so good, Vs. 3 Been my friend

Announcements - News - Thoughts

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 14, 2024 JOIN US FOR SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 09:30AM PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS BEEN RESUMED

CHRIST THE KING EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICE ON YOUTUBE & ZOOM:

CLICK HERE TO JOIN ON YOUTUBE

CLICK HERE TO JOIN ON ZOOM MEETING ID: 863 7403 5494 PASSWORD: 007431 TEL # 646-558-8656

PLEASE SAVE THE LINK TO SIGN IN EVERY SUNDAY AT 09:30 AM

Tuesday Bible Study is suspended for the Summer and will resume in September.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting:

Join us on Wednesday nights for prayer service on Zoom at 7:15pm. Wednesday Prayer Meetings are now on Zoom (Using the Church Zoom Link):

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374035494?pwd=R3lrV1ZMTG5pUE 9zZnlldngyNTZTdz09

Meeting ID: 863 7403 5494; Password: 007431.

We have an extensive prayer list that includes the sick and shut-in, grief, war and violence, and other categories. You can add names to our list by placing names in the box in the prayer above, located in the back of the church, by email ctk@christthekingnj.org or call 609.877.2992, or by contacting one of the prayer group members: Diane, Helen, Linda, Sarah, Carolyn, Martha or Pastor Savage.

Contact the Church Office for contact information of the names on the prayer list.

Our Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need. We humbly beseech thee to behold, visit, and relieve thy sick servants below for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of thy mercy; comfort them with a sense of thy goodness; preserve them from the temptations of thy enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In thy good time, restore them to health, and enable them to lead the residue of their life in thy fear, and to thy glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Men Of Christ the King Monthly Meeting

The MOCTK monthly meeting is held the second Saturday of every month at 10.00am on Zoom. All the Men of Christ the King are members of this group and are expected to attend. Next meeting is **August 10, 2024, at 10.00am**.

Zoom ID: 818-7152-9383, Password: 359999

Give Easily from Here:

Click <u>here</u> give now to make a donation or make your contributions to Christ the King Episcopal Church, Willingboro, New Jersey at any time, even if you are on vacation. You will receive an email confirmation for your transaction.

Emergency Contact Information:

All parishioners wanting to add an emergency contact to the church's directory, please write the contact's name and number and put it in the collection plate. This information will be kept PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Looking To Join the Altar Guild Ministry?

We are looking for new volunteers; men and women, to join us in preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services. All are welcome to come and learn about this labor of love! Please call Linda Anderson at 609760-1050 for more information. Thank you!

July Birthdays

Phoebe DeMasio 10th Winston Eustace December 12th

Ayodele Fasehum 17th

Patricia Mitchell 26th

Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee is asking for donations of Mulch, Soil, Flowers, Vegetables, Cash, etc. Any questions, please contact Helen Baylock.

241st Diocesan Convention - Call for Nominations May 2024

To the Clergy and Congregations of the Diocese of New Jersey:

I would like to call your attention to the upcoming nominations for the offices at the 241st Annual Convention to be held in November 2024.

In accordance with Canon 5, Section 3 of the Constitutions and the Canons of the Diocese of New Jersey, a list of the offices to be filled by election at the 241st Diocesan Convention, the Nomination Recommendation Form as well as a list of the Nominating Committee members will be available on the Diocesan website.

The Nominating Committee requests that the clergy and lay leadership of each of our churches, review the lists of offices to be filled by election, publicize them to their congregations, and recommend candidates appropriate for those offices.

Please complete the Nomination Recommendation Form for persons whom you have recommended or for yourself. Submit it to the address at the bottom of the form or complete it online here: http://www.formstack.com/forms/?408210-fFQ7hk5oRm. The deadline for submission is August 15th.

Please provide a statement of qualification in 75-words or less (or advise that this will be supplied by the nominee), as this statement is not provided by the committee. All names submitted will be placed in the nomination process and will be subject to confirmation of eligibility. You can make copies of the nomination

form. It is also available online at 241st Diocesan Convention page. Please make this material known and available to your congregation.

Undercroft flooring installation - UPDATE:

Continuous progress is being made on the Undercroft repairs. We are currently nearing completion of the kitchen area. Thank you to everyone who has been using the building and grounds envelopes.

Thanks, Junior Warden

Burlington County Farm Fair

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 thru Saturday, July 20, 2024 burlingtoncountyfarmfair.com

To Volunteer at the Farm Fair, please contact Anna Turmelle at home 609-894-8148 or cell 609-694-8418, or Bette Kirby at cell 609-760-0183.

Worship Leaders and Eucharistic Ministers Schedule July 7th thru December 28th 2024

Date	Day	Worship Leaders	Psalm	Lesson	Eucharistic Minister
7/7/24	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Sarah Smith Carolyn Booker	48	2Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 2Corinthians 12: 2-10	Stewart/Arthur
7/14/24	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Regina Lamptey Dan Gunning	24	2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 Ephesians 1:3-14	Arthur/Stewart
7/21/24	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Linda Anderson Emerson Cooper	89: 20-37	2 Samuel 7: 1- 14a Ephesians 2: 11-22	Stewart/Arthur
7/28/24	10th Sunday after Pentecost	Debbie Stewart Olin Mitchell	14	2 Samuel 11: 1- 15 Ephesians 3: 14-21	Arthur/Stewart
8/4/24	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Judge Joan Burke Maxine Harvey	51: 1- 13	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Ephesians 4: 1- 6	Stewart/Arthur
8/11/24	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Carolyn Booker Jennifer Ainsworth	130	2Samuel 18:5-9,15,31- 33 Ephesians 4: 25-5:2	Arthur/Stewart
8/18/24	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Dan Gunning Regina Lamptey	111	1 Kings 2: 10-12;3: 3-14 Ephesians 5: 15-20	Stewart/Arthur
8/25/24	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Emerson Cooper Linda Anderson	84	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),22-30,41- 43Arthur/Stewart Ephesians 6: 10-20	



Event Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8am -11pm

Here's How It Works:

25% Off* SHOPPING PASS: Customers donating \$5 to Christ The King will receive a Shopping Pass valid during this one day event, October 22, 2024.

\$5 DONATIONS: Each pass is \$5 and our organization keeps 100% of this donation! If 20 members sell 20 passes, our organization can raise \$2,000!

Register To Win a \$100 Boscov's Gift Card!

Find out how by purchasing a Boscov's Discount Shopping Pass

To purchase a Shopping Pass, please contact:

DIANE STATEN - 609-500-2728

Praise and Strength

Today's Scripture:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song....

Psalm 28:7, NIV.

Reflection for Today:

Praise and strength go hand in hand. When you give God praise, He gives you strength. When you thank God in advance for the answer, that's what keeps you encouraged.

Remember, you're not going to stay strong in faith by complaining. Complaining drains you of strength and energy. You're not going to stay determined if you're talking about how bad it is. No, switch over into praise. "Business may be slow, but Lord, I want to thank You that You prosper me even in a desert." "The people coming against me may be powerful, but Lord, I want to thank You that You are all-powerful." Praise will keep you moving forward!

So often we think, "I'll give God praise after the problem turns around." But if you don't learn this principle to thank God in advance, you won't have the strength you need to wait for the promise. Every morning when you wake up, start the day by saying, "Father, thank You that my dreams are coming to pass. Thank You that this problem is turning around. Thank You that You are bigger than this obstacle." Keep praising Him and keep receiving His strength so you can boldly embrace the victory He has for you!

Prayer for Today:

Father, today I give You praise because You are worthy. Thank You for loving me and caring for me. You are my strength and shield. In moments of weakness, grant me strength. When I feel lost, guide me. Give me the strength to overcome fear and uncertainty. I yield to the truth that I am weak, and You are strong. Forgive me for the arrogance and pride that makes me think I can do anything good on my own. Thank You for working in my life even when I can't see it. Please lead me with Your Holy Spirit, and guide my day. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.