

Isaiah 65:1-9

The Common English Bible

¹I was ready to respond to those who didn't ask.
I was ready to be found by those who didn't look for me.
I said, "I'm here! I'm here!" to a nation
that didn't call on my name.
²I extended my hands all day
to a rebellious people
walking in a way that isn't good,
following their own plans;
³ people who provoke me to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens and burning incense on bricks,
⁴ who sit in tombs
and spend the night among rocks;
who eat swine's flesh
with broth of unclean meat in their bowls;
⁵ who say, "Keep to yourself!
Keep away from me! I'm too holy for you."
These people ignite my anger
like a fire that burns all day.
⁶ Look, this stands written before me.
I won't be silent, but I will repay;
I will repay in full measure
⁷ your sins and the sins of your ancestors as well,
says the LORD.
Since they burned incense on the mountains,
and mocked me in the hills,
I will count out to them
full payment for their actions.
⁸ The LORD proclaims:
As new wine is found in the grape cluster,
and someone says, "Don't destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,"
so I will do for the sake of my servants
and not destroy everything:
⁹ I will bring out offspring from Jacob,
and from Judah, heirs to my mountains.
My chosen ones will take possession;
my servants will dwell there.

Psalm 42

UMH#777

Leader: ¹As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God.

People: ²**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?**

Leader: ³My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

People: ⁴**These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.**

Leader: ⁵**Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?**

People: **Hope in God whom again I shall praise, ⁶my help and my God.**

Leader: **My soul is cast down within me, therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.**

People: ⁷**Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.**

Leader: ⁸By day the Lord commands his steadfast love; and at night God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

People: ⁹**I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I mourn because of the oppression of my enemy?"**

Leader: ¹⁰Like a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me...

People: **they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

Leader: ¹¹Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

People: **Hope in God whom again I shall praise, my help and my God.**

Luke 8:26-39

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²⁶ Jesus and his disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹ He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had entered him. ³¹ They pleaded with him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³² A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, ³³ and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. ³⁵ People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. ³⁶ Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. ³⁷ Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned across the lake. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of his disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you." So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.