

## IS IT TIME TO EAT?

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. Psalm 104:27 (NIV)**

I heard this question often when my children were growing up. Meal times were regularly scheduled, but snack times were whenever. We did not have a concern about going hungry on any given day; grocery stores were nearby, Mom had money in her wallet, and the pantry shelves were stocked. I could easily keep my family fed.

But the psalmist here reminds me that our “food security” was ultimately not my doing. In fact, he puts us together with all of the creatures of God's creation who will be fed at the proper time. We are all dependent on God for our food, for our very existence. We can observe the birds and wild animals going about their foraging for food. They gather what is provided for them in nature according to the seasons; instinct lets them know when they must store away more in preparation for the winter time. Though they do not know God as we do, what He gives them, they gather and are satisfied with it.

We rely on God for our own food—think about the growing seasons, the fertility of the soil, the viability of seeds, the different climates, the gathering, storage and shipping of crops. We cannot control many of these things, and need to trust in God's provisions for us. He provides for our needs, just as he does for all of His creatures. We, of all His creatures, are aware of this as a blessing from God, as he provides us with much more than just food; all of our earthly gifts are from his provision as well. Unfortunately, we are not always satisfied with what God has allowed us and it gives way to coveting and envy. That shows how we just don't trust God to give us what we need—not everything that we want. He has and will provide it in His own time and according to His wisdom.

For all of this God deserves our thanks and praise. We ask Him in the Lord's Prayer to “Give us this day our daily bread” and consider that He will do so, not only for us His followers, but also for the evildoers and unbelievers. With Martin Luther, we can ask in this prayer that He would help us to realize this truth and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*Before You Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, Boundless in power and love  
Our thanks we bring, in joy and praise  
Our hearts we raise to You, our King (LW 500)*

Barbara Paulsen