

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (v2)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, & before you angels & saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, & by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high & lofty; & the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, & with two they covered their feet, & with two they flew. ³And one called to another & said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, & the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, & I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it & said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed & your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, & who will go for us?" & I said, "Here am I; send me!"

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. When v3 is sung during the Communion ritual what point & connections are being made?
See Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34
2. St. Paul compares his late coming to faith after persecuting the Church as being like a stillborn infant (*1 Corinthians 15:8*). How does this unsettling imagery emphasize the new life brought by the gospel?
See John 4:7-14 (15-42); Romans 6:3-11, 8:22-23; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, 5:1-10, 17; Galatians 6:15; 1 Timothy 1:12-16

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. "How long?" asks Isaiah (*v11*). God warns it will be until the land is totally ruined & despoiled, yet a seed of hope will remain (*v13*). Tell of 2 or 3 times when you had to hit total "rock bottom" (not almost rock bottom) before you were able to receive new life (*v13*). *See Acts 9:1-31 (cf. Acts 22:1-21, esp. v3); Galatians 1:13-18 (despite his elite education Paul required a new education, cf. vv14, 17, Acts 22:3); Philippians 3:3-14, esp. vv7-8*
4. Jesus tells the fishermen- in their failure! (*Luke 5:5*)- that they will become fishers of men (or people, if you prefer; *5:10*). This is net fishing, not rod & reel or line fishing. Think of the differences between the two. What insight does net fishing give you in your efforts to introduce your friends to your friend Jesus? *See Matthew 13:47-50*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. "Christians think they're so perfect!" goes the clichéd complaint (& surely some do). How does beginning each Sunday with Confession & Forgiveness work against that claim? Take it one more step- how does personally confessing your own actual sins during the silence knock *you* off your high ground?
6. Confession & Forgiveness makes us come to grips with the enduring "me, myself, & I" that continues through the things we do & are done to us. Two truths emerge: 1) I am a sinner who commits sinful, evil acts of my own accord, & 2) I am forgiven by God for the sake of Jesus. How do these 2 truths (divinely) send you to introduce others to Jesus (*cf. vv7-8*)? *See 1 John 1:8-10; Small Catechism: Apostles' Creed; SC available bookofconcord.org*

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Series: Anointed; Now What?

02.06.22
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Perfectly Imperfect

As evangelists, we practice a winsome honesty about our faults & shortcomings.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, & I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” (v5)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, Follow me, & I will make you fish for people.
(Matthew 4:19)

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