

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (v3)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, & in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 1 *Lutheran Book of Worship translation*

¹Happy [is the one] who [has] not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! ²Their delight is in the law of the Lord, & they meditate on his law day & night. ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. ⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. ⁶For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. It seems that Jeremiah is quoting this Psalm. What other connections do you find between these two lessons? In other words, what makes *Psalm 1* a fitting inspiration for Jeremiah? Use your Bible's study notes.
2. Ezekiel (47:12), & perhaps Isaiah, also seem to quote *Psalm 1:3*. How do the following expand & fill in this tree metaphor of the faithful? See *Genesis 18:1-15; Joshua 24:14-26; 2 Samuel 18:6-15; Psalm 92:12-15; Isaiah 4:2, 6:9-13; 11:1-10, 61:3; Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:14-17; Ezekiel 17:22-24, 47:12; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12-13; Matthew 2:23 (a word play on the Hebrew root word NZR/"branch")*, 7:17-19, 12:33-35

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

3. "Happy" could also be translated "blessed" (cf. *Luke 6:17-26; Matthew 5:1-12*). In a culture of so many unhappy people (Christians & not) how would "holy happiness" improve your everyday life & the everyday lives of those around you? List at least 10 ways. What holds you back from this holy happiness? See *Psalm 145:1-2, 146:2; Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 4:13; James 1:2-4*; for further reading, see Dennis Prager's bestseller *Happiness Is a Serious Problem* (Wm. Morrow Paperbacks, 1998).
4. *VI* contrasts the righteous who follow God's plan with the wicked who have gotten loose & fallen into evil (this phrasing reflects the Hebrew vocabulary roots). How does this phrasing illustrate your own life? Give at least 3 specific examples. See *Psalm 119:65-72, 113-120, 169-176; Isaiah 47:10-11; Matthew 7:13-14, 24:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:2; Titus 3:3*

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

5. The word scornful refers to same things as *Proverbs 21:24, 22:10, 1:22; 9:7-8; 13:1; 15:12*; that is folks who love conflict & reject good sense. Where do you find such behavior in your everyday life? How can you avoid "sitting in their seats"? With what can you replace your old seats among the scornful? How can your good example winsomely & kindly encourage others to do the same? Think about your own sitting & watching the news or scrolling Facebook . . .
See *Small Catechism: Commandments 1-3, 8*, available bookofconcord.org
6. The law-scoffing, libertine world ends up back around at a new tyrannical law that must be enforced: none shall fail to affirm, approve, & accept them. Consider *John 3:16-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-21; Revelation 20:(4-6) 11-15*. How is evangelism- introducing your friends to your friend Jesus- a necessary thing in your everyday life? See *Romans 10:13-17*

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Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Series: Anointed; Now What?

02.13.22
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Show & Tell

As evangelists, our concrete acts of love match our words of praise

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper. (v3)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Rejoice, & leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven.
(*Luke 6:23*)

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