

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 136:1-9

God's mercy endures forever. (v1)

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, & you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body & spirit, & with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 136:1-9 (LBW translation)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. ²Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures forever. ³Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures forever; ⁴who only does great wonders, for his mercy endures forever; ⁵who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures forever; ⁶who spread out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures forever; ⁷who created great lights, for his mercy endures forever; ⁸the sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures forever; ⁹the moon & the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures forever;

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. Read all of *Psalm 136*. What do you notice about it? That is, what Bible stories are included or referenced or alluded to? How do these inclusions inform the refrain, "His mercy endures forever"? Use your Bible's study/footnotes.
2. How do vv1-3 hint at a trinitarian understanding of God? See *Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 24:8-10, 113:1; Matthew 28:19*

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

3. Divide your life into 4 major eras and then list 3-4 major milestones, good or bad, in each era that made your life what it is today. How was God's mercy, his "covenantal steadfast loving-kindness" evident at each point? Find someone to share 5 with and listen to 5 of theirs.
4. First, how does *Ps 136* fit with *Matthew 14:13-27*? Next, how do both fit with Holy Communion? Then how have you experienced his "loving-kindness" (cf. #3) in Holy Communion? See *Small & Large Catechisms: Holy Communion, available bookofconcord.org*

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

5. *Vv1-9* highlight God's creation of the universe. What other things common to all people deserve the refrain "His mercy endures forever"?
6. How does feeding the 5000 (*Matthew 14:13-21*) build on the parables of *ch13*? How do these Bible stories help you and your congregation to "proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed" and "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus" (LBW "Affirmation of Baptism" Rite)?

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Divine Mystery

08.06.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

...Of His Love

God's love never diminishes or fades, it endures & lasts for eternity

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever. (v1)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*)

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