

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold & tend this vine. (vv14, 15)

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, & by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 80:7-14 (*Lutheran Book of Worship translation, 1978*)

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, & we shall be saved. ⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations & planted it. ⁹You prepared the ground for it; it took root & filled the land. ¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow & the towering cedar trees by its boughs. ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea & its branches to the river. ¹²Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes? ¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, & the beasts of the field have grazed upon it. ¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold & tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. What connections do you find between the *Old Testament* lesson (*Isaiah*) & the *Psalms*? Each week the *Psalms* is chosen as a reflection & response to the first reading. It helps us interpret the *Old Testament* lesson.
2. How do the historical circumstances of 2 Kings (6:24, 25, 10:32, 33, 13:22, 15:17-22, 27-31, 17:1-6) help interpret the *Psalms*? If practically all the *Psalms* are from Judah, how does it show an essential kinship between northern Israel & southern Judah? (Which is lost following the Exile cf. *John* 4:7-9, *Luke* 10:30-33.) *Hint review history of divided Israel & Judah in your study bible or Wikipedia articles “Kingdom of Israel (Samaria)”, & “Kingdom of Judah”.* By the way, how does the Exile end? See *Isaiah* 41:18, 45:1-7; 2 *Chronicles* 36:22-23; *Ezra* 1:1-4,7-8,11

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

3. How does the *Psalms* show that restoration is entirely up to God’s initiative (vv14-19)? In what ways does God give you his grace without your deserving or ability? See *Genesis* 2:16-17, 3:8-10, 17-19, 15:1-6; *John* 1:10-18, 15:5; *Romans* 3:22-28, 8:24-25; *Galatians* 2:16; *Ephesians* 2:8; *Philippians* 3:9; **Small Catechism:** Creed, Baptism, Holy Communion
SC available <bookofconcord.org>
4. How do life’s tragedies & crises reveal God’s “sovereignty”, that is his creative control over all things, including his allowance of our “free will”? See *Isaiah* 45:5-7; *Matthew* 5:45; *Luke* 13:1-5; 1 *Corinthians* 10:13

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

5. “The conviction that one confronts God in every circumstance, both good & bad, lies at the heart of the ancient Israelite prayers for help.”* How can you help others make this connection in their everyday lives, without using *Romans* 8:28 as a flimsy platitude?
See *Psalms* 6, 13, 22, 37, 73-83
**Psalm* 80:1-19.” *The New Interpreter’s Bible Volume IV* edited by Leander E. Keck, Abingdon Press, 1996, p1001.
6. “Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity” reads the ancient morning prayer collect for grace. Building on #1-5, what makes this prayer a good habit for all believers- new & old, strong & weak, etc.? See 1 *Peter* 5:6-9

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18th Sunday after Pentecost

10.04.20

Series: Using God's Gifts for God's Purposes

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

(Purpose of) Preserving His Own

O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold & tend this vine (v14)

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, & we shall be saved. (v7)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, I chose you & appointed you to go & bear fruit that will last. (*John 15:16*)

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