

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 141

My eyes are turned to you, Lord God. (v8)

Acts 13:13-26

Luke 1:57-80

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptizer was born to Elizabeth & Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose & the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 1:57-80

...⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, & they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet & wrote, "His name is John." & all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened & his tongue freed, & he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, & all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them & said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him....⁷⁶And you, [my] child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins....⁸⁰The child grew & became strong in spirit, & he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. Review the background of this story, *Luke 1:5-25*. What is significant about Zechariah's action in vv63-64? On July 12, we'll hear *Isaiah 55:10-13*; how does it connect to this story?
2. How does the story of Samuel provide a model or prototype for this story?
See 1 Samuel 1:1--2:11, esp 1:13

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

3. Find out the story of your own first name. What made your parents choose it above all the others they considered? Do you have ancestors or descendants that share the name? Does your name have a meaning?
4. Read the story of St. John's arrest & execution (*Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-27; Luke 9:7-9*). Is being a wild, faithful man, "strong in spirit" (v80) a safe choice? Which is better a safe faith that goes along to get along, or a wild one that holds fast to God's truth, goodness & (wild) beauty? How does a wild man know when to play it cool?

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

5. American religion casts a long shadow of catering to women in order to "domesticate" men. St. John was a wild man (v80; *Matthew 3:3, 4; 2 Kings 1:8*) & a deeply religious man (vv66, 76-77). What could you do to make your congregation friendlier to wild men seeking to be faithful?
6. St. Peter Lutheran Church will host these men's Sundays four times annually. Which of your man friends could connect with God in a new way at the next one, September 20, "Great Outdoors Sunday"? Name at least five. *Another is planned for Advent & "Farm & Ranch Sunday" will be in the spring.*

Festival of St. John the Baptizer's Nativity

06.21.20

Series: Things the Bible Doesn't Say

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

You Have to Make a Name for Yourself

A name can be a shortcut to evaluate quality

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: All who heard them pondered them & said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. (v66)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*Matthew 5:10*)

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