

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96

Ascribe to the Lord honor & power. (v7)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 96 (*Lutheran Book of Worship translation, 1978*)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. ²Sing to the LORD & bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the nations & his wonders among all peoples. ⁴For great is the LORD & greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens. ⁶Oh, the majesty & magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power & the splendor of his sanctuary! ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor & power. ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name; bring offerings & come into his courts. ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, & let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder & all that is in it; let the field be joyful & all that is therein. ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth. ¹³He will judge the world with righteousness & the peoples with his truth.

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. What do the similarities between the *Psalms* & *1 Chronicles 16:(1-7), 8-34 & Isaiah* (& some other *Psalms*) suggest about the coming of the Lord & his judgement as well as the jubilation & joy of God's people? Compare v1- *Psalms* 33:3, 40:3, 98:1; v3- *Psalms* 9:11, 105:1; v4- *Psalms* 48:1, 95:3; vv7-9- *Psalms* 29:1-2; v13- *Psalms* 9:8, 98:9; v2- *Isaiah* 52:7; v3- *Isa* 60:6, 66:18-19; v11- *Isa* 41:19, 44:23, 49:13, 35:1ff; v5- *Isa* 41:19ff, 44:23-24, 46:5-7, 44:9ff

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

3. Reflect on our *Psalms* preaching series. What did you like about the *Psalms*? What did you learn? How has your appreciation of them changed? How does thinking of them as "three chords & the truth" make them more relevant or relatable across the three thousand years between us & them?
4. Notice the pattern of invitation to praise God & then reasons for praise (vv1-3 | 4-6; 7-10a | 10b; 11 | 12-13). What connections do you find in each pairing? Now try your hand at writing at least three more pairs of invitations & reasons using examples familiar to your own everyday life. Consider the hymn "Earth & All Stars" (H. Brokering, 1964.) for an example.

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

5. It looks as if the world around us traded praise of God for praise of our own ideological socio-political leaders (cf. *Psalm* 146, 3-4, 7-9), even treating God as a mere efficient cause to establish these little Caesars. How does relearning the Lutheran teachings of *Law & Gospel* & *Two Kingdoms* help us muddle through the mess? See *Lutheran Study Bible* pp xxxi ff, 1632 (*Concordia Publishing House, 2009.*); Wikipedia.com "*Law and Gospel*", "*Two Kingdoms Doctrine*"
6. It's become popular to consider our impious, or unreligious, or non-Christian rulers as contemporary Cyruses (*Isaiah* 45:1-7) who will *really, actually, get* God's work done. What are the shortcomings of this view? (Is America the same as or a replacement of ancient Israel & Judah? Are we exiled under a foreign power?) Where does it leave the lives of the faithful, their good works, & their devotion to the Gospel (*1 Thessalonians* 1:5-8)? Which has the greater, immediate, longer-lasting impact on your neighbors & neighborhood?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

10.18.20

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

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

(Purpose of) Declaring His Honor & Power
Ascribe to the LORD honor & power (v7b)

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Declare his glory among the nations & his wonders among
all peoples. For great is the LORD & greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods. (vv3-4)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Shine like stars in the world, holding fast to the word of life.
(Philippians 2:15, 16)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96

Ascribe to the Lord honor & power. (v7)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 96 (*Lutheran Book of Worship translation, 1978*)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. ²Sing to the LORD & bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the nations & his wonders among all peoples. ⁴For great is the LORD & greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens. ⁶Oh, the majesty & magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power & the splendor of his sanctuary! ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor & power. ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name; bring offerings & come into his courts. ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, & let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder & all that is in it; let the field be joyful & all that is therein. ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth. ¹³He will judge the world with righteousness & the peoples with his truth.

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. What do the similarities between the *Psalms* & *1 Chronicles 16:(1-7), 8-34 & Isaiah* (& some other *Psalms*) suggest about the coming of the Lord & his judgement as well as the jubilation & joy of God's people? Compare v1- *Psalms* 33:3, 40:3, 98:1; v3- *Psalms* 9:11, 105:1; v4- *Psalms* 48:1, 95:3; vv7-9- *Psalms* 29:1-2; v13- *Psalms* 9:8, 98:9; v2- *Isaiah* 52:7; v3- *Isa* 60:6, 66:18-19; v11- *Isa* 41:19, 44:23, 49:13, 35:1ff; v5- *Isa* 41:19ff, 44:23-24, 46:5-7, 44:9ff

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

3. Reflect on our *Psalms* preaching series. What did you like about the *Psalms*? What did you learn? How has your appreciation of them changed? How does thinking of them as "three chords & the truth" make them more relevant or relatable across the three thousand years between us & them?
4. Notice the pattern of invitation to praise God & then reasons for praise (vv1-3 | 4-6; 7-10a | 10b; 11 | 12-13). What connections do you find in each pairing? Now try your hand at writing at least three more pairs of invitations & reasons using examples familiar to your own everyday life. Consider the hymn "Earth & All Stars" (H. Brokering, 1964.) for an example.

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

5. It looks as if the world around us traded praise of God for praise of our own ideological socio-political leaders (cf. *Psalm* 146, 3-4, 7-9), even treating God as a mere efficient cause to establish these little Caesars. How does relearning the Lutheran teachings of *Law & Gospel* & *Two Kingdoms* help us muddle through the mess? See *Lutheran Study Bible* pp xxxi ff, 1632 (*Concordia Publishing House, 2009.*); Wikipedia.com "*Law and Gospel*", "*Two Kingdoms Doctrine*"
6. It's become popular to consider our impious, or unreligious, or non-Christian rulers as contemporary Cyruses (*Isaiah* 45:1-7) who will *really, actually, get* God's work *done*. What are the shortcomings of this view? (Is America the same as or a replacement of ancient Israel & Judah? Are we exiled under a foreign power?) Where does it leave the lives of the faithful, their good works, & their devotion to the Gospel (*1 Thessalonians* 1:5-8)? Which has the greater, immediate, longer-lasting impact on your neighbors & neighborhood?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgics license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

10.18.20

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

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

(Purpose of) Declaring His Honor & Power
Ascribe to the LORD honor & power (v7b)

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Declare his glory among the nations & his wonders among
all peoples. For great is the LORD & greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods. (vv3-4)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Shine like stars in the world, holding fast to the word of life.
(Philippians 2:15, 16)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.