

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD 5.30.2021

Let's look at the Bible readings for Trinity Sunday, May 30, to prepare for on-line, drive-in, and in-person worship (at 9:00 am) with Abounding Joy.

1ST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8 Isaiah's Vision of the Lord and Commissioning

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I

am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO ISAIAH, CHAPTER 6

1. In verse two, this is the only biblical passage where heavenly beings are called "seraphim." What are some other, more familiar names for heavenly beings?
2. What are some possible reasons for "fullness (Hebrew verb)" used in vss. 1,3, & 4?
3. What words in verse 4 refer to God's power and presence?
4. What do you think is the significance of touching the lips in verse 7?

2ND READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-36 Peter's Sermon at Pentecost – Part 2

¹⁴ Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, " 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. ²⁹ "Brothers, I may

say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool." ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO ACTS, CHAPTER 2:

1. How are the highlighted statements in verses 23 and 24 connected to words found in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds?
2. Why do you think Peter uses Old Testament references in his sermon? See Psalm 16:8-11, Psalm 110:1, Psalm 132:11, 2 Samuel 7:13, 16.
3. There is a *chiastic* structure in this reading. A chiasm/chiasma refers to a sequence of verses which are repeated and developed, but in reverse order. They appear on both the OT and NT. Let's take a look at this. (Kerygma means: proclamation or preaching)

(A) The kerygma (vss. 22–24)

(B) Proof from Scripture (vss. 25–28)

(C) Interpretation of the Scripture (vss. 29–31)

(D) The resurrection of Jesus and the witnesses (v. 32)

(D') The exaltation of Jesus, the mediation of the Holy Spirit and the witnesses (v. 33)

(C') Interpretation of the Scripture (v. 34a)

(B') Proof from Scripture (vss. 34b–35)

(A') The kerygma (v. 36)

4. How does verse 36 establish Jesus' Messianic credentials?

THE GOSPEL: John 3:1-17 You Must Be Born Again

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus **by night** and said to him, "**Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God,** for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot **see the kingdom of God.**" ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit.** ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it

wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is **born of the Spirit.**"

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?**" ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO JOHN, CHAPTER 3:

1. What are some possible reasons Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?
2. What are your thoughts Nicodemus' statement highlighted in verse 2? Look also at v. 10?
3. What does "born again" refer to in verse two?
4. What is the deeper meaning of: "*see the kingdom of God*"?
5. In verses 5 and 8, the highlighted portion in blue, let's explore further references to spirit: Read Galatians 4:23-29, 1 Peter 1:3, 23, Ezekiel 36:26-27, and Jeremiah 31:31, 33.

