

## HOLY

- Today finish at beginning. Finish: last Sunday of sermon series on Isa. Going all way back to Sunday after Thanksgiving, every sermon from pulpit (except funerals, midweek Lent), on Isa. That's 36 sermons (incl this one), from one book of Bible. Not just any book; we called the series "Gospel acc Isa" because of how brightly gospel message shines through this OT prophecy. I pray this series has strengthened your faith; has mine. So today, finish at beginning. Beginning: today's reading from Isa is very beginning of Isa's ministry as prophet. Chapter 6; first 5 are introduction. Now have account of when God called Isa to be prophet.
- **Vs. 1a** – "saw," prophetic vision that God allowed Isa to see. **Vs. 1b** – vision of grandeur, dignity, holy God seated on throne. **Vs. 2a** – "seraphim," angels. **Vs. 2b** – glimpse of things seen only in heaven. **Vs. 3-4**. Isa was seeing indescribable things: majesty of God, and of his angels, singing "**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.**"
- 3 HOLYs. What "holy" mean? Usually think: perfect, sinless. Little deeper: distinct, special, set apart as diff from all rest. If take God and all people of world – who stands out as distinct from rest? God, of course. Why? Because perfect, sinless. God is distinct from all of us! Does not make mistakes, accidentally do wrong; not change, lie, make unwise decisions, or stray from what is right; loves what right, hates what wrong; he is one who determines what right/wrong; standard-setter – HOLY!
- For us, good & bad. Good: know our God is rock solid, dependable, constant. Bad: even though he doesn't waver from his standards, we know we do! We break God's standards all the time; called sin. We have 10 Com, which summarize God's law. Also have entire Bible to show clearly what God's will is. When we compare our lives, behavior to God's will, realize: do not meet standards of holy God; break God's will every day; do what he hates, what angers him. That is terrifying thought!
- Terrified Isa. **Vs. 5ab**. Are we a people of unclean lips? Ever curse, ask God to damn things because angry? Swear, take frivolous oaths in God's name? Use filthy language, drop four letter words in casual conversation in certain company? Gossip about other people, say things don't need to be shared because they hurt reputations? **Vs. 5ab**. Even in what I say, I realize I am not holy!
- Then something remarkable happens. **Vs. 6-7**. Instead of tossing Isa, unclean lips & all, into fire of altar, the holy God uses altar to change unholy person into holy person. Here, I bet Isa scared stiff as angel touches burning coal to lips. But what really happening: God using altar to change what is not holy into what is holy. **Vs. 7b**.
- Today, God sees what is not holy in us (lips, hands, feet, thoughts); changes it so becomes holy. How? Uses altar. 700 after Isa would come another prophet, lips not unclean, perfectly holy, our LJC. When Jesus died on cross, on that altar, a sacrifice being made; Jesus, holy God, sacrificing his life to pay for our uncleanness/unholiness. Now God takes blood of Christ, shed on altar of cross, touches to our lips (not just in HC; certainly there; but whenever HS works faith in our hearts), says **vs. 7b**.
- That makes us holy; when God looks at us, because of Jesus, sees people who are holy people; calls us holy. **Col 3** – "**Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved.**" Us! **1 Pt 2** – "**You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.**" God calls us holy, which doesn't just mean sinless, perfect (although with sins forgiven, that's how God looks at us now); also means: distinct, special, set apart from rest of unbelieving world. Diff; God wants us to live that way. **1 Pt** – "**Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy'**" (**1 Pt 1:15**). Let your faith in Christ set you apart from rest of world.



- How many people in world today? One estimate: 7.5 billion! How diff are you from all those people? In many ways, just the same as all: born into world with sinful nature, need for Savior; also loved by God, **“who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4)**. How accomplish that? Sends people, like he sent Isa. **Vs. 8**. Two weeks ago in church, focused on being God’s witnesses. Last week (Pent), reminded: the gospel is powerful, makes faith grow (like water makes plants grow). Today (Trinity), God says: ‘I want people (will send people) to share gospel with world; **vs. 8b.**’ **Vs. 8c** (and you will say). Yes, of course, sends pastors/teachers into ministry. Last month over 150 young pastors, teachers from MLC/Sem assigned to WELS churches, schools. But what re you? Where will God send you? To whom? **Vs. 8**. Do you have that same ‘I want share gospel’ attitude as Isa? Do you look for opportunities to share your faith in Jesus with others, so that they too can know, believe in the triune God?
- **Vs. 3b**. On this Trinity Sunday, those 3 HOLYs that the angels sang (and we in Sanctus every Communion Sunday) remind us that God shows himself to us as F,S,HS. Father, who created, preserves, planned salvation – holy. Son, who shed blood on cross to take away our sin, now sits at God’s right hand blessing his church until he brings her home to heaven – holy. HS, who starts faith, strengthens faith in people’s hearts through gospel – holy. **Vs. 3bc**.
- So: God is holy. We are not holy. Through Christ God makes us holy. We want to live lives that are holy. And God sends us to make disciples of all nations, with gospel, which makes people holy. May grace of LJC, love of God, fellowship of HS be with us as we live and work for him.

### Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” <sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”