

Sunday, August 25, 2019

Old Testament

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Isaiah urges those who will hear to let their concern be for others, for the well-being of neighbors, family, and friends, trusting that God himself will quell any needs that we have and provide for any salve for which our souls long.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Psalm 103:1-8

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *

and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins *

and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave *

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, *

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 The LORD executes righteousness *

and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses *

and his works to the children of Israel.

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *

slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Epistle

Hebrews 12:18-29

The gift which God offers is deeper and more full than what can be seen or touched, more than a mountain, more than a city. May we long for God's eternal kingdom.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.")

Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that

is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.