

Forgiveness of our sin of seeking God elsewhere. God is here in the Community gathered in this room right now. God is here, given freely as bread and wine, simple food, nourishing us early this morning so that we can go out and do God's work. That's how God functions: God gives of God. God gives God's self freely to us so that we can live. That knowledge might not be the end of everyone's search, but it will begin to fill that god-shaped hole. Seek the Lord here, where he's promised to be. Amen

Wednesday March 14, 2007
A Reading from Isaiah (55:1-11)

All you there who are thirsty, come to the water! Come even if you have no money; buy food and eat; come, buy wine and milk without money, at no cost. Why spend your money for what is not food? Why spend your earnings for what does not satisfy? Listen closely to me if you want to eat well; you will be delighted with the richest fare. Come to me and incline your ear; listen, and your spirit will revive. I shall make with you a perpetual covenant, the tokens of faithful love shown to David. As I made him a witness to peoples, a prince who ruled over nations, so you will summon nations you do not know; nations that do not know you will come running to you for the sake of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel who made you glorious.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, invoke him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways, the sinful their devices. Let them turn back to the Lord that he may take pity on them, to our God, ever ready to pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways. For as high as is the sky above the earth, so are my ways above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow fall from the sky, nor return there

without watering the ground, causing it to bring forth vegetation, giving seed for the sower and bread for food, so is it with my word that issues from my mouth; it does not return to me empty but accomplishes what I purpose and achieves what I send it to do.

The Word of the Lord

Homily by The Rev Timothy A Leitzke

It is still en vogue in parts of the Church to talk about ‘seekers’. It’s a technical term for those who are looking for spiritual nourishment. It’s a great term; it carries certain connotations with it of Church Growth and special ‘seeker services’ designed for the ‘unchurched’ as an easy introduction to the ‘real’ or ‘member services’. You probably can tell that I’m not entirely sold on this method, though there are some things that I like about it, and one of them has to do with that term, ‘seeker’. It acknowledges that people are seeking something. The world—or, rather, Sin disguised as the world—has a lot to offer, and all of it is hollow. A lot of us, even those involved in worship life, feel like there’s a god-shaped hole in us. We’re empty, and we’re seeking something to fill us.

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Sin, disguised as the world, has plenty of ideas for us. It tries to sell us sex, credit cards, home security systems, beer, SUVs, cell phones, computers, more SUVs, more beer, frivolous drugs, diamonds...you name it, and Sin will tell you that *it* is the piece that will fill the god-shaped hole in your life. Deep down we know that it doesn’t fit, any more than a square peg fits into a round hole. God fits and we’re seeking God. We need a clue. We need a hint. We need some idea of where to look.

The Book of Isaiah tells us, “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near,” and invites us, “All you who are thirsty, come to the water! Come, even if you have no money; buy food and eat; come, buy wine and milk without money, at no cost.” How much nearer could God be than in the free meal that we share: the body and blood of Christ? God is so near to us in this meal that God is inside of us, becoming a part of us. **GOD IS IN THIS MEAL!**

While that is not necessarily the end of the search, one needs look no further than Holy Communion to see God. One needs only to ponder what we do in Holy Communion to see God revealed. God is here in our Confession from our knees, a Confession that we’ve tried things besides God to fill that god-shaped hole. God is here in the Forgiveness we proclaim,

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