

Greeting to you! The theme for this morning is “God the Holy Trinity”. In the Old Testament reading, we saw that Isaiah was given a vision of a Holy God. In his vision he saw the Holy God sitting upon a throne high and lifted up; and his train fill the temple. Above him were seraphim’s singing, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ As he saw this vision the foundations of the temple shook and it was filled with smoke. Isaiah said, "Woe to me! 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." Then one of the seraphim flew to him with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched his mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for" (Isa 6:5-7 NIV). In this vision we see the holiness of God the Father who is beyond comparison. No one is able to stand in his most Holy presence. Just like Isaiah was made aware of his sinfulness in God’s Holy presence we too are made aware that we are people of unclean lips, of unclean thoughts and unclean deeds, when we come into his Holy presence. We too need to be sanctified like Isaiah was, by the blood of the Lamb before we can be used. As we confess we are called to repent of not just concrete sin but of sinfulness that has gripped our hearts.

However, when we confess God does not leave us alone. Isaiah is amazed by the sheer grace of God. In the midst of him feeling undone-having no future- because of his entrenched sinfulness, thinking I cannot stand before God nor can I serve him. In that condition something wonderful happens. A live coal is taken from the altar and the lips of the Isaiah are touched saying that his guilt was atoned for and his sin was forgiven. God continues to forgive us and meets us at our point of need. Satan may try to accuse us of our ingrained sinfulness or something vivid that you always feel defiled about –there is good news here - God says to us that your guilt is atoned for and your sin is forgiven.

In the second reading from Ephesians, Paul makes a Trinitarian prayer to the Father, asking that his purpose for the Church may be fulfilled in Christ through the Holy Spirit. In this prayer he prays “ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” This prayer shows that God will strengthen us in our inner beings through the power of his Holy Spirit. This is part of the inheritance given to us as the people of God. When we receive Christ into our lives he dwells in our hearts by faith. Jesus had come and had accomplished the mission of God. He was able to fulfill the plan of God because he followed the way of the cross. The cross is an indicator of God’s amazing love for us. For where we had to be punished he was punished, where we had to suffer and die, he died for us. In this manner we see the work of the Father and the Son in complete unison.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus affirms that while he would be going back to the Father, he was not going to leave the disciples alone. He promised them that he was going ahead of them so that he could send the Holy Spirit who would come and dwell in the hearts and minds of every believer. This Spirit of God is to us the incomparably great power for us who believe. This power is like the working of his mighty strength which God exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead. This Spirit of God is available to each one of us as we come to the Father through Christ. The Father showed us his love as he sent his Son Jesus to die for us; we see the love of Jesus as he voluntarily and willingly gave himself up for us; and we see the love of the Holy Spirit as he indwells in us and strengthens us. And so along with the Seraphim we too can sing Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty heaven and earth are full of your glory.

**Shalom**

**Paul Swarup**