

Psalm 104:24–34

A Devotion By Rev. Lisa

This morning reading starts with the Psalmist proclaiming how many are the works of the Lord, take a moment to list to yourselves some of the many acts of God's love and mercy that you have seen for yourself these past few days? Where have you seen God act in the past year of your life? Or where do you see God acting in the life of someone that you love?

The Palmist continues praising God by listing off sever ways in which God goodness and love are found in the created world? The way in which God makes sure that the birds of the field are feed and the creatures of the sea. Currently this is not of the way we tend to look for the Lord working in our world today? Why do you think that is? Look back at your list that you made about ways in which you saw God at work, did you have anything about the created world or was it all personal things you saw happening?

Today most of us tend to focus more on our personal relationship with God, rather than thinking outside of our selves, we tend to see God in the way he interacts with our lives, forgiving our sins, healing our sickness, restoring us to new life. But this morning Psalm reminds us that our God, is the God of our world, He is the one that looks after the sparrow, He is the one that sends the rain to water the fields. The psalmist invites us this morning to open our understanding of the glory of the Lord, to learn to see anew the world around us, as something that God created and called good. And that the world around us is singing a song of praise to its great creator, for their blessing of the day.

This morning I invite you to take a walk if your able, or just to sit outside and listen to the sounds of the world around us, to the birds singing, to the wind in the tree's and hear their song of praise to the Lord. And then add your own to the choir, for together we are all called to praise the Lord with all that we are.

I invite you to reflect upon the line in this psalm, that when God send his Spirit, there is creation. This week we are preparing our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit, and so I would like to invite you to reflect upon how the Holy Spirit creates

something new. Something new in your life? In your ministry/service to God's people? Some new way to see the world around you.

This is often one of the hardest questions of our faith to answer, which is how has your life changed because you came to know God? How has your life changed because you have the Holy Spirit in your heart?

This morning reading ends with the Psalmist proclaiming that he will sing to the Lord all of his life? What song of praise is in your heart this day? What song are you going to sing to the Lord all your life.

1 Corinthians 12:3-13

On this week as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit, we invited to read part of Paul's letter, in a new light. For we have received the same gifts as the early church father's and mothers, and so when we read this text we should read it as if Paul was writing to us today at Paulin, as we are still struggling with understanding the spiritual gifts that God has given to us.

As you read this text, I want to invite you to take a moment to write down some of the spiritual gifts that you see at work in our Church? Who do you identify in our church family as being spiritually gifted?

Did you include yourself in that list? If not why so?

In this morning scripture Paul talks about how there are many gifts of the Spirit, but they all come from the same spirit, which means that all spiritual gifts are important for the life of the church. With this in mind what type of Spiritual gifts do you think that God has given to you? And then how can you use these gifts for the building up of God's Church?

One of the greatest challenges that was facing the early church, was that people were fighting over who's spiritual gifts are best, this is also a challenge that many

of our modern day church still face. So how do you think that we can move forward, trusting in our own gifts, and being open to others who have a different gift? Is there something that we need to change in our self, in order to make room for others to come and join us in the celebration of the Lord.

In the end of this passage Paul speaks about how the church is like a body, each part must do it's job in order for the body to work as God intended it. If you had to pick a body part to describe your contribution to the church, what body part would it be?

Number 11:24-30
A devotion by Rev. Lisa

In this morning Old Testament reading were given a reminder about the wonderful power of the Holy Spirit. This story takes place after the Israelites have been lead out of Egypt and they are on their way to the promise land. This is part of what makes this mornings story so powerful, God had already save his people from the sorrow and the pain of being slave's, but that was not enough for our Great Creator. For not only was God leading them to the promised land, he was making sure to equip them with all that they would need to live in this land in Peace. And he chose to do this by sending his Holy Spirit to rest upon people, to give them the power to prophesy.

What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase to give prophesy? Do you think of people like Moses or perhaps Isaiah, standing before a crowd giving a great speech? Or does your mind jump to people like John and the book of revelation? How would you feel if I told you that you to have the power to give prophesy?

For to be a prophet it means that you have a message for someone or for a group of people from God. So have you ever had a moment when you knew that you needed to call a friend, or you knew in your hearts that you had to go and do something for someone. If so guess what you're a prophet, for it was God who gave you this message to pass on, it was the Holy Spirit that inspired you to go out and lend a hand to help someone. This is not often the way we tend to look at prophets, and yet it is true, for who was Isaiah other then someone whom God sent his Holy Spirit to rest upon, so that he could be empowered to share a message with the people of God.

With this in mind where in your life can you look back and see that God has called you to be a prophet to his people? Where in your life has someone else been a prophet for your sake?

This passage ends with Moses proclaiming that it would be a good things if all of God's people would accept the Holy Spirit and allow themselves to be messengers of the Lord. How do you think our world would look if this came to pass? And why do you think that some of the people were made that people

outside of the elect group were given the same power as the elders of the tribe? How can we learn to be more accepting of other people having a similar gift as we do?

Acts 2:1-21

This reading tells us the foundation story of our church universal, as at this moment the disciples and other followers of Jesus are empowered with the Holy Spirit, and are given the mission to share the good news of the empty tomb with the world around them. I invite you to think about what it would have been like, standing in the crowd with Peter and the others. What would you think when you felt the wind of the Spirit or saw the flames of the Spirit rest upon everyone, what do you think you would have felt as the Spirit descended upon your own head and heart?

What did you feel when the Holy Spirit came into your life? Do you feel that you had a Pentecost moment? Think back to a time in your life when you knew that the Spirit of the Lord was upon you, what caused this moment of grace? How did you feel, and why do you think God gave you his Spirit at that moment?

We in the Presbyterian Church don't often think talk about the work of the Holy Spirit, in our lives, and yet we know that it is an important part of our ministry and our life. So how do you think we are able to reclaim God's Holy Spirit and allow His Spirit to flow in our worship and in our work? And why do you think that we are afraid of speaking about the Spirit of the Lord?

When Peter was explaining to the crowds what had happened, he quotes the prophet Joel, by proclaiming that because the Spirit of the Lord was upon them, they all would have the power to dream dreams and have visions. If we have inherited this same Spirit, what type of dreams and visions are we as the body of Christ called to share with the world around us? What vision or dream would you like to see come to pass? And what do you think that you need to do to make this dream come to pass?