Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, November 15, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 59

2. What is the background to Isaiah 59 and how does this tie into Isaiah's opening words where he says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or His ear dull, that it cannot hear."?

3. What are the sins Isaiah denounces in Judah? What are the lessons we are to learn about the impact that sin has on one's fellowship with the Lord from Isaiah's words in v.2, "Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."? Be clear and specific.

4. In v.9-15a Isaiah confesses Judah's sins. In doing so, he includes himself within that confession, saying in v.12-13, "For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words." We do the same thing Isaiah does here (and Daniel does in Daniel 9) each week in our liturgy. Why do we do this? What is the value of confessing our sins?

5. What do we need to know about God, His law, and ourselves in order to sincerely confess our sins? Read Matthew 7:3-5. What do you learn from the principle of the log and the speck? How does this principle tie into what we learn from Isaiah about confession?

6. In v.15b-22 we see how the Lord responds to the dilemma of our sin, saying in v.16-17, "He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on garments of vengeance for

clothing, and wrapped Himself in zeal as a cloak." The image here is of the Lord as an avenging warrior coming to avenge His people and deal with their enemies and conquer their greatest enemy, sin. How would He do this? How do these verses tie back into Isaiah 53 (see esp.v.1-2)?

7. In v.21 the Lord says, "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore." In referring to His covenant, John Calvin says, "The promises may be regarded as the stones of the building, while the foundation of it is the covenant, which upholds the whole mass." What does this mean? Why does God ground His promises in covenant?

8. What are the promises alluded to in the covenant in v.21? What do these promises mean?

9. What principle, or lesson, or practical application is most impactful for you in light of this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Exodus 20:16 (the Ninth Commandment)

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Prayer of Confession:

Our gracious God and Father, we come to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, thankful for who you are, that in you there is no variation or shifting shadow, but you are the same yesterday, today, and forever. In coming to you we are grateful to know that we are coming to One in whom there is no darkness or deceit, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for you to lie, we may have strong confidence in you. Father, though in you there is

only truth, it is not so with us. We confess that we have often broken this commandment and have not always stood for the truth. We have failed to freely, sincerely, clearly, and fully, speak the truth, and only the truth, in all circumstances, but we have exaggerated the truth and we have fabricated lies. Moreover, we have excused ourselves and rationalized why it is ok for us to do so, coming up with our own rationale as to why we are justified in withholding the truth from those to whom the truth is due. We confess we have also failed to protect the good name of our neighbor as this commandment calls us to, but we have said things about others when we aren't sure those things are true, and in doing so have brought harm to our neighbor's name and reputation. Father, the myriad of ways in which we have broken this commandment are beyond our ability to even enumerate. But our guilt is great, and we ask for your forgiveness. We thank you for our Savior, Jesus Christ, that through faith alone in Him alone we are forgiven and counted as righteous in your sight. In all of these things we thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 103:11-13

And now receive God's promise of forgiveness for His people from Psalm 103:11-13. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; [12] as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. [13] As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him."

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 23. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?
A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Acts 3:21-22; Heb. 12:25 with 2 Cor. 13:3; Heb. 5:5-7; Heb. 7:25; Ps. 2:6; Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 21:5; Ps. 2:8-11.

Q. 24. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?
A. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

John 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; John 15:15; John 20:31.

Q. 25. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?
A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Heb. 9:14, 28; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 7:24-25.

Q. 26. How does Christ execute the office of a king?
A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

NT Reading: Romans 3:10-25a

As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For [a]by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.