
Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

Scripture Readings

November 15, 2020

*The Twenty-Fourth Sunday
after Pentecost*

..... **About the text**

A MESSAGE NEEDS AN appropriate messenger. Credibility, comprehension, and acceptance all depend on it.

Isaiah did not feel all that appropriate, judging from his response to God's request. Most prophets don't. With a few exceptions, they are ordinary people, singled out and entrusted with a Word that must be spoken.

Isaiah is typical of prophets: he wants to escape, to hide, to do anything he can to show just how inappropriate it is to give him this job. He is sure that being in God's spotlight will expose him for the crude and ordinary person he is.

He pleads to blasphemy, to unclean thoughts, to totally unworthiness for the job.

But, if he is not qualified to carry the Good News to the world, who could possibly claim to be?

Could you?



Isaiah 6:1-8

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; · the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting on a throne—high, exalted!—and the train of his robes filled the Temple. ² Angel-seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew.” ³ And they called back and forth one to the other,

Holy, Holy, Holy is GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies · His bright glory fills the whole earth.

4 The foundations trembled at the sound of the angel voices, and then the whole house filled with smoke. ⁵ I said, “Doom! It’s Doomsday! · I’m as good as dead!

Every word I’ve ever spoken is tainted—blasphemous even!

And the people I live with talk the same way, · using words that corrupt and desecrate.

And here I’ve looked God in the face! · The King! GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies!”

6 Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me. He held a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ He touched my mouth with the coal and said,

“Look. This coal has touched your lips. · Gone your guilt, your sins wiped out.”

8 And then I heard the voice of the Master: “Whom shall I send? Who will

go for us?"

I spoke up, "I'll go. Send me!"

Luke 8:5-10

8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

8 Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself." ⁹ When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. ¹⁰ It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women."

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.