

**Come and Be Satisfied!" (Isaiah 55:1-3) The Second Sunday After Trinity-June 21,
2020**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dear friends in Christ.

Today the Lord is extending an invitation to you. He is saying to each one of us today: "Come and eat!" "Come and drink!" "Come and Be Satisfied!"

"Come and Be Satisfied!" This is the message God is speaking to us today through His prophet Isaiah. Our text is from Isaiah 55.

**"Ho! Everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters;
And you who have no money,
Come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without price.**

**² Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.**

**³ Incline your ear, and come to Me.
Hear, and your soul shall live;
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—
The sure mercies of David.**

We pray: Dear God and Father, give us and renew in each of us a love for Your Word. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, and our Lord. Amen.

You might remember that Isaiah was a prophet of God about 700 years before the birth of Christ in Bethlehem's manger. It was a bad time for the country of Judea and for the city of Jerusalem. Because for the most part the people had forsaken the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had foretold through Isaiah and other prophets that the Babylonians would come and besiege the city and take them away captive to a foreign land. Even though God's Word was harsh, yet it was just. The people for the most part deserved the punishment which was to come upon them.

And yet in midst of words of judgment and condemnation, of upheaval and destruction, through Isaiah God spoke words of comfort, of hope, of consolation and of peace, especially to the faithful remnant, those who held to the blessed promise of our God that in the fullness of time He would send a Savior, the Messiah, who would bring deliverance, freedom, liberty and peace.

Here in this portion of Holy Scripture from Isaiah, is an invitation from the Lord God for the people of Isaiah's day. It is also an invitation for people in our day. It is the gracious invitation of Almighty God to you, to me and to all people.

Yes, here in these verses we see several things about the Lord's invitation. **We see who the ones are to whom the Lord issues this invitation. We see how much it costs to come and buy the rich food and thirst-quenching drink the Lord offers us. And we see the folly of going after those things that do not satisfy.**

First, then, who are the ones to whom the Lord is extending this invitation? Isaiah tells us: **"everyone who thirsts"** and **"he who has no money."** Is that you? Is that me? Are we thirsty? Do we realize our spiritual poverty? If so, then this invitation is for you, it is for me. If not, then we need to rethink our situation.

So, are you thirsty? In the New Testament, Jesus says, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”** To the sinful woman at the well, our Lord says, **“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever”** (John 4). And at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus says, **“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”** You see, Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. When Isaiah says, **“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,”** he is really looking ahead to Jesus, who would give the waters that will satisfy our thirst.

So, are we thirsty? Do we sense and feel our spiritual thirst? Do we realize something is wrong, something is wrong with us? We are sinners. Do we realize that we have broken God’s good commandments and gone contrary to His will? We know that we have not done the things that God wants us to do. We also know that we have done things we know we should not have done. That is sin, and it should make us thirsty, spiritually thirsty for something, anything, that will take away our guilt and our shame. Do we also sense and know that we are not good enough to stand before almighty God on Judgment Day and pass His muster? Do we feel these things? If so, that is actually a good thing, because now we are ready to hear and respond to the invitation our gracious God extends to us.

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” How much does it cost to buy the food and drink the Lord here offers? Keep in mind, this is the greatest food and drink you could possibly imagine: the

forgiveness of our sins and the sure hope of everlasting life. It does not get any better than that. So how much does this all cost? Answer: Absolutely nothing. You heard me right! Nothing! No cost at all! No, wait. It does come at a cost, except you are not the one who pays it. For you, it is free. There is no charge.

We have all heard the saying, "There's no such thing as a free lunch." Meaning, it may sound like it is free, but it really is not. There are some strings attached. You may not be paying directly for that supposedly free lunch, but somewhere down the line, you are, whether in higher taxes or whatever. In this world, in this life, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

But when it comes to the food and drink that God offers, it is free, absolutely free. This is a gracious invitation, all by the grace of God, a free gift. **"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** And again **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."** And in Revelation 22, it says, **"Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price."** This is what Isaiah foresees when he says, **"Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."**

You see, you could not buy this food and drink even if you tried. We cannot pile up enough good works to offset our sins and thereby purchase the priceless gift God gives us. We do not have that kind of currency. But Jesus does. He has the righteousness that has infinite cash value. It is off the charts! Enough to go around, more than enough, to cover the debts of every sinner everywhere.

And when I say that God's great feast does come at a cost, but we are not the one who pays it, I am talking about Jesus, of course. He is the one who pays for our

redemption, our rescue from sin and death. Christ paid that incalculable cost on the cross. There He, the sinless Son of God, paid the price that sets us sinners free. How did He do it? He **“redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.”** (Luther) Dear friends, there is no greater price that could be paid than that. And this is how the Lord can offer you His gifts for free: Because they have already been paid for.

So why do people go after other things that cannot satisfy like only the Lord's gifts can? It really does not make any sense, but still, that is what people do. They look all over the place for things they think will satisfy their hunger and thirst. But nothing else can do the job. God says, **“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?”** Why indeed? All these other things which people try to acquire so that they might have a semblance of satisfaction are dead ends. They will end in death. They may give momentary pleasure, but they will end in death.

People are always searching, searching for things that will make them happy. And when those things become more important than God, or they take the place of the one true God, they become an idol.

Some people look to other gods, false gods, gods made up by men. There is Allah, the false god of the Muslims. There is the false god of the Mormons or the Jehovah's Witnesses, who is not the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. These false gods cannot save. They cannot help. They do not exist.

Some people run after sinful pleasure to be their ultimate good. Maybe that will satisfy-fill the hole that they have in life. They seek their happiness in illicit sex, adultery, or homosexuality, in drunkenness or drugs, in greed or gluttony or wrongful gain. Anything to appease their appetites and give them a high.

Some look to politics, whether left or right, to provide the answer to man's problems. Some look to nature, the environment, and they worship the creation rather than the Creator. All these wrong turns. None of these answers will satisfy in the end.

But even good things can become an idol. Prosperity, pleasure, health, wealth, recreation, romance, a nice home, family, fun times. Even these good things, these good gifts from God, cannot ultimately satisfy. Do not let them become an end in themselves. These things cannot forgive our sins. These things cannot cancel our guilt. These things cannot rescue us from the grave or hell.

Then our Lord, speaking through the prophet Isaiah reminds the people of his day and us,

**Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.**

³ Incline your ear, and come to Me.

**Hear, and your soul shall live;
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—
The sure mercies of David.**

Did you hear those three words-those three phrases? Our gracious God is speaking to us.

Listen carefully to Me-Incline your ear and come to Me-Hear and your soul shall live.

Yes, we are to listen. We are to incline our ear. We are to hear.

We are to come and be satisfied! For that is what God, our God desires for you, for me and all people.

Our gracious God reminds in these words which He wants for us.

Hear, and your soul shall live;

Yes, I will make an everlasting covenant with you—

The faithful mercies promised to David.

You might remember that David was the king of Israel about 3,000 years ago over Israel. He the shepherd boy had been anointed by Samuel to be king and he reigned for some forty years. To David, God had given the wondrous promise that from His descendants, the Savior of the world would come. Yes, Jesus conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born in Bethlehem, crucified, and risen came in mercy to deliver you, me and all people from sin, death, hell, and Satan. God had spoken to David of this everlasting covenant He would make with him and with all people.

And it is His Word-the Holy Scriptures that we hear of Him-of Jesus who alone satisfies. For as we listen to Him through the Spirit-empowered Word, as we incline our ear to hear what He would tell us, as we hear of His gracious plans for us, we behold the wonders His love, we understand the depths of His grace and we come to realize in a much greater way that only in Him and in Him alone, that we can find satisfaction for our souls.

Dear friends, today the Lord is saying to you: "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live." "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. Come, you who have no money; come, buy, and eat without money and without price. Come and eat what is good; delight yourself in rich food. Yes, come and be satisfied! Yes, come to Him. Believe on Him. Come and look to Him as your Lord and your Savior. Yes, come and be satisfied!

And God grant this in Jesus' name. Amen.