

HEALING WORSHIP

The Written Word

Various Texts

Introduction:

- Philemon 3
- Psalm 119:105
- ...as we continue with this series you will have a fresh outlook and a renewed appreciation for our liturgy and our worship services.
- Worship is not something we initiate but it is our response to God's goodness.
- Hebrews 12:22-24

The Scripture Readings

- Isaiah 25:6
- God feeds us through His word and the sacraments
- is how God communicates with us.
- We know that God is present in his Word.
- He has something very important to say to us about our life in the present and for the future.

What the Readings Are

- The three readings are from the Old Testament, from a letter or epistle in the New Testament, and from the gospels.

The Old Testament Reading

- Most often, the Old Testament reflects the Gospel Reading for the day.
- The Old Testament points to the coming of Christ

The Epistle Reading

- Epistle = letter
- The early church put Jesus at the center of their worship, reading the gospel accounts of his life and work.
- They not always understand the implications for daily life. Sometimes they bickered. Sometimes they forgot what they had been taught.
- Paul and a few of the other apostles wrote letters or epistles to the churches and asked that the letters also be read when the churches gathered for worship.
- Today when an epistle is read today, we expect a direct treatment of and encouragement for Christian living.

The Gospel Reading

- The emotions of Christmas and Easter are available to you every Sunday as you hear the Gospel Reading.
- The Gospel draws us to Jesus, our Redeemer, our friend, our brother
- By faith we recognize his voice.
- We focus our attention and receive his message with joy.

Receiving the message with joy!

- John 20:31
- 2 Timothy 3:16:17
- Acts 17:11

Conclusion

- Law and Gospel
- Thanks be to God for His word and for the opportunity to hear and read it.

For Exploration

1. What do the following passages say about the use of Scripture?
 - a) Luke 10:16; 11:28;
 - b) John 8:47;
 - c) 1 Thess. 2:13
2. Some of the links between the Gospel and the Old Testament Reading are less obvious as we heard in the sermon. Let's do some exercises: What link do you see, in the readings below?
 - a. Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Series A): Ex. 19:2–8a and Matt. 9:35–10:8
 - b. Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Series C): Is. 66:18–23 and Luke 13:22–30