

First Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Trinity

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Numbers 6:22-27
June 12, 2022

Come, gather, and go wearing Yahweh's name and blessings!

- What's in a name? What is the significance of God's name? (You've heard that before.)
- Stories of adoptions of foster children reveal the great significance of a name.
 - ◆ *Liz & Ashley's Adoption Story* (YouTube)
 - ◆ Ashley, an older child in a foster home. Fearful that she would age out on her own.
 - Unsettling. Would my foster mom like me or reject me? What's the next step?
 - Will I ever have a home, a family that loves and accepts me - *a forever home*?
 - ◆ Liz: a place to come home to, to be loved, accepted, counseled, share life with
 - ◆ A name says a lot! Identity. Place in life. Be claimed and accepted.
- ❖ *...put my name on the Israelites...*
 - Yahweh (the LORD) instructs his servants to put his name on his people.
 - He set his people apart from all other people, claiming them as his own - his family.
 - Yahweh adopts his people as his own in the relationship of God and children
 - This God, the Holy Triune God, effected that relationship with us in Baptism.
 - ◆ Baptism raised us to new life. God made a forever covenant to be our God.
 - ◆ Baptism is regenerative and lifelong. But the Blessing of our text is to be repeated.
- ❖ Yahweh's Name
 - Your *name* is your *reputation* - what you are known for: character, behavior, history
 - God's name is everything he has revealed to us about himself in his word and actions.
 - Yahweh is the special name for the Living God - the one and only real God
 - ◆ He revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush as the ***I AM***.
 - ◆ He reveals and expands the meaning of his name to Moses and us in Exodus 34:5-7
 - *⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."* NIV
 - Anyone who thinks they are a *good person* reacts: *I don't need him. He's in the business of forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. I'm not wicked and rebellious.*
 - But for us who know:
 - ◆ our daily and shameful rebellion against the good and gracious will of our God
 - ◆ our insistence on *being myself and doing it my way*, resisting to taste and see his way
 - ◆ how we cringe to remember outbursts of anger, selfishness, foul and hateful words
 - ◆ a guilty conscience that brings up *that event or events* that we so regret
 - ◆ not just our loveless words and deeds, but the missed opportunity to love
 - ◆ For us who know our *wickedness, rebellion, and sin*, his name is just what we need
 - What joy to hear straight from the lips of the holy, just, all-powerful & all-knowing God, the one and only real God, that his has revealed and proven this Name/reputation.
 - ◆ We wear his name for our comfort and hope. We're honored to wear his name.
 - ◆ He will never reject us, in spite of us. With him we have a real ***forever family***.

- ❖ *...put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.*
 - Speak this blessing to them. It spells the blessings that come with his name.
 - ²² *The LORD told Moses ²³ to speak to Aaron and to his sons and to tell them to bless the Israelites with these words...*
 - ◆ This is God's idea. **He initiated it.** This is his gift. He knows we need it.
 - There are two wonderful truths in the Blessing hidden from us in English translations.
 - ◆ Every **you** is singular - it singles you out. It's a personal blessing.
 - ◆ The verbs: *bless, keep, shine on, be gracious, look with favor, give peace* are ongoing
 - Blessings we desperately need dealing with our brokenness in a hostile world
 - ◆ *The LORD bless you and keep you;*
 - Every human and creature depends on God's blessing to live and move.
 - But his children are blessed with new life and spiritual gifts unknown to others.
 - *the glory of God and suffering that produces perseverance, character, hope.* Rm 5:2-4
 - How? Because as your God he *keeps you* under the wings of the Almighty.
 - Not one single event in your life is out of his care and keeping. Anticipate that!
 - ◆ *the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;*
 - We know the look of a well deserved frown. We deserve constant frowns from God.
 - But he promises to look at us and beam. Jesus worked this. We're clothed in Christ.
 - Under his name, grace upon grace covers us with unconditional undeserved gifts
 - Forgiveness, new life, spiritual maturity and transformation, love, compassion
 - ◆ *the LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.*
 - As the blessing is pronounced, lift up your eyes & see Yahweh look you in the eyes.
 - He's looking at each of personally, with a look of compassion and love that touches deep in our being. We are secure. We're loved. His bond with us runs deep.
 - The look that *gives troubled souls peace.* All fear, trouble, and turmoil melt away.
 - What look is this? That of the Father who affirmed your peace status at Easter.
 - He applied it to you in your Baptism: new life and a covenant he made with you.
 - A look that moves us to see all our real needs, all our life is found **only in him.**
 - *Shalom:* the peace that exists where God has made us whole and well in Christ.
 - *Proclaiming the peace of the risen and living Jesus.* Peace's slogan
 - **Not** a promise of a trouble-free easy life. God managed peace-producing troubles.
 - The Blessing - it's almost like we save the best until the end!
 - ◆ *...put my name on them, and I will bless them.*
 - ◆ God always does what he promises. That gives you something to look forward to.
 - ◆ If nothing else, this blessing is worth coming and gathering in worship to receive it.
 - Where the word and sacraments are purely presented, it's the whipped cream on top.
 - Do you know? The Blessing is the first pastoral act after a Pastor is installed.
 - ◆ God granted me the grace to put his name on this flock nearly 3,000 times.
 - ◆ It was not merely my wishful thinking or religious sounding words.
 - ◆ It was pronounced with the confidence that the LORD would bless you.
 - ◆ We have seen some turn away from this blessing and despise God's name and gifts.
 - ◆ But countless people have been renewed by the word - including these words.
 - ◆ Yahweh's name is faithful. Faithfully seek to be blessed with his name.

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