

Sermon
Called to the Mountain of the Lord
Isaiah 2:1–5
Dr. Steven Mueller

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Tomorrow marks the beginning of our culture’s busy season.

It’s a time that often shows people focusing on the wrong things.

But it’s nothing new. Long ago, Isaiah lodged a complaint against God’s people, Judah.

The voice of the prophet might call us out just as directly.

But the prophet does not describe this situation to drive us to despair nor to destroy us. He looks even farther and sees what God will do: he sees the end of days.

God will establish the mountain of His house as the highest of the mountains.

We do not do it. God must establish it and God will gather His people.

But God’s people are always tempted to misunderstand – to move God from the center to put themselves there.

They loved Jerusalem but often didn’t understand why it was special.

It was special because the Temple was there – God’s house – the place of promise.

God had to establish this.

He went to Jerusalem to be the sacrifice. He made it the center

The central place [the nations] are all coming to is Christ; he is at the center, because he is equally related to all; anything placed in the center is common to all.... Approach the mountain, climb up the mountain, and you that climb it, do not go down it. There you will be safe, there you will be protected; Christ is your mountain of refuge. (Augustine)

Jesus went to the mountain of the Lord – not to take over Jerusalem’s palace but to be lifted up – not on a throne, but on a cross - on Calvary’s mountain.

He puts his cross at the center.

From the center that he establishes,, life flows.

“When I am lifted up from the earth, [I] will draw all people to myself” (Jn 1:32)

God reestablishes His people.

Christ’s church is not about place but about promise. God is there.

And now the nations stream to the center.

“Moses preaches the Law and is the minister of sin and death. Nobody runs to him. On the contrary, they are terrified. Christ, on the other hand, is the Minister of righteousness, of life, and of peace. Therefore the people flow to Him just as water flows by its own effort and needs no one to push it” (Luther 16:29).

God has established His mountain as a place of grace, so now we can say, along with all who hear His call, “come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord’s house.”