

Isaiah 12

“Sing a Song – and SHOUT!”

Epiphany

January 11, 2015

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

[Introduction] You know you make me wanna ... [*silence*]

Now wai-a-ait a minute! Come on! You know the words.

You have mouthed them on the dance floor, and you have sung them in the shower!

For decades now... The song has been played at every High School Homecoming dance.

The song has been played at every wedding celebration.

The song has been played at every frat party.

Ever since 1978's *National Lampoon's Animal House*

the cry for the song to be played again and again has gotten...

well ... “a little bit louder now!”

The Isley Brothers wrote it. The Shangri-Las sang it.

Joey Dee and the Starlites took it to #6 on the countdown.

It was performed by Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi, by Green Day and Glee.

Even Alvin and the Chipmunks covered it!

It ranked #118 on Rolling Stone's list of “The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.”

So, in the style of the Broadway and cinematic success of “Sister Act,”

that 8th century BC crooner Isaiah would even belt this tune out.

So join me! You know ... you make me wanna ... [*motion for the people to say, “Shout!”*]

[Singer gets a job!] And sing!

Shout and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion,

For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isa 12:6)

That is what Isaiah sang!

He is quite the crooner!

Watch out Frank Sinatra! Don't look back Harry Connick, Jr.! Keep recording Michael Bublé!

Isaiah was discovered singing the “Song of the Vineyard.” That's Isaiah chapter 5.

In the next chapter, God signed a contract with him.

God said, “Hear this song...”

“Holy, Holy, Holy!” “Holy, Holy, Holy,” the angels' shouted!

And Isaiah shouted! “Woe to me! I am a man of unclean lips.” (Isaiah 6:5)

So...

When it came to signing the contract... No pen and paper! Not even blood!

When it came to signing the contract ... God said I will purify you. You are mine!

And an angel of the Lord pressed an ember from the altar upon Isaiah's lips.

And unclean lips are made anew.

Clean lips to sing a new song!

[**Vision**] So Isaiah goes into the studio, and God gives him a vision! That's chapter 11.
A vision when the highway will lead to home. (Isaiah 11:16)
A vision when the people will stream back.
A vision when the root of Jesse will stand as a banner. (Isaiah 11:10)
A vision when God will be with us – Immanuel (Isaiah 7)
A vision of that day – the day when all the people
“will draw water joyfully from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3).

[**Soloist**] The prophet simply allows his soul to sing as the words flow through his mind.
And when he saw that vision he sang this song:

***“I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.
“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”*** (Isaiah 12:1-2)

So, the soloist sang. The soloist sang, but he wasn't the first to sing the song.
Remember Moses, Miriam and the Israelites.
They sang this song.
They charted this song back in the desert, on the far side of the Red Sea.
They knew the strength.
They knew the song.
For God became their salvation.

***“The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation”*** (Exodus 15:1b-2a)

[**Chorus**] So the soloist sang, but we couldn't just keep quiet!
In response we, you and me, and all of God's people chime in.
We all – all-you-all – youse guys – sing the song.
The angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven sing!
***“Give thanks to the Lord,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.”*** (Isaiah 12:4-5)

And I know. You *DO* want to sing it. It's hard to just speak it.
These are the words we sing
in the Old Testament Canticle from the service of Prayer and Preaching.

[**Words to Live!**]

But these aren't words we just sing. They are words we live!

Each and every day, in each and every way, we are to sing out!
We sing our thanks. We sing our prayer. We sing our witness.

But Isaiah was no one hit wonder!
Isaiah followed his first release with four servant songs:
Isaiah 42, Isaiah 49, Isaiah 50;
and the block buster hit of them all,
the fourth servant song,
that Lenten-time favorite,
Isaiah 52:13-53:12,
the suffering servant.

You know the song. You know the lyrics. You know the refrain.
***Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*** (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Isaiah's song rings true.
Jesus has borne our griefs.
Jesus has carried our sorrows.
Jesus was stricken, smitten and afflicted.
Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.

And all of our iniquity was laid on him in exchange for his righteousness.
He takes our sins and gives us His salvation.
Sins for salvation. Your salvation.

So you say on this day,
***“Give thanks to the Lord,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.”*** (Isaiah 12:4-5)

[**Conclusion**]
This is our reality! This is our joy! This is our life! So...
***Shout and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.***” (Isaiah 12:6)

O Lord, you know ... you make me wanna ... [motion to the people] SHOUT! Amen!

You are the body of Christ, each one of you part of it! Amen! (1 Cor 12:27)