Isaiah the Prophet had a vision that I wish that I could have and that I could see in my own life. The vision is recorded in the sixth chapter of his book. I can see it by my eye of faith but I can’t see it as Isaiah did – “the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe fill[ing] the temple.”

What a magnificent sight that must have been to behold! Even the “seraphim” were not permitted to look upon it. With two of their “six wings” they “covered [their] face” and “cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LON)D of hosts...’”

Though Isaiah saw it all in a vision, he also saw that he was a man who was “undone” because of his “unclean lips.” All the people with whom he dwelled were “of unclean lips...” No one in the vision was “holy” as was the “LORD of hosts.” It was by God’s grace that one of God’s agents took a “live coal...from the altar” and touched Isaiah’s lips and took away “his iniquity” and “purged” his sin.

Who among us cannot relate to Isaiah’s need to have his sin “purged” by the “LORD of hosts?” We too are guilty of sinning with our lips – either by commission or by omission. In the case of Isaiah the sin of his lips appears, from the question that the LORD asked, to have been one of omission. “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”

Perhaps Isaiah had failed to use his lips as a prophet as he ought. Whatever may be the truth of this matter, Isaiah said immediately, “Here am I! Send me.” And the LORD commissioned him to “Go, and tell this people.”

There is no one here who honestly can say that he or she has always used their lips on behalf of Christ as they ought. We have failed to preach or teach the gospel on more than one occasion when doors had been opened to us. For these failures we must ask for God’s forgiveness. Nothing excuses us from taking advantage of these lost opportunities but there is one time that we dare not fail to preach Jesus to the world and that is by being at the Lord’s Supper Table on the “first day” of each and every week.

We tell people of our commitment to our Lord by the way in which we faithfully attend the Lord’s Supper. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:26 that “…as often as [we] eat this bread and drink this cup, [we] proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”

Each time we break the “loaf” we are reminded and we preach to others that our Lord’s body was also broken to take away the sins of men; it was “pierced...with a spear” by “one of the
soldiers” and “immediately blood and water came out.” Each time we drink the “cup” we are reminded and we preach to others that our Lord’s blood was spilled out from every part of His body – His head, face, back, arms, legs, hands, and feet – to take away the sins of men. The entire affair was gruesome and evil and awful. It was carried out by ungodly men who had no sense of righteousness. But it was for them that He did what He did.

It is beyond our full comprehension how His crucifixion made it possible for us to be holy, but it did. He who was “without sin” made it possible for us to be holy by His death. When we were immersed in water in His name we received not only forgiveness but also holiness. We received His Holy Spirit and because that we are “a holy nation.”

A holy Lord presides over a holy table for His holy people on this holy day. God help us to see the honor and privilege it is to be here at His table today having had our sins “purged” not with a “live coal...from the altar” but by the God’s Lamb who offered His blood on the New Testament “altar” of the cross. This is my prayer for all of us.