



“...your wife Elizabeth will
bear you a son, and you
shall call his name John.”

– Luke 1:13

1st Sunday of Kiahk



Restoring the Image of God in Humanity

1st Sunday of Kiahk

1. Standing before God

- “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah.” (Lk. 1:5)
- “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Cor. 3:18)
- Being able to stand before the Lord is a privilege





2. Access to God

- “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” (Eph. 2:18)
- “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” (1 Cor. 6:19)

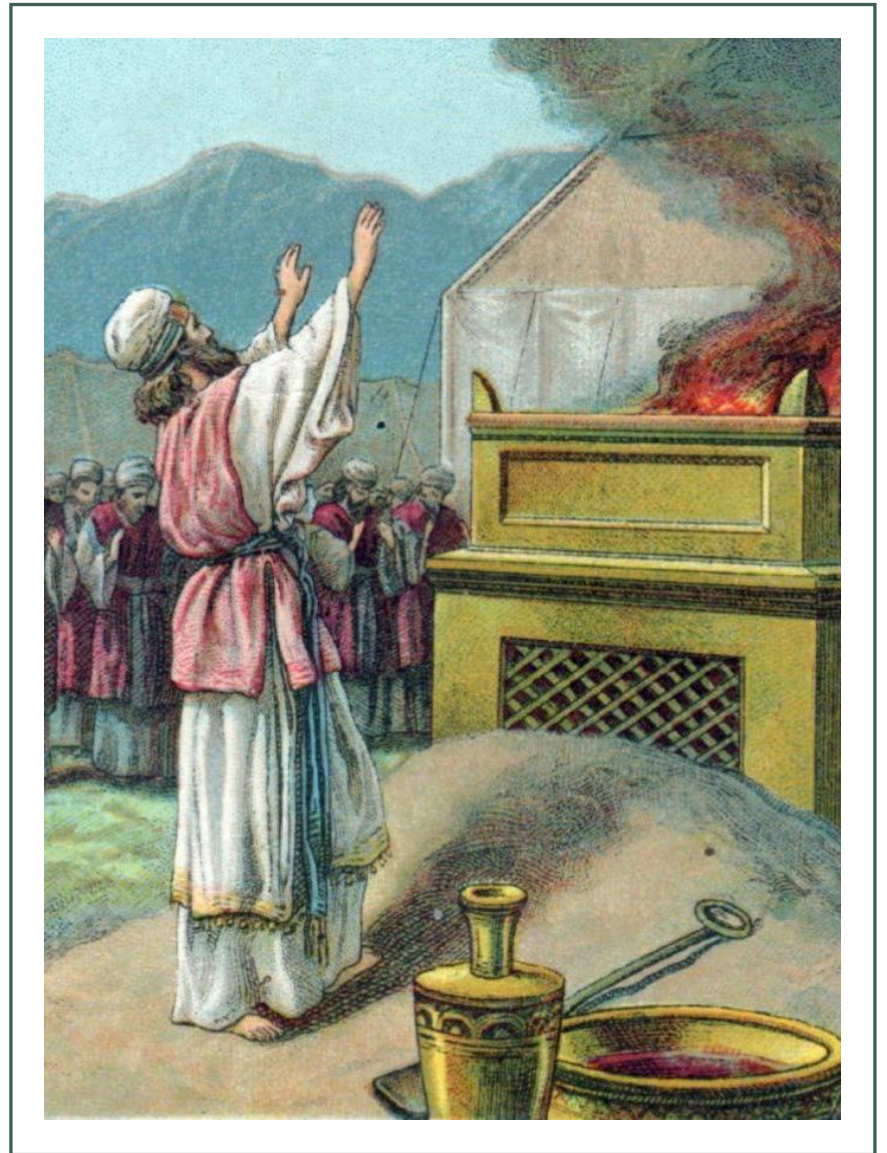


3. Entered speaking, but left in silence

- “And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband...” (1 Cor. 7:13-14)
- “You are the light of the world.” (Mat. 5:14)

4. Blood sacrifices to the sacrifice of obedience

- *There were two altars in the temple, which expressed the two covenants in the church. The first, the altar of burnt offerings, which was plated with bronze and was situated in front of the doors of the temple,¹¹ was for the offering up of victims and sacrifices. It signified the fleshly-minded worshipers of the old covenant. Then there was the altar of incense, which was covered with gold and set near the entrance of the Holy of Holies, and was used to burn fragrant gums. (Bede, 7th Century Latin father)*
- **“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” (Eph. 5:2)**



5. Fear to Peace

- “And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.” (Lk. 1:12)
- *“Whenever the soul continues to be fearful, it is the enemy who is present. The evil spirits do not dispel the fear of their presence, as the great archangel Gabriel did for Mary and Zechariah.”* (St. Athanasius)
- “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...” (1 Jn. 4:18)





6. What is dead can be made to live

- “But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.” (Lk. 1:7)
- The barrenness of Elizabeth’s womb was revived
- God does not always work in supernatural ways