

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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What good is it...
if you say you
have faith but
do not have works?
Can faith save you?

James 2:14, NRSV

10:45 a.m. Sunday, September 5, 2021
Sermon: "What Good is it?" James 2:1–10, 14–18



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Sunday, September 5, 2021

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

Elders: Frank Tenuta **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

Ushers: Mike Popken Team

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf, Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump,
Rev. Paul Flo, Charles Cortwright

Reader: Chaney Neff

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER We focus today on the words of James, which call us to an active faith that loves our neighbors. We are forced to ask ourselves: What good is a faith that bears no fruit of love and service to others? Such a question might make us worry about our salvation. Friends in Christ: do not fear; your living, saving faith in Christ will inevitably overflow with His good works. Christ powerfully works in us as we live out our daily vocations. Serve the Lord with gladness.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *Based on Psalm 146*

P: Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C: I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

P: Blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD;

C: the LORD sets the prisoners free.

P: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

C: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

P: The LORD upholds the widow and the fatherless.

C: The LORD will reign forever!

Opening Song **“God of Wonders”**

Lord of all creation of water, earth and sky

The heavens are Your tabernacle Glory to the Lord on high

God of wonders beyond our galaxy; You are holy, holy

The universe declares Your majesty; You are holy, holy

Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.

Early in the morning I will celebrate the light

And when I stumble in the darkness I will call Your name by night.

God of wonders beyond our galaxy; You are holy, holy

The universe declares Your majesty; You are holy, holy

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

God of wonders beyond our galaxy; You are Holy, Holy,

The universe declares Your majesty; You are Holy, Holy

Precious Lord, reveal Your heart to me; Father, hold me, hold me

The universe declares Your majesty; You are holy, holy, holy, holy

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

(Words & music by Marc Byrd & Steve Hindalong, 2000 Storm Boy Music & New Spring Publishing, Inc. & Never Say Never Songs, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

Nicene Creed

First Lesson Isaiah 35:4–7a (God will come and restore all things.)

<p>⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf</p>	<p>unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;</p>
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The Epistle James 2:1–10, 14–18 (What good is a dead faith?)

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it...

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel Mark 7:24–37 (Jesus heals a deaf man in the Decapolis.)

²⁴ From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.

²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹And he said to her, "For this statement

you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue.

³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. | measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

³⁷And they were astonished beyond

Children's Message

The Song of Instruction "Word of God, Speak"

I'm finding myself at a loss for words,
And the funny thing is, it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard,
But to hear what You say. (chorus)
(chorus)
Word of God, speak
Would you pour down like rain,
Washing my eyes to see shout Your majesty,
To be still and know that You're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness?
Word of God, speak.

I'm finding myself in the midst of You,
Beyond the music, beyond the noise.
All that I need, is to be with You,
And in the quiet, I hear Your voice. (chorus)

(2002 Wordspring Music & Songs from the Indigo Room, Simpleville Music, INC. used by permission, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Word "What Good is it?" James 2:1–10, 14–18

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit with you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Offertory "Make Me A Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the pray'r of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant.
Make me a servant today. (repeat)

(Music & words by Kelly Willard, Maranatha! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

Confession and Absolution

P: Yes, the Lord reigns over every nation, language, and people. Yet, we have not loved all people as Christ has loved us. The fruits of our faith are not always evident. But our Lord is gracious and merciful, and He offers His forgiveness to all.

(Silence for reflection.)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we have failed to love others as You love them. We have failed to reflect Your grace to the world in service and sacrifice. We have failed in our actions and in our unwillingness to act. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may follow You in joy. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus Christ into our world to serve and save all people, showing no partiality or favoritism. By His death, He forgives all our sins. By His resurrection, He destroys death forever and offers us eternal life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We set free to love and serve our neighbors. Amen.

INVITATIONAL SONG ("Praise Team):

He said come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed

Take your place beside the Savior now

Sit down and be set free

Come to the table

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

DISTRIBUTION "Jesus Paid It All"

Verse 1: I hear the savior say, thy strength indeed is small

Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all

Chorus: 'Cause Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow

Verse 2: Lord, now indeed I find thy power and thine alone

Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone (**Chorus**)

Verse 3: And when before the throne I stand in him complete

"Jesus died my soul to save" my lips shall still repeat (**Chorus**)

O praise the one who paid my debt

And raised this life up from the dead (X4) (**Chorus**)

He washed it white as snow

Songwriters: Jack Fascinato / Ernest J. Ford Jesus Paid it All lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

“How Deep the Father's Love For Us”

- 1) How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, Bring many sons to glory
- 2) Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished
- 3) I will not boast in anything No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom

(Words & music by Stuart Townend, 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song “Your Grace is Enough”

Verse 1: Great is Your faithfulness oh God, You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy, And nothin' can keep us apart
So remember Your people, Remember Your children, Remember Your promise oh God

Chorus: Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me

Verse 2: Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob, You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation, And all Your people sing along
So remember Your people, Remember Your children, Remember Your promise oh God

Chorus:

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me
Yeah Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me
Remember Your people, Remember Your children, Remember Your promise oh God

Chorus:

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me
Yeah Your grace is enough
Heaven reaching down to us, Your grace is enough for me
For me
It's enough for me

(Word and Music by Matt Maher used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

Book of James: The Proverbs of the New Testament

Part I: What Good is it?

Text: James 2:1–10, 14–18

Date: 09/06/21

Verse to Remember:

“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:17

Points to Ponder:

1. Who is the author of the Book of James?
2. How do we read the book of Proverbs?
Law or Gospel?
3. Chapter 1:
 - James 1:3 the testing of your faith produces _____.
 - James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask _____ ...
 - James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from _____, coming down from the Father of lights...
 - James 1:19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to _____, slow to _____, slow to _____;
4. Chapter 2
 - Never judge a book by its _____
 - Treat all people with _____, equality, and justice, no matter their social or economic standing.”
5. What good is it at all?
6. Not saved _____ good works, but saved _____ good works.
7. Our living, saving faith in Christ will inevitably overflow with _____

Book of James: The Proverbs of the New Testament

Part I	James 1-2	What Good is it?
Part II	James 3:1-12	Is Something Burning?
Part III	James 3:13 - 4:17	Two Kinds of Wisdom
Part IV	James 5	What to Do While Waiting