

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org

**“Create in me
a clean heart,
O God, and
renew a right
spirit within
me.”**

Psalm 51:10

10:45 a.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021
Sermon: *Is Something Burning?* Text: James 3:1–12



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

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

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:45 a.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021

Servants of God's House Today:

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

Praise Team Accompanist: Doris Hill

Ushers: Tim Draube Team

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

Reader: Coleen Reich

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 In today's Readings, James draws our attention to the tongue. Our tongues might be small but, like the rudder of a ship, the tongue is vitally important to us for staying on the right course. If the rudder is broken, the ship is adrift. If the tongue is filled with evil, so will the rest of our lives. But the tongue also boasts of great things, speaking God's good word of forgiveness and life. Remember that Jesus has restored all things, including our tongues to no longer speak evil, but to speak His Word.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father 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 St. Paul's School Children Choir Sings

The Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences

P: I called on the name of the LORD:

C: O LORD, I believe. Help my unbelief!

P: The LORD has dealt bountifully with us.

C: The LORD has opened our ears.

P: The LORD has delivered us from death.

C: He wipes away tears from all faces.

P: He rescues our feet from stumbling

C: and restores our tongues to proclaim His good news.

Opening Song

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow - Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed be Your name.

Channel 1: Every blessing You pour out I turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say

Chorus: Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be, Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name.

Channel 1, Chorus, Chorus

You give and take away; You give and take away;
My heart will choose to say, Lord Blessed be Your name. (repeat twice)

Chorus, chorus, chorus)

(Words by Matt Redman, 2002 by Kingsway's Thankyou! Music, used by permission, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

Apostles' Creed

First Lesson Isaiah 50:4–10 (God sustains and vindicates His people.)

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. ¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Second Lesson

James 3:1–12

(The tongue is small but powerful in speaking both good and evil.)

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is

set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

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

Holy Gospel

Mark 9:14–29

(Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy.)

¹⁴ When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him.

¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring

him to me." ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it,

“You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”
²⁶And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.
²⁸And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Confession and Absolution

P: Despite all of God’s actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection.)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against You and our neighbors in what we have said and what we have left unsaid. We have neglected opportunities to love our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that You restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. 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 are renewed and restored. Amen.

Children’s Message

Baptisms: Mary and Haden Seibold

The Song of Instruction “Blessed Assurance”

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
 (Chorus) This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Chorus)
3. Perfect submission all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
 Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

(Chorus)

(Public domain)

The Word

“Is Something Burning?” Text: James 3:1–12

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.

*Psalm 96:7-8—“Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!*

Offertory **“Only By Grace”**

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand, not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb;

Into Your presence You call us, You call us to come,
into your presence you draw us and now by your grace we come.
Now by your grace we come.

Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?
But thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.
Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?
But Father, thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand,
not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb;

Into Your presence You call us. You call us to come,
Into Your presence You draw us and now by your grace we come.

Now by your grace we come.

Now by your grace we come. (Words & music by Gerrit Gustafson, 1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

The Prayer of Remembrance

P: P: Gracious God, You are the source of every lasting security. We bless You for the continuance of stability in a time of great national trial and ask that our nation be spared from any such act of terrorism and destruction in times to come. We remember those innocent victims of terrorism whose earthly lives ended on September 11th, 2001. Grant that their memories among us remain and their lives not be forgotten. We also remember the rescue workers who gave their lives that day seeking to assist the victims of the tragedy. Grant that their examples of bravery and sacrificial concern for others serve to inspire each of us as we live out our lives in these times.

P: Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song "You Never Let Go"

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear, and even when I'm caught in the middle
of the storms of this life, I won't turn back, I know You are near.

(Pre-Chorus)

And I will fear no evil for my God is with me,
and if my God is with me whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

(Chorus)

Oh no, You never let go through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go in every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go Lord, You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
a glorious light beyond all compare, and there will be an end to these troubles
but until that day comes, We'll live to know You here on the earth (Pre-Chorus, Chorus)

You keep on runnin and You never let go; Singin (Chorus)

(Bridge)

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
and there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes
still I will praise You, still I will praise You. (Repeat)

(Chorus, Chorus)

Lord, You never let go of me

(Words/music by Matt Redman and Beth Redman, 2005 Thankyou Music, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

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The Epistle of James: The Proverbs of the New Testament

Part II: Is Something Burning?

Text: James 3:1-12

Date: 09/12/21

Verse to Remember:

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”
Psalm 51:10*

Points to Ponder:

1. Can other people’s words hurt you?
2. How have you been using your words lately?
3. Are you a perfect man? Have you seen one yet?
4. Our tongue is a fire, it burns.
5. The things that come out of the mouth come from _____
6. Perfection comes only through the one perfect man _____
7. Luke 24:32 *“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”*

The Epistle 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