

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Perfect Man
September 15 & 16, 2012

AS WE GATHER

God has given us many gifts in our lives. The greatest gift is the grace and mercy found in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Of course, God gives us all kinds of other gifts as well. One of those gifts is our tongue. Last week we heard about a man who was mute, or could hardly speak. We often take this gift of communication for granted. However, worse than taking it for granted, to often we use this gift in evil ways. As James' writes, ". . . no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men My brothers, this should not be." Praise be to God, our Lord Jesus used His tongue to speak words of forgiveness. By His grace, can we use our tongues in better ways? To quote Jesus in the gospel reading: "Everything is possible for him who believes."

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT

Bob Reynolds

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #811 "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" Stanzas 1, 2 & 5

Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God, with thousand tongues!
My heart which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.

O all you pow'rs that He implanted, Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted! Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.

Creator, humbly I implore You To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You, Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing Eternal anthems to my King.

(Rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Be strong and let your heart take courage,

People: all who wait upon the LORD, *Psalm 31:24, adapted*

Pastor: I trust in you, O LORD,

People: you are my God.

Pastor: Make your face shine upon your servant.

People: Save me in your steadfast love. *Psalm 31:14, 16, adapted*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. I have not honored my Lord's name as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not been thoroughly persuaded by His love for me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin.

Pastor: Is this your sincere confession?

People: I am sorry for all my sins and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Having received the forgiveness of Christ, hear these words. The peace of the Lord be with you. *Philippians 1:6*

People: And also with you.

KYRIE

"This Is the Feast"

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**People: (sung) Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 50:4-10 (*The Lord has given me ears to hear and a voice to speak.*)

The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

EPISTLE James 3:1-12 (*The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.*) Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 9:14-29 (Jesus releases a youth from a demon that he might speak again.) When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he

asked. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

"The Pilot Moves a Rudder"

Tune: #655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The pilot moves a rudder small And mighty ships will change their course;
Although the tongue seems very small It's not without great pow'r or force.

A simple spark becomes a fire Destroying all within its path;
So is the tongue a burning pyre Consuming good and spreading wrath.

No one can tame the tongue within And all have felt its poisonous sting
Until Christ paid the price for sin And reigned o'er death, our Lord and King.

Lord, keep our tongues from words that wound And words that cannot be
reclaimed;

Teach us to speak with voice profound The saving Word to us proclaimed.

(Text: Larry Peters. Copyright (c) 2012 Larry Peters. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: o HELIGE DREIFALTIKHEIT CCLI License #1443048)

SERMON

"The Taming of the Tongue"

James 3:1-12

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS

Pastor: In joyful confidence that our heavenly Father hears our requests and answers them according to His good and gracious will, let us pray for the Church, the flock redeemed by Christ the crucified, and for the needs of all people. Gracious God and Father, you have given us lips to praise you, tongues to declare the wonders of your grace and mercy in Christ Jesus. Grant us wisdom also to use our lips to speak the truth in love, to build others up in their lives,

People: to speak well of others, even though they may speak ill of us, that our lips, hearts, and minds may be ruled by humility as we joyfully follow Jesus, who lived a life of love for us all.

Pastor: Gracious God and Father, grant us upright and faithful rulers who seek to fulfill their duties as leaders of our nation, state, and community.

People: Protect them from the temptations of power and greed, and mold them into wise and caring servants who work for the betterment of our society.

Pastor: Gracious God and Father, send peace to every corner of our world, especially places of violence and conflict. Curb the appetites of those who would seize power at any price,

People: and comfort those whose lives are disrupted and endangered by lawlessness. Grant us also compassionate hearts and open doors that we may bring the hope of new life in Christ.

Pastor: Gracious God and Father, uphold and strengthen all those who endure the pain of illness, injury and disease especially Carol, Isla, Irma, Sarah, Ron, Gerald, and Joe.

People: Dispel all fear, silence any doubt, and, according to your gracious will, grant healing and restoration, so that the sick may find renewed vigor to serve you and their neighbor.

Pastor: Gracious God and Father, by the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been guaranteed our own resurrection to life everlasting. Send the

comfort of your Holy Spirit upon all who grieve following the death of loved ones especially the family of Florence Chase, and also those remembering their loved ones already with you in heaven, including Dolores, Denton, Henry and Eleanor.

People: Strengthen their faith and enliven them with the sure hope of a joyful reunion in heaven with those they love who have died in the faith.

Pastor: Gracious God and Father, at your invitation we joyfully gather around the banquet table of your Son Jesus to feast on His life-giving body and blood.

People: Grant us the sure confidence of sins forgiven and fellowship restored within the body of your Son, the Church.

Pastor: We rejoice this day with Scott and Laura, Phil and Danielle, Rindee and Chris, Larry, Carol, Scott, Tina and Katherine.

People: We lift our thanks and praise to you Our Savior.

Pastor: Father, the Source of all life and the life that never ends, receive our prayers this day that we offer to you in the name of your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the + Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God”

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #681 “Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit”

Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit On Your servant now, we pray;
 Let him prove a faithful shepherd That no lamb be led astray.
 Your pure teaching to proclaim, To extol Your holy name;
 And to feed Your lambs, dear Savior, Make his aim and sole endeavor.

You, O Lord, Yourself have called him For Your precious lambs to care;
 But to prosper in his calling, He the Spirit’s gifts must share.
 Give him wisdom from above, Fill his heart with holy love;
 In his weakness, Lord, be near him, In his prayers, Good Shepherd, hear him.

Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish All our children with Your Word
 That in fervent love they serve You Till in heav’n their song is heard.
 Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow On his faithful toil below
 Till by grace to him be given His reward, the crown of heaven.

HYMN #702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
 Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:
 O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
 As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
 Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
 Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,
 Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream
 Shall o’er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
 O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

HYMN #704 “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
 Illumined with the light of grace That issues from your holy face.

Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
 That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey your Word.
 Let what you will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love And seek those things which are above
 Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever. *Psalm 118:29*

Pastor: We give you hearty and sincere thanks, O Lord, our God, for speaking to us
 the good word of hope and salvation in Jesus Christ, our Lord and for
 feeding us with His most precious body and blood. We pray you to unleash
 our lips that we may fervently proclaim the saving name of Jesus to the
 world, and draw us to unity of heart, mind, and soul in Christ, our Lord;
 through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #738 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
 Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
 Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
 Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts,
 Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace: Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Jim Adams, Bob Reynolds, John Ficken
Acolytes	Jackson Mueller, Andrew Niemer, Ben Reinhardt
Organist – Saturday	Kim Woller
Organist - Sunday	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller