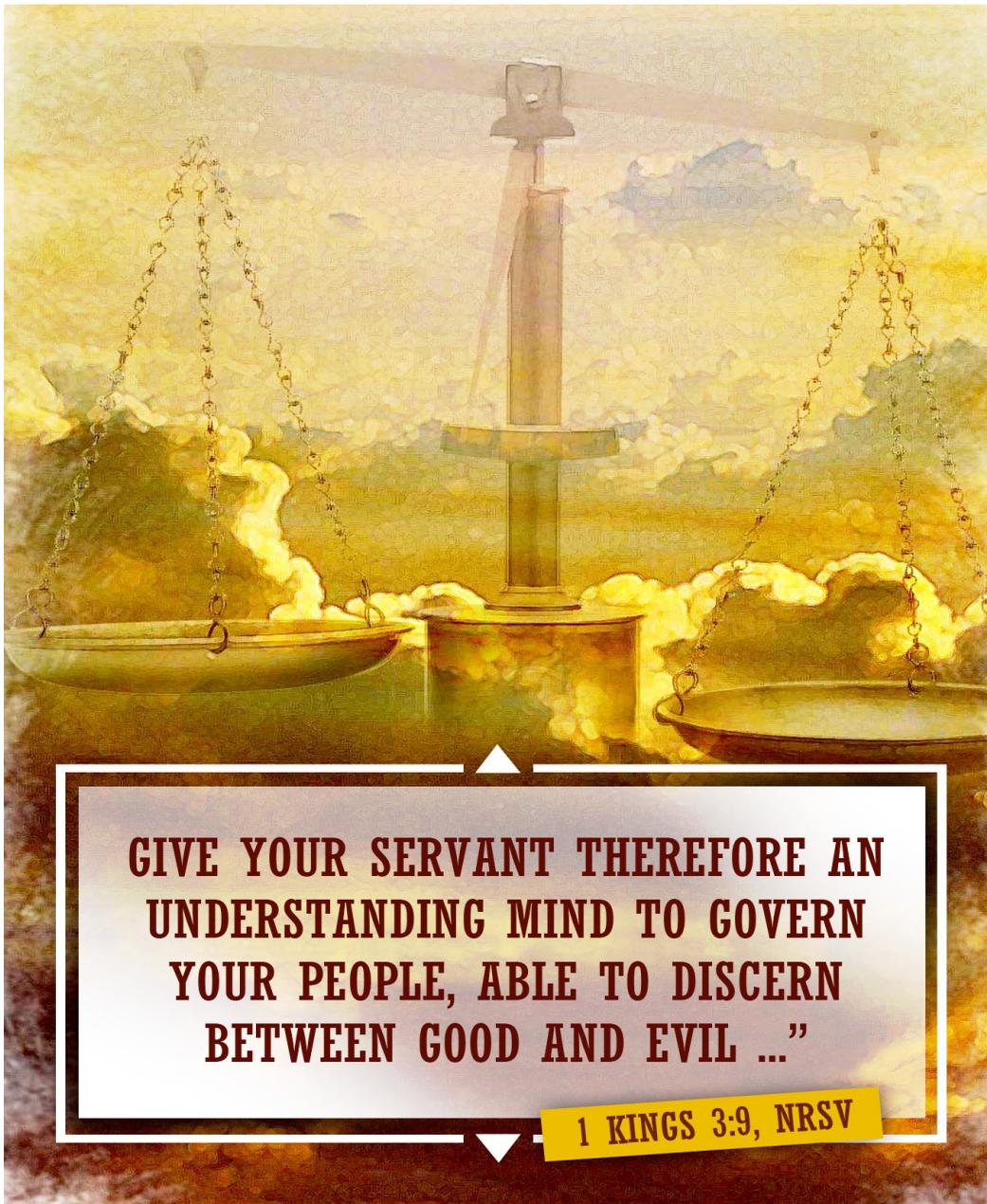


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



**GIVE YOUR SERVANT THEREFORE AN
UNDERSTANDING MIND TO GOVERN
YOUR PEOPLE, ABLE TO DISCERN
BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL ...”**

1 KINGS 3:9, NRSV

6 p.m. Sat., Jan. 2, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., Jan. 3, 2021
Sermon: “What’s Really Important in Life?”
1 Kings 3:4–15



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS(Christmas Caroling)

(6 p.m. Sat., Jan. 2 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., Jan. 3, 2021)

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **D.C.E. Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat. Ruthie Witte; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Usher: Steve Segebart

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

Elders: 6 p.m. Sat. Don Lantis; 8:15 a.m. Sun.,

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat. Elizabeth Sanders; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Jim Winckler

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 The end of a calendar year and the beginning of a new set of months brings a special opportunity to look at our lives. What has been most memorable in our lives in the past weeks and months? How might our priorities change in the next months? The Readings in today's service are not often heard because the calendar does not always bring two Sundays after Christmas. Wisdom is waiting to be found by each of us here in this place today as we hear God's Word and seek His kingdom in this New Year of grace. God's wisdom is here to bless us each time we gather for worship!

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 Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DIVINE SERVICE ONE

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

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LSB 358 vs 1,8,3,10,5,13
(stand as you are able for the last verse)

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Sentences Hebrews 8:10–12; Psalm 122:1

P: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

C: **I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

P: And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

C: **For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."**

P: I was glad when they said to me,

C: **"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"**

Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361 vs. 1,4

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(A moment of silence for reflection of God's word and self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.** (*Sung*)

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty Father, You have shined on us the new Light of Your Word made flesh, who lived among us. Cause us to find in Jesus, this Light, who and what is really important in life, and grant us Your blessing as we follow Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

(Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.)

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you.

And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.

⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in.

⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern

this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.

¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn “O Sing of Christ”

LSB 362 Vs. 1, 3

The Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 1:3–14 (We are gifted with God’s spiritual blessings.)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. ⁵In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he

set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "Away in a Manger"

LSB 364 vs. 1, 3

(Please remain standing for the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:40–52 (The boy Jesus is found in the temple at Jerusalem.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*Sung*)

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them

questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished.

And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (*Sung*)

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

LSB 384 vs. 1-4

Sermon "What's Really Important in Life?" 1 Kings 3:4–15

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 368 vs. 1,3

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, including Karen Sherrill and Linda Collins. Lord of care and grace,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year including Gola Bales and Bill Winckler. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us.

At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Dana Beatty, Charlotte Hansen, Beverly Rabe, Sharon Sparr, Maxwell Knowles, Harrison Knowles, Patsy White and Jeff Frank. Lord of baptism,

C: in mercy, hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

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 Chronicles 29:11– Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all.

Offertory Hymn “Come, Your hearts and Voices Raising” LSB 375 vs. 1,4

(stand as you are able)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (Sung)

Page 160

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Sung) *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

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Words of our Lord

Pax Domini The Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

Page 163

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

Agnus Dei "*Lamb of God*" (*Sung*) *John 1:29*

Page 163

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.

Reading of the Communion Announcement Card

(Please be seated)

The Distribution Hymns

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" LSB 374

"Once in Royal David's City" LSB 376 vs. 1,3,5

(Stand as you are able)

The Post Communion Collect

Page 166

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

The Closing Hymn “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + + +

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“What’s Really Important in Life?”

Text: 1 Kings 3:4–15

Date: 01/03/21

Verse to Remember:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

Points to Ponder

1. What are your life goals in 1 year, 5 years, and 15 years?

2. What’s really important in life?

3. Life with God VS. Life without God

4. Of most importance for our lives are _____

5. Of most importance for our lives is _____

6. Of most importance for our lives is _____