

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost .....SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

**INVITATION AND GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING WORDS**

Come, let us gather to worship the Lord responding to His invitation. Leave self behind, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. Walk in the Lord's presence in the land of the living. Come!

**\*SCRIPTURE READING ..... Proverbs 1:20-33**

**\* OPENING HYMN: #131..... We Gather Together**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise and song before the Lord of hosts!

**People: In our hearts we praise almighty God for every blessing we have received.**

Leader: We open our hearts to the Lord's leading in all we do in life.

**People: And we ask God's help that we should use our words for good and not evil.**

Leader: For we have been blessed with an awesome gift in the power of words.

**People: Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**\* Let us pray (Congregation):**

O God, through your word you created the universe and you have extended the power of the spoken word to us to use wisely. Help us to use your blessing well that others might know you, Lord. In Christ, Jesus we pray. Amen.

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: #99 ..... My Tribute**

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

Lord, so often we have taken for granted your wonderful blessing of the power of speech. Instead of using our words to share many wonderful feelings and thoughts, we often use them poorly or even for hurting and wounding others. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to become dedicated to carrying the wonder and glory of your love with us always. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: #177.....He Is Lord**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

Listen for God's word as we draw near to Jesus who has the power to make us whole. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus on whom our faith depends from the beginning to the end.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING: ..... James 3:1-12**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **"We Need to Dominate our Tongue"**

**\* RESPONSE TO THE WORD:**

**#430 (vs. 1 & 3) .....O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

**CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns**

**\* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 ..... O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

**CLOSING HYMN: #672 (vs 1)..... God Be with You till We Meet Again**

**\*DISMISSAL BLESSING**

## Today's Scripture Readings -- September 27, 2020

### **First Scripture Reading: Proverbs 1:20-33 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup>Wisdom calls aloud <sup>[a]</sup>outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. <sup>21</sup>She cries out in the <sup>[b]</sup>chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: <sup>22</sup>“How long, you <sup>[c]</sup>simple ones, will you love <sup>[d]</sup>simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. <sup>23</sup>Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. <sup>24</sup>Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, <sup>25</sup>Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, <sup>26</sup>I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, <sup>27</sup>When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

<sup>28</sup>“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. <sup>29</sup>Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup>They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke.

<sup>31</sup>Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. <sup>32</sup>For the <sup>[e]</sup>turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; <sup>33</sup>But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be <sup>[f]</sup>secure, without fear of evil.”

### **Second Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12 (NKJV)**

#### ***The Untamable Tongue***

**3** My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a <sup>[a]</sup>perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. <sup>3</sup><sup>[b]</sup>Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. <sup>4</sup>Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup>Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of <sup>[c]</sup>iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of <sup>[d]</sup>nature; and it is set on fire by <sup>[e]</sup>hell. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup>But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the <sup>[f]</sup>similitude of God. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? <sup>[g]</sup>Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.



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