

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Everyone
who asks
receives, and
the one who
seeks finds,
and to the
one who
knocks
it will be
opened.

LUKE 11:10, ESV

Focused Prayer Claims What God Wants for Us,
Not What We Want from Him

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Sunday



In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. So we sometimes define prayer as "speaking to God from the heart." Seems so easy. What does not come naturally, however, is the focused prayer God wants for us. We need focus when it comes to the basis of our prayers. Our prayers are based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship we have with God, our Father.

We also need focus when it comes to the content of our prayers. Yes, we can speak from the heart and ask for anything we want. But our Father invites us to pray specifically for the things he wants to give us. Prayer is the opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God's will, not the other way around. We have much to learn about prayer. So, along with Jesus' disciples, we say, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1)

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The Service: Setting Three

Welcome

Hymn

722 In Holy Conversation
Please join beginning with the second verse.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men. A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on".

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman. Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 18:20–32

Abraham is bold in prayer; the Lord listens to bold prayers.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

138A Your Praises, God, I'm Bringing

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Your praises, God, I'm bringing;
my heart with joy is singing
its thanks for gifts outpoured.
Now, in your presence kneeling,
again for grace appealing,
in quietness I wait your word.</p> | <p>3 Though you, O God, are holy,
yet you regard the lowly
and raise them from the dust.
Your promise holds forever:
"I will forsake you never!"
My God, my rock, in you I trust.</p> |
| <p>2 When deepest need had felled me,
your steadfast love upheld me;
my urgent prayer you heard.
When trouble sore assailed me,
your mercy never failed me.
You strengthened me and I endured.</p> | <p>4 All peoples shall acclaim you,
and worshiping shall name you
the God of time and space.
And I will join my praises
with hymns the whole world raises
to you, the God of boundless grace!</p> |

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The ultimate purpose of prayer is that we ask God's will to be done.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 11:9

Please sing the Alleluias.



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

720 Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above vs. 1, 5, 6, 3

Sermon

Just Once More

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

Prayer of the Church

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray the Lord's Prayer as Jesus himself taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Heavenly Father, look with mercy on all your children on earth. Give us grace that we might proclaim your Word faithfully and live our lives according to your will, for then we show that your name is precious to us. We also pray that you would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor your name.

Your kingdom come.

Lord, send your kingdom and the rule of your grace, so that it might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, your Son, as their Savior; and that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad. Work in us so that we would, by your power, put down our own sinful will and its desires.

Give us today our daily bread.

Creator and Giver of every perfect gift, preserve us from greed and selfish desires. Help us to trust that you will provide for all our needs.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

God of grace, remind us constantly of the gift of forgiveness, that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

Lead us not into temptation.

Almighty God, protect us from all temptations and help us by your Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his tricks.

But deliver us from evil.

Loving Lord, keep us safe from all evils of body and soul now and forever. When you allow evil into our lives, help us remember that you will use even the darkest times for our good.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

We sincerely desire these things, as we say from our hearts "Amen," trusting without doubt that our prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Amen.

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Musical Offering

Hymn

719 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

721 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



Take Home/Bible Study Questions

1. What do we learn about prayer from the entire Sodom and Gomorrah account? Consider the following and apply them to our lives of prayer today:
 - a. For whom did Abraham pray? (Consider also 1 Timothy 2:1)
 - b. How would you describe the way Abraham talked to God?
 - c. What did Abraham go back to as the basis for his prayer?
 - d. Was Abraham's prayer answered?
2. Discuss: some things are easier to pray for than others.
 - a. What things tend to be those "easier" ones?
 - b. Why do you think we view them as easier things?
 - c. Does focusing on those easy things lead to a healthy prayer life? Why or why not?
3. Looking at 1 Timothy 2, it might be easy to think that, apart from the first two verses, it has nothing to say about prayer. However, think about how these verses answer the following questions:
 - a. What is God's ultimate will, according to verses 3 and 4?
 - b. For whose sake are our prayers heard by God, according to verse 5?
 - c. Explain why, according to verses 5 and 6, our mediator is the perfect testimony of God.
4. In his explanations to the petitions of the Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther says multiple times that God does not "need" our prayers: God's name is holy without them, his kingdom comes by itself, his will is done without them, he gives our daily bread apart from our prayers. So, why pray then?

News & Announcements

This Sunday's Bible Study:

Sermon Deep Dive

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.



VBS Is This Week

July 25-28

Our Vacation Bible School is this week! Held over four nights, there are different activities each night, and it is held at a different public park each night. There is still time to register, to volunteer, or to invite a friend. For more details, see the Ministry Table or visit stpaulswr.org/vbs.

Bring in Your School Supplies Donation

July 31

This is the last week for the Stuff the School Bus school supply drive. Please bring in your donations by next Sunday, July 31. We are seeking a **volunteer to transport our donations** to the "Stuff the School Bus" event in downtown Wisconsin Rapids on Thursday, August 3. The drop off window is 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. If you can help, please contact the church office.

3K/4K Preschool Aide Needed

The start of the school year is fast approaching, and we are still looking for a part-time aide of our 3K and 4K classes. This is a paid position. Please contact Mrs. Carole Melso or Mrs. Kellie Jensen if you are interested in applying: littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.

We also need volunteers to help with before- and after-school care. You can do just mornings, just afternoons, or both. Volunteer every weekday or just a couple of days a week. Your help would be most appreciated!

Take the Family out to the Ballgame

August 7 | 5:05 PM

Area WELS congregations will come together for a fun evening of baseball at Witter Field on Sunday, August 7. The Wisconsin Rapids Rafters will be playing the Green Bay Rockers with first pitch at 5:05 pm. For tickets, fill out the form on the Ministry Table and give it to Todd Ferkey or the church office. The ticket price is \$16 which includes a hotdog and ice cream.



Help with the Clothing Giveaway

Aug. 2-6



Many volunteers are needed for our Clothing Giveaway. Please consider helping for a few hours. On the donation days, we need people to receive donations, help people carry in bags and boxes, sort clothing by size and gender, and fold & display the clothing. On the days of the giveaway, we need volunteers to keep the displays neat and assist community members as needed. Please sign up at the Ministry Table to let us know you will be there. You can contact Michelle Gear (920-784-4643) for more details.

DONATION DAYS

Tuesday, Aug 2
Wednesday, Aug 3
10AM – 6PM
Clothing only!
Donation slips available.



GIVEAWAY DAYS

Thursday, Aug 4 ~ 3-6PM
Friday, Aug 5 ~ 10AM-6PM
Saturday, Aug 6
8AM – 12PM
Cost: FREE

Help Someone Else Build Their Wardrobe

Aug. 2-3

Do you have clothes at the back of your closet or packed away in boxes in your basement – clothes you haven't looked at in months or years? Bring your forgotten items to the Clothing Giveaway. They could become someone else "new" interview outfit, back-to-school look, or summer ensemble. Donation days are August 2 & 3 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Women's Study Taking a Summer Break

Aug. 2-3

Women Walking in the Word will not meet on August 2 and 9. Meetings will resume on Tuesday, August 16. They will be studying Psalms. You are welcome to join them in the Resource Center 9:45-11:00 am.

New Share-a-Ride Program

Some of our members would love to be at church regularly, but they are no longer able to drive themselves. That is why we are starting a Share-A-Ride program. To begin with, we will be transporting people once a month. Volunteers just need to leave for church a few minutes early to pick up someone else, then drop them off after the service. To volunteer, please contact Seth Kroells (507-676-7142) or Pastor Plagenz (920-689-3036).



Share-A-
Ride

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday	4:30 PM	VBS at White Sands Beach Pavilion
	6:30 PM	Worship
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	4:40 PM	VBS at Sand Lot Park Shelter
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers in the Resource Center
Wednesday	4:30 PM	VBS at Helen's House at the Zoo
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	4:30 PM	VBS at Robinson Park Shelter
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Worship / VBS Celebration

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 180

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 53,294

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 36,857

Upcoming Events

Aug 2-3 ~ Clothing Drive

Aug 4-6 ~ Clothing Giveaway

Aug. 7 ~ WELS Night at Witter Field

Aug. 11 ~ St. Paul's at Farmers Market



Special Prayers This Week:

- Pastor Proeber received a call to serve at Trinity Lutheran in Neenah, WI
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