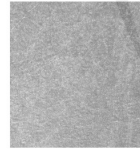


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Lord,

**IF ANOTHER
MEMBER OF THE
CHURCH SINS
AGAINST ME, HOW
OFTEN SHOULD
I FORGIVE?**



MATTHEW 18:21, NRSV

**DIFFICULT PARABLES:
BE MERCIFUL**

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, we are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer.

We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at www.stpaulswr.org/watch. You can also contact us via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634) with any questions or prayer requests.

SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep close personal interactions to a minimum, especially when inside the building. There is tape on the floor of the Welcome Center to help assist you in practicing social distancing. Please feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary. Please refrain from shaking hands or hugging.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Offering plates and friendship registers will not be distributed.** Our offering can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. Those with smartphones can fill in the online connect card.
- † **The children's quiet activity bags have been removed.** However, children's bulletins can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. The Children's Message will still take place. However, the children will not be invited forward. Please keep them with you in your pew.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



The Church forgives as God forgives. Anytime we try to imitate God, we quickly realize our inadequacy. Yet today God tells us to model our forgiveness on his: a boundless, free, and loving forgiveness based on the sacrifice of Christ. How could our sinful hearts ever forgive like that? God's mercy and grace precede us and follow after us, that we might love God with undivided hearts— hearts always ready to forgive as God does.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which represents the growth of our desire to forgive sins as we are confronted with the grace and forgiveness of God.

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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, We are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, We will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. We will
4. All ___ praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come. And all



one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each man's
praise to Christ Je - sus his on - ly ___ Son, And all praise to the



u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
spread the news that God is in the land. And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
dig - ni - ty and in ___ love a - bide. And they'll know we are Chris-tains by our
Spir ___ it who makes us ___ one. And they'll know we are Chris-tains by our



love, by our love; Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tains by our love. ___
love, by our love; Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. ___
love, by our love; Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. ___
love, by our love; Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tains by our love. ___

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

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

It is always fitting to remind ourselves of the gracious triune God we are gathered to worship.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.


C: **Amen.**


PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *Jesus Paid It All*
Choir sings verses; all sing refrain

Choir - I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

All: 
Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;


Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Choir - Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

**All - Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**

Choir - For nothing good have I
Where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

**All - Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**

Choir - And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

**All - Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph shows mercy to his brothers.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 103 | CW p. 105

Read responsively

All: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

M: Praise the LORD O my soul;
All my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**C: He forgives all your sins
And heals all your diseases;**

M: He redeems your life from the grave
And crowns you with love and compassion.

All: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

M: The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger, abounding in love.

**C: He does not treat us as our sins deserve
Or repay us according to our iniquities.**

M: For as high as the heavens are above the earth
So great is his love for those who fear him;

**C: As far as the east is from the west,
So far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

All: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

M: As a father has compassion on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

**C: For he knows how we are formed,
He remembers that we are dust.**

M: Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;
The wind blows over it and it is gone.

C: **But the LORD's love is with those who fear him
From everlasting to everlasting.**

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

All: **I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

When we show mercy to others, we imitate what God has done for us.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, he saved us—

C: **not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy.**

Alleluia. (*Titus 3:4-5*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

A forgiving heart leads to mercy.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

*These are simple ways to
acknowledge that what
we have just heard is
from God and is,
therefore, true and
meaningful for our lives.*

SUNG CONFESSION OF FAITH

We Believe

Choir sings verses; all sing refrain

Choir - In this time of desperation
when all we know is doubt and fear,
there is only one foundation.
We believe, we believe.

Choir - In this broken generation,
when all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation.
We believe, we believe.

While we normally recite our creeds, there are a number of songs that encompass the truths we confess on a weekly basis. This one adds the truth that God is our foundation for hope and forgiveness at all times.

All -

We be - lieve__ in God, the Fa - ther, we be - lieve__ in Je - sus Christ. We be - lieve

__ in the Ho - ly Spir - it, __ and He's giv - en us__ new life. We be - lieve

__ in the Cru - ci - fix - ion we be - lieve__ that He con - quered death. We be - lieve

__ in the Res - ur - ec - tion, and He's com - ing back a - gain.

Choir - We believe.

So, let our faith be more than anthems,
greater than the songs we sing.
And in our weakness and temptations, we believe, we believe.

**All – We believe in God the Father, We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He’s given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, we believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He’s coming back again.**

Choir - Let the lost be found, let the dead be raised.
In the here and now let love invade.
Let the Church live loud. Our God will say we believe, we believe.
And the gates of hell will not prevail,
for the pow'r of God has torn the veil.
Now, we know Your love will never fail. We believe, we believe.

**All – We believe in God the Father, We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He’s given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, we believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He’s coming back again.**

Choir - He's coming back again. He's coming back again.
We believe, we believe.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive | CW 493
Verse 1-Pastors; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All*

SERMON - THE FORGIVEN FORGIVE

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul’s members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. 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

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

- M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.
- C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**
- M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.
- C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**
- M: Bless our land, our people and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.
- C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.
- C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN

O Master of the Loving Heart | CW 491
Verse 1-Pastors; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All

Please stand.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

"Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord." Give us hearts that are quick to forgive and show mercy to all in our lives!

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Not Unto Us | CW 392
Verse 1-Pastors; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. The parable in Matthew 18:21-35 we read for our Gospel reading today naturally flows from the verses before it. In their conversation, Jesus and the disciples talk about the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, lost sheep, confronting someone who is sinning, and finally the parable of the unmerciful servant. This entire dialogue centers around the forgiven sinner's relationship with God and other believers. Read through the whole chapter of Matthew 18 start to finish and trace the line of thought. How does Jesus connect all these different sections?

2. One aspect of Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant worth highlighting is the similarities between the two pleas for patience (from the servant in great debt and the servant in little debt) and the two refusals to forgive (from the unmerciful servant and the king at the end of the parable). What does this add to our attitudes of forgiving others in our lives?

3. The account of Joseph is a remarkable one! The Old Testament lesson today is one of the last chapters in that story and is a beautiful illustration of the rarity of unconditional and continued forgiveness.
 - a. Explain the actions of Joseph's brothers in this section. Why might they be concerned? (If you're unfamiliar with the account, skim Genesis 37, 39-45, 50.)

 - b. Joseph's attitude in this section is opposite of what we might expect from a human perspective. Why is that?

 - c. What lesson can we carry into our own lives from Joseph's actions here?

4. The Apostle Paul has a lot of exhortations in the second lesson for today, Ephesians 4:29-5:2. Yet, throughout this section he sprinkles in our motivation behind everything he's urging. Make a list of all the gospel encouragements Paul gives in these few verses. What practical things can you do to keep these reminders in front of you everyday?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

August 30 | 9:15-10:15 AM

Our Sunday morning Bible class will take us through the work of the prophet Isaiah. We won't get to read every verse of the 66 chapters, our hope is to give you a better understanding of the Lord's work in that book and throughout the rest of the Bible. Join us in the cafeteria or use the Google Meet option to join from home on your laptop, computer, smartphone, or even your landline phone. (See the Sneak Peek email or contact the church office for more info.)

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sept. 13

Beginning Sunday, September 13, Sunday School lessons taught by experienced WELS teachers will be available free via YouTube. The lesson videos will tie to printed student lessons that will be mailed directly to your home at no charge. To register, please contact Kent Schroeder at 715-421-4202 or knks@wctc.net.

PEOPLE CLOSE TO GOD

Sept. 9 | 6:30PM

Many of us have known about and believed in Christ for many years. Yet, the Apostle Paul tells us to keep studying (2 Timothy 3:14). You have another opportunity to continue in the things you have learned beginning Sept. 9. Pastor Plagenz will lead you through *People Close to God: A Bible Study Course in Christian Doctrine* on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM. This 14-week Bible information course breaks down into three sections: Four Key Concepts, Faith-Builders, and Growing in Grace. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and be refreshed in the foundations of our faith. A complete schedule can be found in the monthly newsletter.

HIRING PART-TIME CHILD CARE

Supervise outdoor play and indoor games plus help with homework before and/or after school (morning 6:30-8:30AM, afternoon 3:30-5:30PM). It would not be every day and could be flexible with your schedule. Even one or two days a week would be helpful. If this sounds like something you could do please contact Carole Melso or Kellie Jensen at littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.

CALENDAR

August 30-September

6

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
MONDAY	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Board of Lutheran Education
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	5:00 PM	Board of Mission Outreach in Resource Center
	5:30 PM	Board of Properties
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
MONDAY	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9 A People Close to God Class

Sept. 13 Virtual Sunday School

OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 166

From July 1, 2020 to August 21, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$116,015

Actual cost of ministry: \$129,330

Mortgage balance: \$1,367,141



www.stpaulswr.org

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