

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

They were amazed beyond measure and said,



“He has done **EVERYTHING** well.
He even makes the deaf **HEAR**
and the mute **SPEAK!**”

Mark 7:37 (EHV)

THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP:
Christ's Followers See
the True Purpose of His Power
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024



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 can continue to serve you.

Restrooms are located in the hallway outside the gym. If you would like one, large print copies of the service folder or a children's bulletin for kids are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can also help you find the restrooms or answer any other questions you may have.

Service Notes For This Service



Power is neither inherently good nor bad. Fire is powerful. The chef uses fire to create meals. But the arsonist uses fire to destroy homes. Nuclear fission is a powerful force. The engineer harnesses it, producing abundant electricity. The tyrant harnesses it, threatening others with nuclear weapons. What matters is the purpose of the one who has that power.

Jesus has limitless power, as the numerous accounts of his miracles demonstrate. Those who witnessed those miracles understood that Jesus used his power for good. That doesn't mean they all understood Jesus' true purpose. Some thought Jesus' purpose was to make this temporal life better. And while Jesus did that at times, his ultimate purpose was to save us from sin and give us the gift of eternal life. Followers of Christ see the true purpose of his power.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz Preacher: Accompanist Sue Kulhanek

Acknowledgements

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For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing
of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their
wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

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Glory to God in the Highest

Glo - ry to God in the high - est 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. 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, re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on
 earth. 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.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; 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

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Through the prophet Isaiah God promised that he would come, making the blind see and the lame leap. But the ultimate purpose of his coming was to save us.

⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart: Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance. With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged. ⁶The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

146D Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!
2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
3 Trust not in princ - es, they are but mor - tal;
4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and
par - don and peace from him ob - tain; ev - er the
earth-born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
of him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him as long as
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, their faith - ful
coun - sels at life's last por - tal when the dark
be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, with hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and
God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren
grave will claim its prey. Since, then, no one can
heart its a - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; bless, O my soul, his ho - ly
in dis - tress, the wid - ows and the fa - ther -
help af - ford, trust on - ly Christ, our God and
an - gel host praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
less. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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Second Reading

Acts 3:1–10

Christ gave his follower Peter the power to heal a man who was lame from birth. When healed, the man does not go first to family and friends but to the temple to praise God.

¹Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, an hour of prayer. ²A certain man who was lame from birth was carried there every day and placed at the temple gate, which is called Beautiful, so that he could beg for donations from those entering the temple.

³When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for a donation.

⁴Peter looked directly at him, as did John. Peter said, "Look at us." ⁵So the man paid close attention to them, expecting to receive something from them.

⁶But Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" ⁷Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood and began to walk. He entered the temple courts with them, walking, jumping, and praising God.

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

769 *Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old*
Join to sing as you feel comfortable.

Sermon

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

Prayer of the Church

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our president, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city of Wisconsin Rapids, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For reasonable weather and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth that God has given us and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, by your grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our lives to Christ our God.

Amen.

Special prayer and intercessions

Special Prayers This Week

† For Dave & Melody Kieliszewski who are celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary in Sept. 10

† For Ron Schroeder who will undergo back surgery on Wednesday

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Connect Card & 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.



WELS Connection

European Chaplain Program

Hymn

537 *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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.

Hymn

520 *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*



**Starts today!
For grades 3K-5th
9:15-10:15 AM
Meet in the Welcome Center
by the Sunday School display**

Take Home Questions

1. The selected verses from Isaiah 35 are filled with pictures of joyous outcomes from God's coming. For what reasons is this coming such a joyous occasion? (Hint: read verse 4c)
 - a. Make a list of all the pictures in these verses. Which of these pictures resonates with you the most? Why?

2. Read again about the lame man who was healed in the second reading. Where does he go immediately after being healed? In what ways does his praise to God become a witness to those around him?
 - a. Consider this pattern in our own lives. The Lord is present with us through trouble and hardship in our lives. He works for us in those troubles—sometimes removing them, sometimes strengthening us through them. In what ways can our response to the Lord's help, whatever that help may look like, serve as a witness to those around us?
 - b. Identify a hardship in your life right now. Write a prayer asking the Lord to help you through it and to fill you with praise for his help. Ask that others may glorify him through your example.

3. Reread the miracle Jesus performed in our Gospel for today. In what ways was the manner in which Jesus performed this miracle unique?
 - a. For what reasons might Jesus have done these things?
 - b. Even though we do not see him with our eyes, in what ways does Jesus minister to you in personal and private ways still today?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Foundations of the Christian Faith

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Special Offering Next Sunday

Sept. 15

Next Sunday, we will be taking a special offering to support FOCUS Neighborhood Meals. FOCUS helps address food insecurity in our community. Our goal is to raise enough money to cover the cost of the meal which we will help serve on Sept. 19. This is also a good time to bring in your donations of store-bought cookies for the meal. You can put the cookies in the basket on the Ministry Table.

Help at the Neighborhood Meal

Sept. 19 | 4:00-6:30 PM

We still need people to help with the FOCUS Neighborhood Meal on Thursday, Sept. 19. You will assist FOCUS staff with serving, clean up, and greeting guests. Teens are welcome to serve if they are accompanied by a parent. See the Ministry Table for more information and to sign up.

Clean School Classrooms

Most of the janitorial tasks around our building are performed by volunteers, whether it is cleaning, repairs, lawn mowing, or snow removal. Keeping our school classrooms clean is one of those areas where we need volunteers. Twice a week all classrooms are vacuumed and the garbage and recycling are emptied. This is done on Wednesday and on Friday (or Saturday), before or after school hours. You can volunteer alone, as a family, or with a friend. Volunteer once, or on a regular basis. There are signup sheets on the Ministry Table, or you can sign up online using the link on the school website, stpaulswr.org/school.

Make Apple Pies

This year's Craft & Bake Sale will held Oct. 19-20. That means it is time to start making pies! Pie making is scheduled for Sept. 18, 26, 30 and Oct. 9 at 1:30 pm. Help with peeling apples or with assembling the pies. A signup sheet and further details can be found on the Ministry Table.

Bring in Your Apples!

If you have apple trees and don't know what to do with all of your fruit, our pie makers will put them to good use. They are accepting donations for apples beginning this week. You can take your donations to the kitchen. If you do donate, please note it at the Ministry Table, so they have an idea of how many apples to expect.



Officiate Volleyball Games

The school is looking for line judges for our home volleyball games. We have seven home games, the first of which is on Sept. 19. Two line judges are needed at each game. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mr. Micah Biesterfeld at mbiesterfeld@stpaulswr.org.



Use Your Musical Talent

Our handbell choir needs one more person to play the low range (big bells). Contact either Marilyn Foley (715-697-1511) or Kristi Perry (715-721-1344) to volunteer. Choir begins at the end of the month. Watch the bulletin for future announcements. The Sunday School would love to have someone accompany the children once a month for singing. Sign up at the Ministry Table or contact Darci Knuth at 715-316-8250.

Teen Bible Study Tonight

Sept. 8 | 6:00 PM

This evening at 6:00 pm, teens can be part of an online bible study with other teens across the country. Just join the study on your phone or laptop. You will be able to interact with others through breakout rooms. Learn more at wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/

Fall Mission Rally Scheduled

Oct. 12 | 9:00 AM

Learn more about mission work in our synod and in our local area. Pastor Frederic Berger, missionary to Kronenwetter, will be the keynote speaker at the Mission Rally on Saturday, Oct. 12. This fall's rally will be held at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Christie (west of Marshfield). These biannual rallies are sponsored by the Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), although men and children are also welcome at the rallies. Opening worship is at 9:00 am with the closing devotion at noon.

Meditation Daily Devotional

Nurture your relationship with God with this daily devotional. It will encourage you to meditate on God's Word and will inspire you to live out the Gospel. These devotions are available in print and digital formats. You can get a discount on the print version by ordering through the church office. The cost is \$18.75 per year for quarterly booklets that are delivered to your church mailslot. You can order the digital version at nph.net.

Forward in Christ Magazine

Forward in Christ will help you see that God's Word is at work in all corners of our synod. Each monthly issue contains inspiring personal stories, timely devotions, enlightening Bible studies, and more. Order through the church office to receive a discounted price of only \$15.00 per year. Each 36 full-color edition will be mailed directly to your home. A digital-only version is also available at nph.net.

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-5th
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday	6:30 AM	St. Paul's Women's Group in the cafeteria
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
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Welcome Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class
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	Sunday School for grades 3K-5th
	10:30 AM	Worship

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 214

Next Sunday

Theme: The Need for Followership:

Christ's Followers Are Armed for Battle

Readings: 1 Kings 18:21-39; Ephesians 6:10-18; Mark 9:14-27

St. Paul's Scrip Update for August:

\$392.65 for tuition and \$545.81 for Student Assistance

Upcoming Events

Sept. 18	Pie Making Begins
Sept. 19	HOME Panthers Volleyball Game
Sept. 19	FOCUS Neighborhood Meal
Sept. 28	NLHS Homecoming and 5K Run/Walk
Oct. 12	LWMS Mission Rally

NEW

St. Paul's Women's Group

first meeting

Monday, Sept. 9

6:30-8:00 PM

in the cafeteria

Meet other Christian women

Grow in God's Word

Learn about missions





www.stpaulswr.org

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