

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



DIFFICULT PARABLES:
MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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.

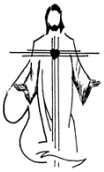
We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at www.stpaulswr.org/watch. You can also contact us via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org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



Many are called, but few are chosen. This teaching is brought to our ears through Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet. It may not be a familiar parable, but it is an important one for us to ponder. God's invitation of all people (and, yes, that means all people) to believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins is a beautiful truth! But things like stubbornness, apathy, or blatant rejection get in between us and God. We see the result in the Gospel of such attitudes. But we also hear about the cure for those attitudes in our service today.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which represents the growth in faith which the powerful gospel (Romans 1:16) produces in us.

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"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)." by John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio. © 2006 sixsteps Music Vamos Publishing worshiptogether.com songs. Used by permission: CCLI#145043

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.

This hymn calls to our hearts to see the rich treasure that God is offering to us. May we let this treasure work in our hearts today and always!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

*Delay Not! Delay Not | CW 337 (1,2,5)
Verse 1-Pastors; 2-Song Leaders; 5-All*

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.

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:

How Deep the Father's Love for Us
Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-All



1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all meas - ure, that
2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing; no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But



He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How
shamed I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why



great the pain of sear - ing loss; the Fa - ther turns His face a - way as
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But



wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ran - som!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

Hosea 14:1-4, 9

The cure for apathy is returning to God for forgiveness.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*This hymn is a lyrical
paraphrase of Psalm 23,
which serves as the
Psalm of the Day.*

HYMN

*The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want | CW 360
Odd verses-Pastors; Even verses-All*

SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:16-17

The gospel calls us; the gospel powerfully forgives 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! Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C: How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways! Alleluia!

(Romans 11:33)

*Today's theme is one that
leads us to simply let God
be God—his ways are
perfect and beyond our
ability to understand.*

Please stand.

GOSPEL - Matthew 22:1-14

The king does not tolerate his banquet being cast aside.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

For the time being, please keep children with you in the pews for the Children's Message.

HYMN

*Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me | CW 479
Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All*

SERMON - COME TO THE KING'S FEAST!

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

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: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son. Through him we have confidence to enter into your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions.

C: Out of the infinite bounty of your goodness, grant us a rich measure of your Spirit.

M: Let the love of Christ fill your Church, so that it may flourish in all good works.

C: Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need.

M: Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you. Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid (especially...).

Strengthen our faith so that we unfailingly come to you in prayer for all our bodily needs.

C: Look on them with favor and turn their hearts back to you as the source of all comfort and peace.

M: Help us patiently endure any chastening and afflictions you permit to come into our lives, knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.

C: Help us remember that you are always in control and that you are always good.

Other special prayers may be offered

M: Accept our prayers and intercessions, and provide for all our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who has taught us also to pray:

C: 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.

Notice that one petition speaks to physical needs (daily bread); every other petition addresses a spiritual desire or need. What does that tell you about what Jesus wanted our prayers to be focused on?

Be seated.

HYMN

Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults | CW 398
Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-Women; 4-Men; 5-Song Leaders; 6-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.**

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

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
Congregation joins on refrain: "My chains are gone..."

A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a__ wretch like
me!___ I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.___ The

9



Lord has prom - ised good to me; His Word my hope se - cures. He
man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've

13



will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en - dures. My chains are
grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

17



gone, I've been set free. My God, my Sav - ior has ran - somed me. And like a

21



flood, his mer - cy rains un - end - ing love a - maz - ing grace. Through
When

25



grace: un - end - ing love a - maz - ing grace.



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. The First and Second Readings for today (Hosea 14:1-4, 9 & Romans 1:16, 17) echo each other and demonstrate the symmetry between the Old and New Testament. In what ways does each section help us understand the other?
2. Jesus told the parables from the Gospel readings for the past three Sundays one after another to the same audience, the Jewish leaders. Reread the Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32) and the Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33-44). Then, review the Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14) from today. What warning was Jesus trying to give the Jews in all three parables? Trace the line of thought as it progresses through these parables.
3. Jesus' parables, though originally spoken to Jews, apply closely to our lives today. What are some lessons we can learn from these parables, especially for those who perhaps have spent their whole lives in the church?
4. In Jesus' parable a guest is thrown out because he is not wearing wedding clothes. The Bible often uses this picture of clothes. Read the following verses: Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5; Revelation 7:13-14. What do each of these verses add to this Biblical picture? What comfort does this picture give us?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah: The Servant (Chapters 40-55)
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.



COOKIES FOR THE TABLE

Each fall, our church family usually volunteers at The Neighborhoods Table, a local organization that provides free meals to anyone in need. With COVID concerns, the Table is only providing to-go meals. Even though we won't be volunteering, we want to support the Neighborhood Table by providing the cookies for the to-go meals this Thursday. Please bring your cookies to St. Paul's by Wednesday, Sept. 30.

COME FOR YOUTH GROUP

Sept. 30 | 6:30 PM

St. Paul's Youth will have their first in-person meeting of the school year this Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 6:30 PM. All high school students are welcome to come for bible study, the planning of future activities & events, and an open gym. We are hoping you can attend for all or part of the evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

THE FOUR PILLARS OF ST. PAUL'S

Next Sunday, we begin a new worship series on our core values, the things we as a church family are passionate about and want to do well. These four "pillars" are praise, prepare, participate and proclaim. In addition to the sermons, you will have an opportunity to go deeper on these topics each Wednesday in October. Pastor Proeber will explore what the bible says about the importance of each pillar. The study will meet in the Welcome Center at 6:30 PM.



VOTERS MEETING RESCHEDULED

Our quarterly voters meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 PM. This is part of an effort to move all meetings to the same day of the week. The delay will also allow more time for the Nominating Committee to firm up their list of candidates for elected positions. By now, the candidates have been contacted, but we want to allow them time to prayerfully consider where the Lord would have them serve at this time. Mark your calendar, and look for more details soon.

DONATIONS OF APPLES NEEDED

In order to make their yummy apple pies, the Willing Workers need lots of apples. The group got started on making pies last Thursday, but they have several more work days scheduled. The pies are frozen unbaked and are sold at the annual Bake & Craft Sale in November to help fund special projects. Please bring your apple donation to the kitchen as soon as possible and clearly mark them "For Willing Workers."

The group will also be making chili, potato chowder, chicken lasagna and other goods for the sale, so donations of other food items will be needed when the time comes to make these recipes. Watch the bulletin for notices about other needed ingredients as we get closer to the end of October.

NLHS RUN/WALK IS VIRTUAL

Oct. 3-10

Northland Lutheran High School's (NLHS) annual 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser is a virtual event this year. Sign up and then simply walk, run, or ride up to a 5K anytime between October 3 and October 10. A t-shirt that will be mailed to each participant after the event. The cost is \$20 per person or \$75 for a family with all proceeds going to students in need through NLHS's Tuition Assistance Fund. To register online, go to nlhs.org and follow the link. You may also register by calling or emailing the NLHS office (715-359-3400 or nlhsoffice@nlhs.org).



For many are called, but few are chosen.

HEAR FROM AN ABORTION SURVIVOR

Oct. 9 | 6:30 PM

Claire met her birth mother in 2009 and found out that she survived the abortion that took the life of her twin. She will share her story during the Treasure Life event with WELS Lutherans for Life on Friday, October 9 at 6:30 PM. Due to COVID, this fall fundraiser will be an online event. Learn about the pregnancy care ministry and hear keynote speaker Claire Culwell tell her miraculous story. Watch for free from wherever you are, but you need to register. Find all the details and register at www.ALife2.com/TreasureLife or call 414-727-8176.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?

Every marriage has its “moments.” That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos (about 2 minutes) highlighting one Biblical marriage thought accompanied by one discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly e-mail. The first email comes out on Monday, Oct. 5. To subscribe, look for the link on wels.net.



CLASS FOR CAREGIVERS

Oct. 15 | 10:30-11:30 AM

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging is offering a class called Powerful Tools for Caregivers to give you the skills to take care of yourself while caring for someone else. In just six weeks, this class can help you identify and manage the physical, emotional and financial challenges that family caregiving present and connects you with other caregivers who are dealing with the same feelings and problems you are facing. The course will be held at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids starting on Oct. 15. Space is limited. Please call St. Luke’s (715-435-5990) for more information and to reserve your spot. There are also virtual classes offered throughout the state. Check the schedule at www.wihealthyaging.org.

LITTLE LAMB'S CHILD CARE - HELP NEEDED

Little Lambs is hiring someone to help with after school care, 3:30-5:30 PM. Supervise outdoor play, games, and some homework. Your schedule can be flexible. Please contact Carole Melso or Kellie Jensen at littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.

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
	4:30 PM	Board of Fellowship in the Welcome Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Family Room
	6:30 PM	People Close to God in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	St. Paul's Youth in the SPYs Room
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

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 135

From July 1, 2020 to Sept. 18, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$220,594

Actual cost of ministry: \$220,292

Mortgage balance: \$1,358,048

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 1 ~ Cookies for Neighborhood Table

Oct. 4 ~ Four Pillars Worship Series

Oct. 5 ~ First Marriage Moment Video

Oct. 7 ~ Four Pillars Bible Study





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