

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



GRACE MOVES SINNERS TO SERVE OTHERS

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

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October 13, 2019

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

What a wonderful gift grace is! But grace does not happen in a vacuum, where there are no effects in our lives. Of course, we know that grace opens heaven for believers by forgiving sin. There's more than that, though. We open a three-week "series" of sorts looking at how grace affects the lives of believers. Today, we look at how we might serve others, motivated and empowered by the gospel message. Lord, increase our faith that we might model your selflessness to others!

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is green. The disciples asked Jesus to increase, or grow, their faith. Green is a color of growth and life. Thus, we are reminded of that prayer simply through a color today.

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

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

## WELCOME

*Without faith in place, we would not be able to praise God or serve him with our lives. What a wonderful gift faith is!*

8:00 & 6:30 - OPENING HYMN

*Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven | CW 404*

10:30 – SONG BY SCHOOLCHILDREN

*Seek Ye First*

*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.

*Make Me a Servant*

Make me a ser-vant hum-ble and meek; Lord, let me lift up  
7 those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart al-ways be: Make me a  
14 ser-vant, make me a ser-vant, Make me a ser-vant to-day.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; 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*

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**FIRST LESSON**

*1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-18*

*David prays, speaking of the people's servant-like attitude.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

# PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 27 | The People's Psalter*

*Choir will introduce the refrain first. Then all will sing the refrain a second time.*

**Refrain**

God is my light, the strong - hold of my life.

God is my sal - va - tion; in God a - lone I trust.

Choir - God is my strong salvation;

What foe have I to fear?  
In peril and temptation  
My light my help is near.

## Refrain

Choir - Though hosts encamp around me,

*The words of this psalm  
remind us of God's  
strength which, by faith,  
is our strength!*

and;  
What terror can compound me,  
With God at my right hand?

## Refrain

Choir - Rely on God's protection,

With courage wait each day;  
Gods' truth be your affection,  
When weak, your hope and stay.

## Refrain

Choir - God's might your heart shall strengthen,

God's love your joy increase;  
With hope your days shall lengthen,  
The Lord will give you peace.

## Refrain

## SECOND LESSON

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

*Pray for power from God to fulfill your callings of service.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**M:** Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people;

**C:** **in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.** (Hebrews 2:12 RSV)

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

Luke 17:1-10

*Faith finds service a privilege.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

**M:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Be seated*

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
Matthew 19:14

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.*

## HYMN

*Come, Oh, Come, Life-Giving Spirit | CW 181*

## SERMON - THE PRIVILEGES OF BEING CHRISTIAN

*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. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering. 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.*



## **VIDEO - The Rubber Hits the Road**

*In place of our usual musical offering, devotional videos will encourage us as we carry out the giving portion of the 10 for 10 emphasis.*

*Please stand.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- M:** O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him.
- C:** **Increase our faith, so that we might trust in him, love and serve him, and reflect his love in all our thoughts, words, and actions.**
- M:** Lord, you work in us to act according to your good purpose. In all our relationships, whether with you or with others, Lord, rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence. Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.
- C:** **Increase our faith, so that we might be strengthened in soul and body to do what is pleasing to you and beneficial to all people.**
- M:** Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need.
- C:** **Increase our faith, so that we might continually fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.**

M: Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.

*Special prayers*

M: All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord, who has taught us also to pray:

### 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**

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You | CW 444*

*Please stand.*

### CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

**C: 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.**

### BLESSING

M: Brother 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**

*Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give | CW 542*

*This hymn is typically used by pastors and teachers as a prayer for strength, but the message rings true and applies to all Christians.*



# TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. David prayed a humble prayer in 1 Chronicles 29. Compare those words from the First Reading with Psalm 8 and Psalm 144. These were written in reaction to specific blessings from God. Zero in on one blessing you've seen from God in the recent past and write a similar humble prayer.
  
2. In 2 Thessalonians 1, Paul talks about a few things that help make Christian service possible. Find three of them. Hint: You might be able to find three that all start with the letter "P".
  
3. This question/activity takes honesty to answer:
  - a. Which acts of service do you tend to look for repayment or a pat on the back for doing?
  
  - b. What reasons might you give for deserving such praise and honor?
  
  - c. In what ways does God's Word squash the idea that we are special for simply doing normal Christian duties?
  
4. Agree or disagree: The privileges Christ won for me make my life easier. Discuss your thoughts with your spouse, friends, or small group.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY**

"The church of history has done terrible things."  
and "Jesus never claimed to be God."  
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

## **READ TO KINDERGARTENERS**

Our kindergarteners would love for you to read to them. You can bring your own book or read one from their classroom. Come once or come once a week. Story time is at 10:15AM each day. You can sign up on the schedule posted outside of the kindergarten room, or email Miss Haugly at rhaugly@stpaulswr.org.

## **CALL MEETING**

*Oct. 14 | 7:45 PM*

We will resume calling for a second pastor on Monday, October 14. The meeting is right after the Monday evening worship service. Everyone is urged to pray about this call leading up to and during the meeting. May the Lord bless our deliberations.

## **HELP WITH TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

*Oct. 31 | 4:30-6:30 PM*

Help us show the community that church is not a weird place and Christians are normal people. Help with our Trunk-or-Treat event on Halloween night. We especially need lots of people in our parking lot giving out treats from their car trunks or pickup tailgates. Sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center, or look for our online signup on our website under the Serve tab.

## **PIE PUMPKINS NOW NEEDED**

The Willing Workers are ready to begin baking pumpkin pies for their annual sale, so we need your donations of pie pumpkins from the store or your garden. Apples are also still needed. Bring your donations to the kitchen. If you can lend a hand with peeling and slicing apples, please join us on Thursday, Oct. 17 and Monday, Oct. 21 at 1:00 PM.

## **ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT**

Last Week's Attendance: 274                      Year-to-date average attendance: 241

From July 1, 2019 to October 4, 2019

Actual ministry income:                      \$291,099

Actual cost of ministry:                      \$297,573                      Mortgage balance:                      \$1,469,365

# CALENDAR

October 13-20

<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in Dining Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106
	10:30 AM	Worship
<b>MONDAY</b>	5:00 PM	Board of Mission Outreach in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Worship
	<b>7:45 PM</b>	<b>Call Meeting</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	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 Resource Center
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 AM	Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the Balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Choir in the balcony
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
	1:00 PM	Piemaking in the kitchen
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Pig Roast &amp; Koiné Concert at NLHS</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in Dining Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106
	10:30 AM	Worship
	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at NLHS</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 31 Trunk-or-Treat  
Nov. 2 & 3 Bake & Craft Sale





[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

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