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UNEXPECTED

UNFAIR!

October 3, 4, and 7, 2020

Jesus' parables often have an unexpected ending. The way God deals with us can be unexpected. Our "Unexpected" message series takes up both of those issues. Today's parable speaks to those times in our lives when we want to shout out to God, "Unfair!"

FACE MASK PLEASE

In humble service to all in our church community, we are asking all present from age 5 and up to wear a face mask during worship in voluntary compliance with Governor Evers' extended order. Face masks are available from the ushers if you are without one. If you are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons, please do all you can to maintain social distance from others. In Christian love, let us seek to protect the health of others.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 379

Amazing Grace - How Sweet the Sound

This beloved hymn, written by John Newton, a former slave trader, marvels at the grace of God and the gift of hope that God's unconditional love brings to our lives.

**Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

M The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ, the light of the world, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Dear sisters and brothers, the Scriptures repeatedly remind us that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, that salvation, peace, and eternal life come to us solely as a gift from God.

C **Yet a part of us wants to believe that God looks favorably on us because of how we choose to live our lives.**

M Our sinful nature taints everything that we think, do, and say. As Isaiah declared: "All our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (*Isaiah 64:4*). King David confesses: "There is no one who does good, not even one" (*Psalm 14:3*). Let us, therefore, confess our sin to God, seeking his gift of forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade" (1 Peter 1:3, 4). For while the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

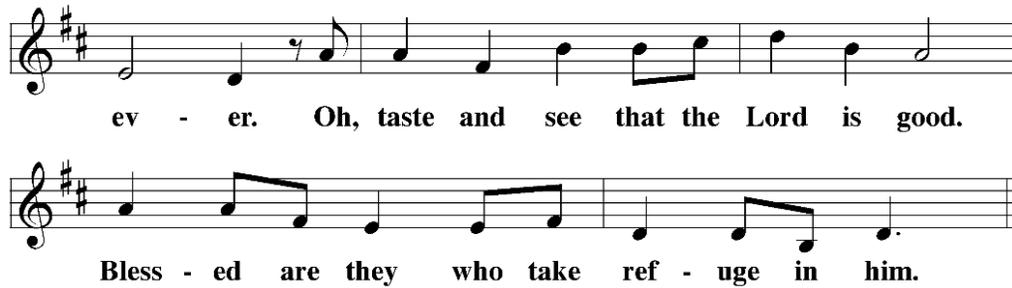
M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Oh, Taste and See'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C:' and the lyrics 'Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are'. The second staff continues with 'they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -'. The third staff continues with 'ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -'. The fourth staff concludes with 'ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, you bring light to those who dwell in darkness and make your love known to them.
- C **Though we deserve your wrath and judgment, we know that you have chosen mercy.**
- M Open our eyes today to see more clearly the power of your forgiving love.
- C **Strengthen us in our faith, that we may put all our hope in you.**
- M We pray, Jesus, in your name. You live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:6-9

Through the pen of the prophet, the Lord reminds us that his thoughts and ways are far beyond our ability to conceive or comprehend.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 27 *selected verses*

- M Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.
- C **My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek.**

M Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger;
C **You have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.**

M Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.
C **Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.**

M Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
C **For false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.**

M I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
C **Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard underscores our human struggle to fully grasp the concept of God's free and undeserved grace.

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' ⁵So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

⁷"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

⁸"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

⁹"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

¹³"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

¹⁶"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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. Watch over our nation as we go through the election process. Let peace and safety prevail. Watch over our schools. Protect children and school staff from sickness and allow our schools to remain open for in-person learning.

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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN 382

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

In a world where so much is uncertain and so many are tempted to build their lives on the shifting sands of power, personal advancement, and prestige, what a comfort and relief to know that there is a sure and solid rock upon which to stand.

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare to make no other claim,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before his throne.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M 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.

C 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of October 5, 2020

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| MON | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| TUE | 9:30 am | Zoom Ministry Growth Team Meeting |
| | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| | 10:30 am | Zoom Ministerial Team Meeting |
| | 4:30 pm | Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes (online) |
| | 6:00 pm | Divorce Care (School Classroom #8) |
| | 7:00 pm | <i>Following the Promise</i> (online) |
| WED | 6:30 am | Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) |
| | 10:00 am | Small Group Communion Service |
| | 7:00 pm | Traditional Worship Service |
| | 8:00 pm | Small Group Communion Service |
| THURS | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| | 7:00 pm | Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Panitzke |
| SAT | 8:00 am | Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Faith Room) |
| | 5:00 pm | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 6:00 pm | Small Group Communion Service |
| SUN | 7:45 am | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 9:15 am | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 9:15 am | Kids Club |
| | 9:45 am | The Bridge Communion |
| | 10:15 am | The Bridge |
| | 10:45 am | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |

SMALL GROUP COMMUNION SERVICES

We will continue to offer small group Communion twice per month. However, because of the overflow seating in the Grace Room, small group Communion will be offered in the sanctuary after the Saturday 5:00 pm and Wednesday 7:00 pm services and on Wednesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. Registration for small group Communion will continue to be offered through a "Needs List" e-mail and by calling the church office at 414-422-0320.



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WEDDING

Todd Rebillot and Jodie Rebillot were joined in marriage on Tuesday, September 29, 2020. May God bless and keep them in their unity together as one in Christ.

BAPTISM

Colby Cooper Larson, born in June 5, 2020, the son of Auden and Katie Larson, will be baptized at noon on Sunday, October 4, 2020. May God bless Colby today and always.

FUNERAL

Bill Graumann, born March 3, 1931, began eternal life with his Savior on September 20, 2020. Funeral arrangements are set for October 10, 2020. Visitation begins at 1:00 pm with the funeral at 2:00 pm. Please keep Bill's widow, Avis, and their family in your prayers.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Paul Gionfriddo (Care Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), and Lois Stichmann (The View at Pine Ridge in Oconomowoc).

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 77 on Saturday, 56 on Sunday 7:45 am, 126 on Sunday 9:15 am, 105 at The Bridge, 33 on Sunday 10:45, and 27 on Wednesday.

UNEXPECTED!

Often Jesus' parables take an unexpected turn. The way our God deals with us can also seem unexpected. The "Unexpected" message series takes up both of those issues as we look at Jesus' parables.

October 11: The Parable of the Two Sons – Matthew 21:28-32

Inconsistent! We say one thing but do another. We are inconsistent. Is that true of God, too? It can seem that way to God's children.

October 18: The Parable of the Tenants – Matthew 21:33-43

Permissive! To us it seems like God is being way too permissive when he deal with the ungodly. Why doesn't he come in judgment sooner? God's children can be glad he does not.

October 25: The Parable of the Wedding Banquet – Matthew 22:1-14

Biased! Is God biased? Does he play favorites? What is the key to God being able to welcome all into his heavenly banquet? What can we learn from him?



SUNDAY MORNING KIDS CLUB LAUNCHES IN-PERSON TODAY!

The 2020-2021 Kids Club season begins in-person on Sunday, October 4, 9:15-10:15 am in St. Paul's School. Enter via the Trinity Cafe. Kids Club will offer classes for ages 3K-Grade 6. To make this opening as safe as possible, Kids Club is requiring that all students attending wear masks and that any adults dropping off or picking up children do the same while in the building. We will also be observing other safety protocols. Contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org to learn more. Please register your child in advance on the St. Paul's website if you plan to join in. This will assist the Kids Club staff with planning safely for the "come back."

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE ON TUESDAYS

"Come one, come all!" to the fall session of Following the Promise (FtP), running 12 weeks through December 15. Taught 100% online and "recorded so you can miss a class and watch later," a computer or iPad is all you need! Each week from 7:00 until 8:15 pm we journey from creation's fall into sin to the "goodness" of Good Friday to the halls of heaven--finding Jesus at the heart of the Scriptures. Text your interest to Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email him at nstrobel@stpmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card. This class serves as a path to membership.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR PETE

Every other Thursday, Pastor Pete leads a Zoom Bible study at 7:00 pm, generally using the GroupWork Bible study material. The next study will be on October 8. Register on the Connection Card or simply click the Zoom link that will be sent out just prior to the study.

DIVORCECARE

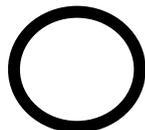
Discover hope and healing out of the darkness of divorce through God's Word, Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, in school classroom 8. If you are not able to make it every Tuesday, that is alright. Just come when you can. Contact Eric Pearson at ericpear@yahoo.com or Kristen Miller at kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY UPDATE

Due to the Coronavirus, there will not be a LWMS Fall Rally, but LWMS and WELS mission work is still ongoing – and urgent! The LWMS Milwaukee South Circuit will once again be conducting a Fall Mission Collection. This collection will support the Home Mission Project – Tools for Outreach and the World Mission Project – Africa. If you would like to give a gift to support the LWMS, you can place it in the offering plate in an envelope clearly labeled "LWMS" the weekend of October 4. You can also give online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give. Enter your gift into the "wish list" and add LWMS in the memo line.

RAINBOWS CHILDREN'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help support our children in crisis. We are looking for a few individuals who would be interested in becoming facilitators for a children's grief support group called Rainbows. Rainbows is a peer support group program designed to help children of various ages who are grieving the loss of a family member due to death or a parent (or guardian) due to divorce, deployment, incarceration, or trauma. Online training through the Rainbows organization will be required. Please contact Amy Chapman for further information (414) 499-5318 or amylynn.chapman@outlook.com.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

The Last Will Be First and The First Last

1. American Christians enjoy many advantages that other Christians around the world do not enjoy. Give some examples.

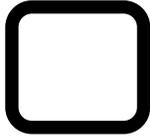
2. Read Mark 10:17-31.
 - a. Why do you think Mark includes the sentence “Jesus looked at him and loved him”? (Mark 10:21)

 - b. Do you think it is harder for Americans to enter the kingdom of God than people in third world countries? Why do you think as you do?

 - c. In what way do we receive “a hundred times as much in this present age”? (Compare Mark 10:29-30 and Matthew 20:28-29. You will notice that each records a different promise from Jesus.)

3. Read Matthew 20:1-16.
 - a. In this parable, do you see yourself as one of the first hired or one of the last?

 - b. What lesson do you take away from this parable?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

“Unexpected” Message Series Is God Unfair? Matthew 20:1-16

- I. God's Not Fair!
 - a. God demands so much! (Matthew 19:16-22)
 - b. God promises so much! (Matthew 19:27-29)

2. It's Not Fair!
 - a. The comfort for the Last: The generosity of our God.
 - b. The judgment on the First: The self-centeredness of me.

The cycle of questions: Am I the last? Am I the first?

My Next Steps

- **Meditate:** Let this statement run through your mind during this week: “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” How does that convict you? How does that comfort you?
- **Memorize:** To combat the feeling that God isn't fair, memorize Jesus' promise of what we are about to receive: “At the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne... everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life” (Matthew 19:28-29).