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UNEXPECTED

PERMISSIVE?

October 17, 18, and 21, 2020

Can someone be permissive to a fault? Most of us would say "yes." We've seen examples of where permissiveness led to trouble. The patience God displays toward us seems limitless. At times, it looks like he's being too permissive. Though there is a limit to God's patience, his patience goes well beyond what we deserve and without it we'd be lost.

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

HYMN 531, vv. 1-3

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Our worship begins with an invocation to Christ, our cornerstone, to bless our presence in his house with personal spiritual growth and to hear and answer our prayers.

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever
And our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all your lovingkindness,
Hear your people as they pray,
And your fullest benediction
Speak within these walls today.**

**Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
All the gifts they ask to gain,
What they gain from you forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in your glory
Evermore with you to reign.**

M In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Dear God, our perfect, heavenly Father, nothing is hidden from you. You have searched us and you know us. You perceive our thoughts from afar. You are familiar with all our ways.
C **You know every sinful thought that flits through our minds and every evil deed we've ever committed, whether done in the open or hidden behind closed doors. There is no where we can run or hide.**

M Yet, Father, you have taught that we do not need to hide. When we come to you and confess our sin, you are gracious and merciful. You forgive us in Christ. We run to you, therefore, dear Father, and confess our sin, seeking refuge in your loving and forgiving arms.
All **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am like a sheep who has gone astray. I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I do what is evil and fail to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us. God, himself, provided the Lamb when he sent his only Son. Jesus' bloody sacrifice on the cross satisfied God's just wrath against the sins of the world. 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

SONG OF PRAISE 531, v. 4

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

**Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you are merciful and tenderhearted, abounding in love and faithfulness.

C **You do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

M Turn to us in our anguish over sin. Hear our cry for mercy.

C **Speak to us again of your unfailing love in Christ that we may be at peace.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

Isaiah records a vineyard parable to underscore the incredible patience God displayed toward his Old Testament people.

I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

²He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

³“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

⁵Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.

⁶I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,

and briars and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”
⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 118

The psalmist sings of his confidence in the goodness of the Lord. Jesus will quote a portion of this psalm in today's Gospel.

M The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.
C **The LORD'S right hand is lifted high; the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!**
M I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
C **I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.**
M The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
C **the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
M This is the day the LORD has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:12-21

The Apostle Paul urges us to follow his example by keeping our eyes on the heavenly prize.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY 398

Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults

Though our sins are numerous beyond degree, we rely on the loving patience of God. He will forgive. He will restore.

Lord, we confess our num'rous faults,
How great our guilt has been,
How vain and foolish all our thoughts,
How deeply stained with sin.

But oh, my soul, forever praise,
Forever love, his name
Who turns your feet from dang'rous ways
Of folly, sin, and shame.

'Tis not by works of righteousness
Which our own hands have done,
But we are saved by God's free grace
Abounding through his Son.

'Tis from the mercy of our God
That all our hopes begin;
'Tis by the water and the blood
Our souls are saved from sin.

SERMON

Matthew 21:33-46

The Parable of the Tenants
Pastor David Kuehl

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. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins.

C **We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting, and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty, we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.**

M Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts words, and actions we may manifest his spirit.

C **Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence. Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**

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 **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 and intercessions may follow.

M Lord, hear us now, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C **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 329

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

We go out into the world restored and refreshed. Whatever the week before us holds, God is with us and God is for us.

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.**

Thanks we give and adoration
For the gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound!
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To your truth may we be found.

So whene'er the signal's given
Us from earth to call away,
Borne on angels' wings to heaven,
Glad the summons to obey,
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with Christ in endless day.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Perfect Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

M 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 19, 2020

MON	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting (Zoom)
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting (Zoom)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes (online)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (online)
WED	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Devotional Communion Services
THURS	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	1:00 pm	SEW District Circuit Pastor Meeting (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Pete
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel Service (Main Church)
	9:00 am	SEW District Circuit Pastor Meeting (Grace Room)
	1:00 pm	SEW District Circuit Meeting (Grace Room)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Express your appreciation for our pastors during October; it's Pastor Appreciation Month. Acknowledge their compassion, hard work, leadership, and faithful service given all year through. A simple thank-you in person or via email, voice message, card, or other personal acknowledgment will mean so much to our pastors and their families.



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

HOSPITALIZED

Baby Wesley Fischer (Froedtert), Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), and Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), Paul Gionfriddo (Care -Age in Brookfield) and Les Constantineau (Waukesha Memorial).

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 108 on Saturday, 67 on Sunday 7:45 am, 114 on Sunday 9:15 am, 110 at The Bridge, 41 on Sunday 10:45, and 21 on Wednesday.

UNEXPECTED!

Often Jesus' parables take an unexpected turn. The way our God deals with us can also seem unexpected. We finish our "Unexpected" message series and look at both of those issues next weekend.

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?

DIVORCARE

We are launching the new and updated DivorceCare group materials, beginning November 10, 2020. If you have been part of DivorceCare in the past, come and share how God has brought healing into your life. If you have experienced or are experiencing the pain of divorce, please come and find hope and healing in Jesus. We meet Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 in the school building, Room #8. For more information on DivorceCare go to divorcecare.org. Call or email Kristen Miller if you have questions or to register at kmiller@stpmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 130.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER OPENINGS IN THE INFANT AND TODDLER ROOMS

Our child care center has openings in the infant and toddler rooms. Please contact Tammy Dockter for a tour of the facility and for more information at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or dockterta@stpmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER IS HIRING

Our child care center is in need of substitute aides that would fill in for employee vacations with advance notice and occasionally last minute for sick employees. Another need is for an afternoon aide in the toddler room. Hours are 12:30 to 6:00 pm, four days per week. Please contact Tammy Dockter at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or dockterta@stpmuskego.org for more information and to apply.

CIRCUIT PASTORS AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S

Thursday afternoon and Friday morning of this week St. Paul's has the privilege of hosting the annual meeting of the 20 circuit pastors of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the WELS. On Friday afternoon the District Council meets. In the spring, the circuit pastors meet with the president and officers of the district to be updated on the work of the synod. In the fall, they are further trained and encouraged to be "pastor to the pastors" through Bible study and discussion. (Pastor Kuehl serves as circuit pastor for the Southern Circuit, which includes St. Paul's in Muskego, Star of Bethlehem in New Berlin, Christ in Big Bend, St. Paul's in East Troy, Reformation in Dousman, St. John's in Mukwonago, Living Water in Wind Lake, and Victory of the Lamb and St. Paul's in Franklin.) Forty-one pastors and staff ministers (active and retired) make up Southern Circuit Membership, fifteen from St. Paul's. Thank you, members of St. Paul's, for allowing these gatherings to be held on our campus, and please include the participants in your prayers.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING KIDS CLUB IS IN-PERSON!



Kids Club, for 3K to grade 6, begins at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the school. Enter the school through the Trinity Cafe. Clearly marked signage will direct you to your child's check-in and room location. We require that all students attending wear masks and that any adults dropping off or picking up children do the same while in the building. We are also observing other safety protocols. Contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org to learn more. Also, additional staff are needed. If you'd like to learn more, mark the back of your Connection Card or reach out to Dr. Nelson.

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 22. Register on the Connection Card or simply click the Zoom link that will be sent out just prior to the study.

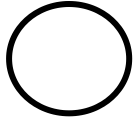
AWAKE AND ALIVE'S NEXT ONLINE YOUNG ADULT EVENT—OCTOBER 25, 6:30 PM—ZOOM

Author Amber Albee Swenson is the featured speaker for our October online gathering. She will be speaking on *Change the Narrative*. Are you prone to thinking things like, "You're worthless," or "You always mess up?" Do you talk yourself into indulging in things you shouldn't because "you only live once" or "I'm pretty good in the other areas of my life and so and so is much worse, so..." We're going to talk about common self-talk: the things that routinely go through our minds and learn how we can "change the narrative" so that we're taking every thought captive for Christ. Go to <https://awakealive.com/> for more information.

PICKLEBALL BEGINS OCTOBER 22!

Join our church pickleball league! It meets most Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, through December 17. Invite a friend and introduce them to our campus while having tons of fun. Come when you can. No season commitment needed. A flyer with all the details is at the Welcome Center in the lobby. More information can also be found by searching pickleball on our website at www.stpaulmuskego.org or by contacting Cindy Proeber at (414) 801-2845 or cindy.proeber@accuratediedesign.com.





GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Begin your time together sharing highs and lows from the past week.

2. Our current series - Unexpected - has us talking about surprising twists and turns in Jesus' lessons. What parable(s) or other biblical accounts do you remember feeling surprised by when you first heard about it/them?

3. This week's specific focus is on the surprising amount of patience God has for us. Share a time when God used an extremely generous amount of patience on you and your circumstances.

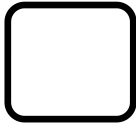
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-5.
 - What do you notice about David's reaction to the parable?

 - Now read the sermon text (Matthew 21:33-46). What kinds of differences do you observe between God's reaction and David's reaction?

5. How/when do you currently make time to meditate on your sins, confess them to God, and thank him for his generous patience and love?

6. Read Psalm 32. Which verses in this psalm can you identify with the most?

7. Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for the different ways he has showered his generous patience on you in the past week.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Unexpected: Permissive!?!

The Absolute Absurdity of God's Patience

Matthew 21:33-46

Introduction: Jesus' parable is a powerful call to repentance.

- God is the o_____ of everything we possess (Psalm 24:1).
- Can you identify with the tenants in the vineyard?
- The farmers were acting s_____, claiming everything as their own.
- Note the landowner's response. He keeps trying to win them back.
- "Last of all, he sent his son to them" (v. 37). Absurd!
- What father would send his son to such hateful and cruel tenants?
- The absurdity is i_____, for it is a picture of God's grace, mercy, and love (Romans 5:8).
- This parable is the most strongly worded w_____ Jesus can issue.
- We cannot pull the w_____ over God's eyes (Galatians 6:7).
- Confessing our sins before God, he invites us to find r_____ in Jesus (1 John 1:7).
- Jesus is the c_____ of God's Church, and he provides purpose and direction in our lives.
- Jesus is the One by whom all people with either s_____ or f_____ on the Day of Judgment (Luke 2:34, 35).
- We shake our heads in amazement at the p_____ love of our heavenly Father.

Conclusion: God permissive? No. God patient, persistent, persevering? Yes.

My Next Steps

Memorize Galatians 6:7: "Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked."

Read Matthew 22:1-14 to prepare for next week's message on *Unexpected: Biased!?!*

Rejoice that God was willing to throw his own Son out of the vineyard to save such wretched sinners like you and me.