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LOVE

LOVE PROTECTS

March 3 and 4, 2018

A mother loves her child and will do everything she can to protect him. Even if the whole world turns against or gives up on her child, she'll defend and speak well of him to the bitter end. How much greater is Jesus' love as he seeks to protect his Father's reputation and the physical well-being of his own mother.

PRESERVICE HYMN-SING

BELLS AND WELCOME

Hymn 492, vv. 1-3

Son of God, Eternal Savior
with Brass Ensemble (Sunday)

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

C **And also with you.**

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, God's definition of love is profound.

C **Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

M How often we fall short of that kind of love. Instead of protecting others in love, our selfish motives continually drag us toward self-interest. Instead of imitating our God, we grieve his heart with our words and actions. We deserve eternal punishment, but instead God shows mercy. God is love. Knowing that in Christ God is gracious and forgives, we find strength to openly and honestly confess our sins to him.

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 As our Substitute and Savior, our Lord Jesus said a determined, 'No,' to self and a dedicated, 'Yes,' to his Father's saving will. He won the victory over the tempter and moved steadfastly to the cross as God's atoning sacrifice for our sins. I assure you: your sins are forgiven 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 99, vv. 1, 3

Oh, Come, My Soul

Oh, come, my soul, your Savior see
Nailed to your cross on Calvary.
Your pains he bears; Your thorns he wears
That yours a crown of life might be.

Oh, sing, my soul, sing endlessly
The wondrous love that sets you free;
His dying breath Brings life from death,
Makes heav'n your home eternally.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, you truly love us with a perfect love.

C **When we were lost, your love pursued and found us.**

M When we were estranged from you and in danger of hellfire,
C **you sent your Son to suffer the hell we deserve.**

M To this day your love continues to watch over and protect us.
C **Open our eyes to see and our hearts to believe.**

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

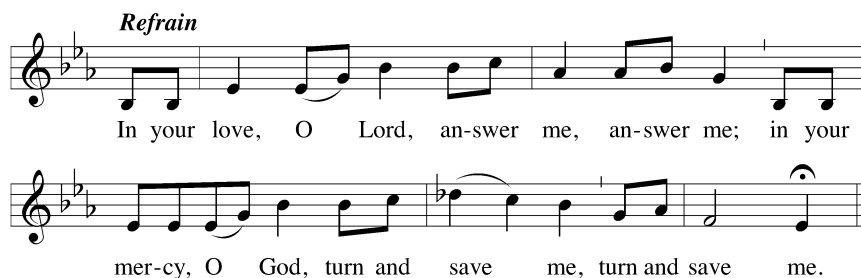


FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17, Bible page 75

God gave the Ten Commandments to protect his people from themselves.

PSALM 69





Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me.

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O LORD Almighty;
may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel.

For zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

Answer me, O LORD, out of the goodness of your love;
in your great mercy turn to me.

Refrain

They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

The LORD hears the needy
and does not despise his captive people.

Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and all that move in them,

for God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah.

I will praise God's name in song
and glorify him with thanksgiving.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-10, Bible page 1132

*When the law condemned us, God sent his Son to do what we could not.
Filled with his Spirit, we are free to carry out God's desires.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 102

Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains

with Brass Ensemble (Sunday)

SERMON

John 2:13-22, Bible page 1064

John 19:25-27, Bible page 1086

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

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.

OFFERTORY (*Sunday*)

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, *Brass Ensemble*
by Hans Leo Hassler

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death
by his obedient death on the cross.

C **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

M Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our
eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

M We pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution
for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for
what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for
their faith and their values as Christians.

C **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M We pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the
depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized
by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort
and hope.**

M We pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social
workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside
the dying.

C Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful, even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our 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 365, vv. 1, 2

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

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.



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELS CONNECTION *Teacher Recruitment*

POSTLUDE (*Sunday*) **Jesus, Priceless Treasure**, *Brass Ensemble*
by Johann Cruger

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday*) *Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Darik Mischke*

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

March 29	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	3:30 and 7:00 pm
March 30	Good Friday	1:00, 3:30, and 7:00 pm
March 31	Easter Vigil *	5:00 pm
April 1	Easter Sunrise *	6:00 am
	Easter Festival	7:45, 9:15 and 10:45 am
	Easter at The Bridge	10:15 am

* The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunrise services will be identical.



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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of March 5, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	String Ensemble Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting (Grace Room)
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	6:00 pm	<i>DivorceCare</i> Ministry (School Classroom 9)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball Adult Open Gym (Trinity Gym)
7:30 pm	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)	
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	12:00 pm	Ladies Afternoon Fellowship (Grace Room)
	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	3:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	4:30 pm	Soup Supper hosted by Stoney Creek Adult Community (Grace Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	<i>Financial Peace University</i> (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran Elementary School Chapel (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	2:00 am	Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set clocks ahead one hour.)
	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:00 am	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
	6:30 pm	TUG – Teens Under God (Trinity Café and Gym)

CHURCH CEMETERY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

All Christmas decorations have been removed from the cemetery. They have been placed behind the historic church if desired.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISMS

The following three baptisms will take place at the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, March 4:
Yulahna May Campbell, born November 25, 2017, daughter of Sherona Campbell and Yusifu Fofanah.
Theodore Roger Pillow, born August 2, 2017, son of Chelsey Bortmann and Edward Pillow.
Reese Elizabeth Schroeder, born October 28, 2017, daughter of Courtney and James Schroeder, Jr..
Milo Metodi Mitov, born January 3, 2018, son of Allyn and Metodi Mitov will be baptized after the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, March 4.
We praise God for the gift of saving faith given to Milo, Reese, Theodore, and Yulahna through the waters of baptism and God's Word. God bless and keep them.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Hahn is at St. Luke's, Norman Boye at Froedtert, Ariannah Kain at Children's, Ken Klement at Waukesha Memorial, Brittany Michaels at Froedtert, and Margaret Kujath is rehabbing at Waukesha Linden Grove. Kay Neuberger has been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

983 attended last weekend's worship services. 377 attended midweek Lenten services.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Tom Goodman, Janelle Gray, John Hansen, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Judith Lauber, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Cheri Sorensen, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

DIVINE CALL EXTENDED FOR OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Last Wednesday, the Lord of the Church, through our School Ministry Action Team and Ministry Board, extended a divine call to Mr. Dan Rick to serve as our next 7th grade homeroom teacher and athletic director. Mr. Rick currently serves as principal, athletic director, and 5th-8th grade teacher at St. John's in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Thank you for keeping him in your prayers over the next few weeks as he considers this call to serve our students and families.

SING PRAISES IN THE CHOIR ON EASTER SUNDAY

The St. Paul's Easter Festival Choir is open to anyone in 8th grade on up. Rehearsals are Sundays at 8:00 am in the Faith Room and Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the church balcony, now through Easter. Contact Michele Eiche at meiche4@wi.rr.com or Pastor Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

THRIVENT MEMBERS – CHOICE DOLLARS

Now is the time to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to the ministry you would like to support. Please visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more information on the process for designating your Choice Dollars. St. Paul's thanks you for over \$6,000 in Thrivent Choice funds given to St. Paul's ministries last year.

SCHOOL OF EARLY LEARNING TEACHERS AID OPENING

SOEL is hiring a year-round, full-time, teachers aide for the Infant Room. Hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Experience in childcare or a related field is preferred. Contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, to apply. You may also stop by the SOEL office located in the east wing of the church to pick up an application.

VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYM

Adult volleyball open gym starts Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 -10:00 pm, in the Trinity Gym. Cost is 2 dollars per person. Court 1 will be Competitive A; Court 2 will be Level B. Volleyball open gym will continue on Tuesdays through April 24. No open gym on March 27 or April 3.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT — *LURED*...

During our Wednesday Lenten services we are taking a closer look at temptation, its source, its power, and God's answer to it with our series, *Lured*. Join us Wednesdays at 3:30 and 7:00 pm, with this Wednesday's sermon theme *No One Exempt from Lures*, based on Mark 14:32-42.



ENJOY A SOUP SUPPER BETWEEN SERVICES

Enjoy a warm meal and camaraderie with your friends between our Wednesday Lenten services, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, in the Grace Room. A free will offering is gathered at the soup supper to help defray the cost of the food and to support the ministry of the hosting group. Stoney Creek Adult Community will be hosting this Wednesday's soup supper with proceeds going toward our Mexican Mission Partner Costa Maya Ministries.

SUNDAYS IN LENT — *LOVE*...

Our Sunday Lenten series on love continues next weekend with *Love Embraces All*, based on John 3:14-21 and Luke 23:43. We say we love all people, but when push comes to shove, we're pretty selective about where we choose to love and the people we choose to hang out with. Jesus' love was different. Dig in deeper next weekend.



EASTER FOR KIDS – SATURDAY, MARCH 24

- Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 to 11:45 am, at the school
- 3-12 years old (3K- 6th Grade)
- The Easter story, Easter crafts, singing, games, snacks, and fun!
- Register on the church's homepage at www.stpaulmuskego.org, complete the back of your Connection Card, or contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.
- If you'd like to assist with this fun and faith-strengthening event, mark the back of your Connection Card or contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.



EASTER FLOWERS

Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center if you would like to purchase one of the flowers that will beautify the altar on Easter Sunday. The flowers will be placed at the altar for all Easter services and may be picked up after the 10:45 am Easter worship service. Payment should be made out to St. Paul's and placed in the provided envelopes marked, "Easter Flowers," available at the Welcome Center. A lock box is there for you to place your payment.

MALAWI MISSION PARTNER COMMUNIQUE AT THE WELCOME CENTER

The latest update from our Malawi mission partner is available at the Welcome Center. Thank you for your continued generous support of this important mission work. If you would like to give an offering towards the Malawi mission, mark your envelope, "Malawi Mission Partner," before placing it in the offering plate or donate online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/ways-to-give.

LIGHTHOUSE SUPPERS – A GREAT WAY TO GIVE

Five St. Paul's groups have hosted or will host a Friday night supper for our young brothers and sisters at the Lighthouse Youth Center at Garden Homes: Neal Wallner Small Group, Jean Curtis and students from Wisconsin Lutheran High School, God's Guys Saturday Bible Study, Kids Club Staff, and St. Paul's Lutheran School Student Council. If you or your group would like to join in this much-needed and fulfilling effort, either by producing a supper or financially contributing to one, please contact Dr. Joel Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.



Lighthouse Youth Center at Garden Homes thanks St. Paul's God's Guys Saturday men's Bible study and the staff of Kids Club for providing Friday night suppers in January and February.

GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST

Mark your Connection Card to register or to receive more information.
You may also call the church office at (414) 422-0320.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE: A STUDY OF MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

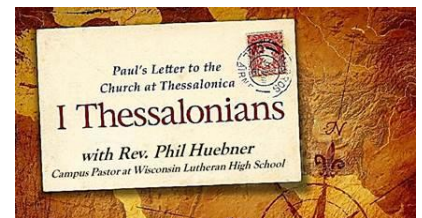
Following the Promise will help you trace the promise of the Savior through the Bible all the way into your own life. This also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Nate Strobel is leading this study in the Faith Room on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Read a section of Scripture each week and discuss it as a group with Pastor Pete Panitzke leading. New participants are always welcome. Attend on Mondays at 7:00 pm or Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the Grace Room.

STUDY I THESSALONIANS IN MARCH

Join Wisconsin Lutheran High School Campus Pastor Phil Huebner in looking at how the Apostle Paul encouraged a new mission congregation to band together as a family of believers in difficult times, waiting for Christ's return. This special letter will encourage us to do the same. *I Thessalonians* will be offered the Sundays in March, 9:15-10:15 am, in the Grace Room.



STRONG FAMILIES - BLESSED LIVES

Dr. Joel Nelson is leading this Parent's Club study on Sundays at 9:15 am (same time as Kids Club) in school classroom 9. Explore the characteristics that make a family healthy and strong.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES IN CHURCH LIBRARY

Check out the church library, located across the hall from the Faith Room, to find resources on display that expand on our Bible class topics currently being offered.

MOMMY & ME

Mommy & Me is a new social, spiritual, and service-oriented ministry for moms of young children — infant through age five. The group meets at St. Paul's on Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 am, in the Faith Room. Contact Sam Lindner at sam.lindner2323@gmail.com or (989) 284-2854 for more information.

DIVORCECARE

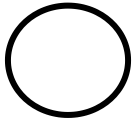
If you are divorced or contemplating divorce, we are here for you. This is a support group for individuals, rather than couples. *DivorceCare* meets Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, in school classroom 9. Contact Kristen Miller at kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org, or (414) 422-0320 for more information.

LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP MEETS WEDNESDAY

The monthly Ladies Afternoon Fellowship meeting is Wednesday, March 7, at noon in the Grace Room. Come and meet two Martin Luther College students on our campus for a week of early field experience. Bring a sandwich, enjoy the provided dessert, and go home with an Easter craft. Please bring scissors to assist with the craft. Contact Jan Lampe at jlampe4@wi.rr.com or (414) 517-1036 with questions.

ENROLL NOW FOR PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is open for our 3K to 8th grade Lutheran school. School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons would love to give you a tour of our school facilities and answer any questions you may have. He can be reached at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, or sfittsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org. You may also find more information and register online at www.stpmuskego.org/tads.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters based on today's message

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

1. Share highs and lows from your past week and begin your time together in prayer.

2. This week in the “Love is…” series, we learned about how “Love Protects.” Can you think of a time in your own life that you’ve become protective of something or someone you love? Share that experience with your group.

3. Read John 2:13-22.
 - a. Do you agree that this account displays what true love is? Why or why not?

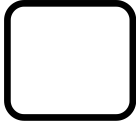
 - b. Pastor Bonack shared that the word for “protects” in 1 Corinthians 13 means “to cover.” What is Jesus covering or protecting in this account?

4. What are some ways that our church does a good job of showing loving protection to our members and community? What are some ways we could do better at this?

5. Read John 19:25-27. Who has God placed in your life right now that is experiencing brokenness and might need this kind of protective love from you?

6. Love protects, covers over a multitude of sins by refusing to allow anger and bitterness to poison our hearts, when love chooses instead, in view of Jesus’ great forgiving love, to let it go, to trust God to make it right instead of trying to exact vengeance ourselves. Think of a time that forgiving someone increased your ability to love as Jesus commands. Share your experience with your group.

7. Look at the three “Next Steps” at the bottom of the sermon notes in your worship folder and make a commitment to pursue them this week. Partner with someone in your group to pray daily about this goal!



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Love Protects

John 2:13-22, page 1064
John 19:25-27, page 1086

Love stands strong when spiritual dangers threaten.

Love is a r_____. It shields those inside by warding off dangers from the outside.

God's house is to be a place where people come to understand the t_____ about God.

Love helps others see and experience God's l_____ and g_____.

Love defends the truth of God's w_____ for our lives.

What is the spoken or unspoken message of our lives?

Love covers every offense with God's forgiving love.

Love shields those who are b_____.

Jesus covers (atones for) the brokenness of our sin by covering us with his b_____.

Jesus' love instructs us to live his f_____, covering over a multitude of sins.

What's your plan to live this love? Who will help you "protect" that plan?

Next Steps

- **The Message of My Life.** Is there a spoken or unspoken message in your life? Take a good, honest look within. Are there things you do or say that make others feel that your love is conditional? Are you allowing others in your life to hurt themselves because you don't want to confront them? Are you open to someone lovingly warning you about your own sin? You can't change if you don't see the problem.
- **The Plan.** What specifically will you do to show the kind of love we talked about today? What changes are you going to ask God's Holy Spirit to help you make? What do you need to start doing? What do you need to stop?
- **Protect Your Plan.** God gave us each other to help us grow. **"Iron sharpens iron"** (Proverbs 27:17). Who will be your accountability partner and protect your specific plan to live God's love in your life? Who will help to sharpen you? Your plan isn't complete until this person is in place.