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## UNDEFEATED

### BY SKEPTICISM

March 7 and 8, 2020

*Apart from Satan, we have no greater enemy than ourselves. Our sinful nature causes us to doubt—ourselves, doubt others, and even doubt God. Satan loves to use this skepticism to rob God's Word of its power in our lives. But our Lord God is stronger than any of our doubts. And he continues to fight for our faith through the power of Word and Sacrament.*

#### BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 339, vv. 1-3

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

M In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

M Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

C **Whose sins are covered.**

M Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him

C **And in whose spirit is no deceit.**

M When I kept silent my bones wasted away

C **Through my groaning all day long.**

M For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

C **My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

M Then I acknowledged my sin to you

C **And did not cover up my iniquity.**

M I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" —

C **And you forgave the guilt of my sin (Psalm 32:1-5).**

M Lord God, because it was for our sin that Jesus endured the mind-numbing anguish of the passion, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, our reluctance to bear the cross.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M Forgive the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and your Word and Sacrament, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in our condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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: A - men.

M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

#### SONG OF PRAISE 339, V. 4

#### Today Your Mercy Calls Us

**O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

God of heaven, Lord of our salvation, you came into a hostile world to bring peace and comfort. You came to seek and to save the lost.

C **Thank you for sending Jesus to seek and to save us.**

M Be with us in your love and keep us mindful of your forgiveness.

C **Help us to drink deeply today from you living water that our thirst for you and your forgiving love may be thoroughly quenched.**

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.



## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, Bible page 1129**

*Despite the seeming impossibility of God fulfilling his promise, Abraham believed and his faith was credited to him as righteousness.*

### VERSE OF THE DAY

M Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross (*Philippians 2:8b*).

### GOSPEL

**John 6:1-13, Bible page 1068**

*Jesus feeds the 5000.*

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



### HYMN OF THE DAY 391

**God Loved the World So that He Gave**

### SERMON

**Genesis 12:1-8, Bible page 11**

### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us**

and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### OFFERING

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### 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.

#### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.  
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -  
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

O LORD, WE PRAISE YOU

1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you,  
 In thanks-giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your  
 bod - y and your blood you nour-ish Our weak souls that they may  
 flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy! May your  
 bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our sins and sor - rows  
 did car - ry, And your blood for us plead  
 In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!

M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

## 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

**PREACHER** *Pastor Nate Strobel*

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

**TODAY'S MUSIC**     **Joy and Elation** by *Cynthia Dobrinski*  
                              **Nearer My God to Thee with I Need Thee Every Hour** by *Karissa Dennis*

## OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

*The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.*

*We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes called *Following the Promise* to provide an overview of our teachings. *Following the Promise* is currently meeting on Sundays at 8:00 am and Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Contact Pastor Nate Strobel at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org) to let him know of your interest.*

*If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of *Christian Worship* to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.*

*The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pew in the left center section is reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of March 9, 2020

<b>MON</b>		No Lutheran School – Teacher Work Day
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Strings Rehearsal
<b>TUE</b>	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:00 am	Pastor Circuit Meeting (Grace Room)
	12:00 pm	Organization of Wisconsin Lutheran Seniors—OWLS (Grace Room)
	6:00 pm	<i>DivorceCare</i> (School Classroom #8)
	6:30 pm	Handbells Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	6:30 pm	Volleyball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Parent’s Informational Meeting (Grace Room)
7:45 pm	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)	
<b>WED</b>	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service with Holy Communion
	4:30 pm	Soup Supper (hosted by Lutheran School Unity leaders)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service with Holy Communion
	7:00 pm	High School Boys Basketball
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble
<b>THURS</b>	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:00 am	Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
<b>FRI</b>	8:15 am	LES Chapel (Main Church)
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am	Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 am	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (School Classroom #8)
	8:00 am	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service	



# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## BAPTISM

Josephine Lauren Giuliani, daughter of Matthew and Sarah (nee Rottier) Giuliani, was born December 23, 2019, and will be baptized at The Bridge on Sunday, March 8.

Aryana Aundrea Smith, daughter of Andrew and Jessica (nee Schneider) Smith, was born and baptized March 2, 2020.

We celebrate with the Giuliani and Smith families the saving faith given to Josephine and Aryana and ask the Lord to bless and keep them all their days.

## FUNERALS

Roger Rasmussen, born September 14, 1945, and his wife Kathy Rasmussen, born May 17, 1947, received the gift of eternal peace and joy with their Savior on February 28, 2020, and March 1, 2020, respectively. A Christian funeral for both was held Friday, March 6. May our God of all comfort and hope be with the loved ones of Roger and Kathy.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Steve Drobka, Carol Gosseck, Janelle Gray, Lois Guhr, Connie Hikade, Josh Nagel, Judy Schmidt, Jeanne Steinbrecher, Dick Sternberg, and Al Wolfsohn.

## HOSPITALIZED

Marlene Sobczak is at Linden Grove Mukwonago, and Audrey Wefel is at Oconomowoc Memorial. Jessica Smith and baby Aryana and Tom Ludwig have been discharged from the hospital.

## ATTENDANCE

1109 were in attendance at last week's worship services. 367 attended midweek Lenten services.

## SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

We have a staffed nursery of friendly caregivers during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the East Wing of the church. An usher will be happy to direct you if needed.

## CONFIRMATION PARENT'S MEETING – MARCH 10 AT 7:00 PM

Pastor Kuehl requests at least one parent attend this meeting being held in the Grace Room. Please bring cash or check to pay for confirmation costs. If you are unable to attend, please contact Pastor Kuehl at 414-422-0320, ext. 121.

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Join the *Following the Promise* class where you are sure to grow in your understanding of the truths of God's Word and his promises for you and all people. The class meets **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm** in the Faith Room and now **Sundays at 8:00 am** in school classroom #8. Please text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236 or mark the back of your Connection Card to let us know of your interest.

## GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY: PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

Join Dan Kolosovsky in a study of Colossians: Lord Over All Who Brings Full Forgiveness to All. Sundays, 9:15 to 10:15 am from March 8 – April 5.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## **OPEN REGISTRATION AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

Registration is open for the 2020-21 school year for our 3K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Lutheran school. Principal Seth Fitzsimmons would love to give you a tour of our school facilities and answer any questions you may have. Multiple avenues of financial assistance are available including the Milwaukee and Wisconsin School Choice programs. Contact Mr. Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320 or [sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org).

## **HOPE AND HEALING IN THE HURT OF DIVORCE – TUESDAY EVENINGS**

*DivorceCare* has started a new 13-week session on Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in school classroom 8. Contact Kristen Miller at [kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org), or (414) 422-0320, ext. 130, for more information. Come when you can; each week can stand alone in its content.

## **OWLS MEET TUESDAY**

Are you 55 or older? Join the OWLS (Organization of WELS Seniors) for a lunch on Tuesday, March 10 at noon. Our afternoon speaker is Synod Archivist Susan Willens.

## **CHURCH CEMETERY WREATHS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

It is that time of year again to remove all Christmas wreaths and arrangements from the cemetery. After March 18, any remaining ones will be placed behind the old church.

## **WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**

Join us for worship at 3:30 or 7 pm. This week's Soup Supper between services will be hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran School Unity.

A host is needed for one soup supper yet; March 18. Contact Tammy Miller at [tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org) or 414-422-0320, ext. 111, for more information.

## **HELP WITH EASTER FOR KIDS 2020!**

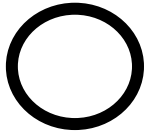
St. Paul's Easter For Kids 2020 is happening Saturday, April 4, 9:00-11:45 am, at the school for ages 3-12. This year's event celebrates Jesus victory over sin, death, and hell for all people featuring a "Gospel Magic Show" crafts, singing, games using real parachutes, snacks, and an Easter story video. Register on the back of your Connection Card. If you'd like to help, contact Dr. Joel Nelson at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org). Last year 112 children attended and were served by 32 adult and teen volunteers.

## **EASTER FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**

We are in an immediate need of additional choir and orchestra members! Choir rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:45 pm and Sunday mornings at 8:00 am. Instrumental rehearsals vary depending on the instrument you play. Please contact Heidi Schuh, Worship Volunteer Coordinator at [hschuh@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:hschuh@stpaulmuskego.org) or 414-422-0320 ext 115 if you can help.

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Purchase one or more 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. Sign-up sheets are available at a table in the lobby. Payment should be made out to St. Paul's and placed in the envelopes marked, "Easter Flowers," then placed in the lock box provided. Please contact Heidi Schuh, Worship Volunteer Coordinator at [hschuh@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:hschuh@stpaulmuskego.org) or 414-422-0320 ext 115, if you have any questions



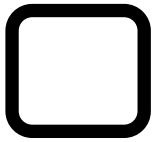
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. Share your high's and low's from the past week and begin your time together in prayer.
2. Today's message is about skepticism and doubt when it comes to the will, the plan and the love of God. How do you handle doubts in your life?
3. Read Hebrews 11:8-12 and Romans 4:18-21. Can you identify with any of the acts of faith listed in these verses? If so, how? If not, where has God been nudging you to trust him more with your life lately?
4. The best cure for doubt is having a closer walk with God through his word as the Almighty "bends our ears and informs our hearts". How can you have a closer walk with God this week? How do these thoughts roll into our earthly relationships as well?
5. Read Genesis 15:1-3 and 16:1-4. In skepticism and doubt, Abram was open to adoption to assist God in fulfilling his promise. In the end, Sarai won out with the plan for a surrogate. How well did that doubt work out? Lessons for our lives?
6. Break up into groups of 2-3 to share your current struggles with doubt. Pray for each other that God will strengthen your faith to overcome these struggles!



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## Undefeated by Skepticism

Genesis 12:1-8

### “LORD, GIVE US VICTORY IN THE MIDST OF DOUBT”

“I’m living someone else’s dream!”



#### 1. “Like Abram, Let Us Walk with You!”

##### A. The Lord’s Will Is FULL of Challenges

The “bigness” of b\_\_\_\_\_ and of d\_\_\_\_\_

##### B. The Lord’s Will Is All About TEACHING

His t\_\_\_\_\_ is everything. His v\_\_\_\_\_ is eternal.

**APPLICATION** Are your doubts *practical* or *philosophical*? Or even *spiritual*?

#### 2. “Like Abram, May You Walk with Us!”

##### A. Speak With Us as You Spoke With Him

We’d like a v\_\_\_\_\_ in the night!

Show us your h\_\_\_\_\_ in the written Word.

##### B. Sharpen Us for Heaven as You Sharpened Him

The O\_\_\_\_\_ of the woman!

The city with foundations whose A\_\_\_\_\_ and b\_\_\_\_\_ is God!



**APPLICATION** Whose voice has our ear? At whose feet do we sit?

**CONCLUSION** “Set your minds on things above” is a bold prayer! Are you ready to pray?

### My Next Steps



- **Read John 21:4-23**, preferably with a friend. “Sift” the words and the heart of the Savior. Regarding what TWO things did Jesus want Peter to have *no doubts*? Share your thoughts on the love behind Jesus’ *crucial conversations*.
- **Tackle your doubts.** Seek out one of your pastors or another scriptural friend and together ask God to inform your minds by his Word and to strengthen your faith by his promises.

**Agree/Disagree: Faith is “blind” trust.** Explain your answer. (see Hebrews 11:1)