

Message Notes

Undefeated by Spiritual Blindness

John 9, Bible page 869

What do you see?

1. The LORD of Justice?

- a. Who sinned? The lessons from _____!
- b. Who sinned? A lesson for _____!

2. The LORD of Mercy?

- a. Wash? Can the Lord show _____ mercy?
- b. Wash! Can the Lord show mercy _____ me?

3. The LORD of Glory?

- a. "Lord, I believe!"
- b. "Are we blind too?"

My Next Steps to an Undefeated Life

- **Admit your fears:** God's people have been afraid in the past. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 and work through the GroupWork questions so that the LORD our God calms our fears.
- **Wash!** Memorize Acts 22:16, "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." By faith go back to your baptism and claim again that your sins are washed away.
- **Glorify!** Ask the Lord to open your eyes to opportunities to show love to family members, friends, co-workers and classmates who will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Let the Savior's love be evident in your love for those who are in need.

Today at The Bridge

Welcome

Band Leader: Mike Westendorf

Who You Say I Am

by Hillsong Worship

Worthy of Your Name

by Passion

Greeting

Pastor Nate Strobel

Offering

Connection Cards

The Connection Card is an excellent way to communicate with us! Each Connection Card is handled with care and seen by our pastors. Just place the card in the blue bucket as you leave today.

Blind

by Jars of Clay

The Message

**Undefeated
By Spiritual Blindness
John 9, Bible page 869
Pastor Pete Panitzke**

I Will Wait For You (Psalm 130)

by Shane & Shane

News

Holy Week Worship Services

April 9 Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion 3:30 & 7 pm

April 10 Good Friday 1:00, 3:30, and 7:00 pm

April 11 Easter Vigil * 5:00 pm

**April 12 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

Wednesdays In Lent

Join us for worship on Wednesdays at 3:30 or 7:00 pm. Walk with Jesus through his final hours. Hear the Passion History, compilations of the four Gospels on the sufferings of Christ, between the night of the Last Supper and his death. Come and be reminded of all that our Savior suffered so that you can declare “undefeated” as your status. No soup suppers for the remainder of Lent.

Following the Promise – Now on Sundays Too

Invite someone to join you for the next Following the Promise class where you will be 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. Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236 or mark the back of your Connection Card to let us know of your interest.

Hospitality Training – Remember to RSVP

Ushers and Welcome Team members, Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 am is our hospitality training event you don’t want to miss. RSVP by March 19 with Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 294.

Group Work

- c. The Lord gave Jahaziel a great prophecy (verses 15-17). What promises of the LORD our God comfort you as you think about COVID-19 and its possible effects on you and those whom you love? After sharing your own promises, look up the following and comment on how they can comfort us.

Psalm 145:8-9

Psalm 145:14

Psalm 145:15-16

Psalm 145:18-20

- d. God’s promises enabled King Jehoshaphat to meet his enemies with thanksgiving (2 Chronicles 20:20-21). Let us meet the challenges of COVID-19 with that same spirit of thanksgiving, confident that the LORD our God hears and already knows how he will answer our cries for help. Join in reading Psalm 103 as your song of praise.

Group Work

1. Talk about the fears and concerns that people have because of COVID-19. Then pray together this prayer sent out from our church body:

Lord God, our Redeemer and Protector, we come to you seeking the help that only you can give. We ask that you spare people in our country and around the world from any harm to body and soul. Grant healing and comfort to those who may be afflicted with this or any other disease. Be with those who care for the sick and keep them from danger. Give wisdom and steadfastness to our nation's leaders and a spirit of courage and cooperation to our communities. Calm our fears of the unknown. Use your Word to work in us a strong faith and trust in your promise to use all things to work for the good of those who love you. We can be confident in you and your promises in this uncertain and difficult time because of the love and faithfulness you demonstrated in sending your Son to the cross for us and for all people. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, our Refuge and Strength. Amen.

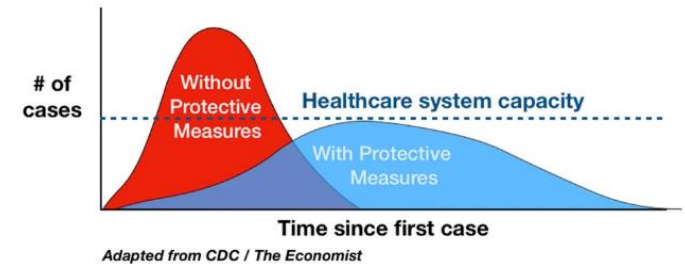
2. This is a time of great uncertainty regarding our health and the health of our loved ones as well as the economic fallout. King Jehoshaphat of Judah experienced that kind of uncertainty. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.
 - a. What was the crisis King Jehoshaphat faced?
 - b. People "came together to seek help from the Lord." What phrases stand out to you in Jehoshaphat's prayer in verses 5 – 12?

Coronavirus and the Call to Love

COVID 19 and Those Most at Risk

For the vast majority of patients, COVID 19 may not pose a serious health risk. However, the CDC reports: "Older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example — seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness."¹

COVID 19 and our Nation's Health System



"Flattening the curve" is the goal of all the measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Health officials hope to spread out new infections so that our health care system is not overwhelmed. For example, in northern Italy, hospitals have run out of ICU beds and ventilators to treat COVID 19 patients.²

Out of Love for Others

While there may not be an immediate threat to you, out of love for those who are at higher risk and out of love for our community, we at St. Paul's want to do all that we can to slow the spread of the virus when it arrives in our community. Now is the time to act since we do not know when it will arrive.

St. Paul's Staff Response

Disinfectants used by our cleaning crews are rated to kill the coronavirus on surfaces. We will be also be encouraging all staff and volunteers to frequently wash their hands and stay home if sick. We will continue to monitor communication from the Centers for Disease Control and our local governments to determine any next steps.

¹ Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

² NBC News: <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/what-flatten-curve-chart-shows-how-critical-it-everyone-fight-n1155636>

Coronavirus and the Call to Love

Your Part in our Response

1. If you have any type of symptoms of coughing, sneezing, fever, nausea, achiness, or any flu-like symptom, stay home.
2. Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands often.
3. Say “hello.” When asked if churches should be limiting activities like shaking hands, Surgeon General Jerome Adams responded, “It is prudent to limit touching, especially hand-to-hand.”³ While shaking hands and hugs are part of our culture, feel free to simply say, “hello” rather than make physical contact. For the time being, our greeters will not be shaking hands with all who enter.
4. Communion practices:
 - a. Communion distributors will be reminded to wash their hands immediately before distribution.
 - b. The distributor will place the bread in your hand rather than place it on your tongue. We will use only individual communion cups.
 - c. We will suspend kneeling at the altar rail during this time. Instructions will be given at our next communion services the weekend of March 29.
5. We will cancel our last three Lenten soup suppers.
6. We ask everyone to complete a connection card so that we have an accurate record of everyone attending our services if it becomes necessary to track anyone exposed to the coronavirus.

Your Worship Patterns

You may determine that is best for you to alter your worship pattern. Perhaps you will want to worship at a service with a smaller attendance. Typically, our Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 7:45 and 10:45 am, and Wednesday 7 pm services have a smaller attendance. A smaller attendance may allow you to leave more space between you and other worshippers.

³ From *Christianity Today*:
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2020/march/your-church-and-coronavirus-advice-for-churches-from-surgeon.html>

Coronavirus and the Call to Love

As the disease progresses, more individuals, especially those in the “at risk” population, may need to worship online. You can watch The Bridge service live on Sundays at 10:15 am:

- TheBridgeMuskego.org/live-stream/
- Facebook: The Bridge at St. Paul’s Muskego

This week we will also begin recording the entire traditional service. Find it at StPaulMuskego.org/past-messages/sermons/. Recordings of entire Bridge services are available on our YouTube Channel: The Bridge Church Muskego.

Help Those Who Don’t Have Access

If you have a friend or family member who does not have internet access, you can bring the worship to them on your smartphone or tablet. If you or a friend or family member is unable to worship because of coronavirus infection, please contact the church office (414-422-0320 or use the contact form at StPaulMuskego.org) and let us know so that we can continue to serve them with the Lord’s Supper.

Gathering Offerings

Rather than pass the blue bucket during the service, we will ask our ushers to stand at the doors with the blue buckets to receive your offering. Consider using our online giving options for one-time or recurring gifts from your checking or savings account (most cost effective for St. Paul’s) or credit card. You can also text a dollar amount (example \$25) to 414-316-6733.

An Overabundance of Caution?

While this may seem too much to some, we as a congregation want to be sensitive to the needs of those most at risk in our own St. Paul’s family and the reputation of God’s church. “If we are reckless and allow our churches to become centers of disease, then we damage the reputation of the Gospel in our communities.”⁴

⁴ “Religious bodies have heaped shame on themselves in Asia. In Singapore and Korea, huge shares of the infected became infected via religious gatherings. In many cases, these were Christian gatherings.” (“Prepare Your Church for COVID 19,” a paper produced by a Lutheran missionary in Hong Kong.)