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IF... THEN...

I LIVE A NEW LIFE

April 26, 2020

This world is driven by selfishness and the fear that I won't have what I need or want. Why has there been a shortage of toilet paper? In the risen Christ we have all that we really need. We are forgiven and loved eternally. Heaven is our home. God is our Father. These truths change our lives! Renewed in the image of Christ, we know and live in God's power, his mercy and his faithful love. I have all that I need.

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 141

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight;
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!**

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

C Amen

Confession of Sins

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Scriptures teach us that we have been buried with Christ through baptism into his death and to live a new life of faith through the power of his resurrection.

C **We have been given divine power to live a holy and a God-pleasing life.**

M Yet, we fail to tap into that power giving the old sinful nature the opportunity to influence and even control us. The fruits of that nature include sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy (Galatians 5:19). Our sin brings God's wrath and his condemnation down upon us. Yet, in Christ, God's mercies are new every morning. Let us, therefore, humble ourselves before the Lord of all creation and 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.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY



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 Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



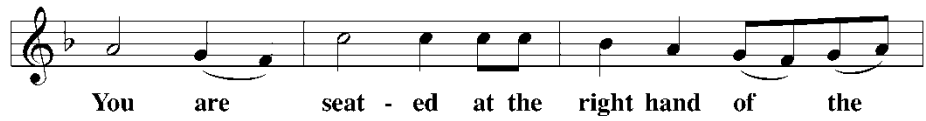
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



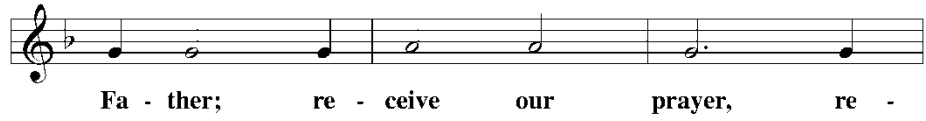
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



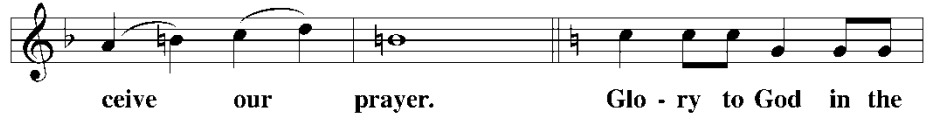
world; have mer - cy on us.



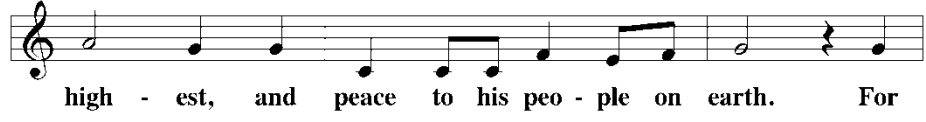
You are seated at the right hand of the



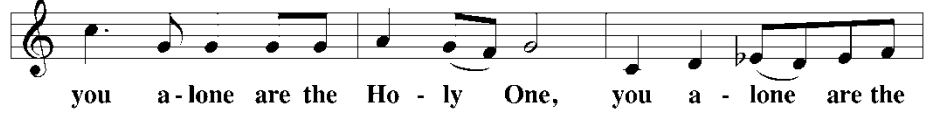
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -



ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For



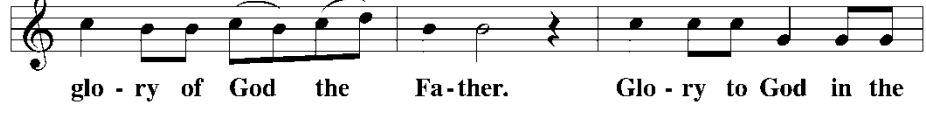
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



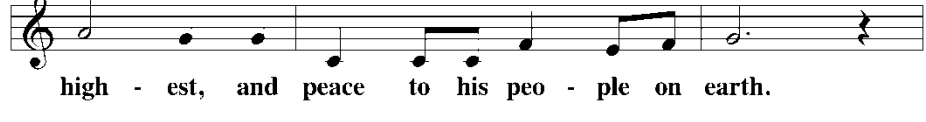
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



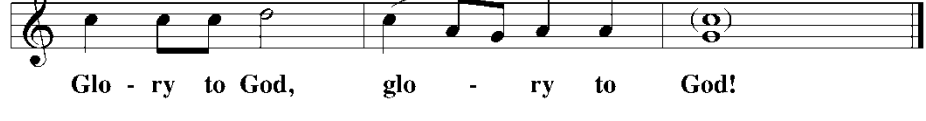
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you have made many powerful and beautiful promises to us.

C These promises speak peace and hope to our hearts as we journey through life in a world of sorrow and pain.

M Help us believe that you will keep every one of these promises

C so that we live in joyful confidence seeking to do what we were made to do—to live lives that glorify you.

M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C Amen

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 36-47

Through Peter as his mouthpiece, the Holy Spirit brings many people to faith in the resurrected Christ and to baptism. Thus, the church is born, enjoying the blessings of Spirit-wrought community and fellowship.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

³⁶“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (Luke 24:32 cf. NIV)

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus appears to two of his disciples on Easter Sunday as they sadly make their way home to Emmaus. As Jesus speaks with them and opens up their understanding of the Scripture, they receive new hope and clearer insight into who Jesus was and what his death and resurrection mean for their lives.

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^(a) from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

Renew me, O eternal Light,
 And let my heart and soul be bright,
 Illumined with the light of grace
 That issues from your holy face.

Destroy in me the lust of sin;
 From all impureness make me clean.
 Oh, grant me pow'r and strength, my God,
 To strive against my flesh and blood.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
 That gladly I obey your Word.
 Oh, let your will be my desire
 And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love
 And seek those things which are above
 Till I behold you face to face,
 O Light eternal, through your grace.

SERMON

I Peter 1:17-25

*Pastor Nathan Strobel***Be Holy**

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^(b) ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

"All people are like grass,
 and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
 the grass withers and the flowers fall,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever."^(c)
 And this is the word that was preached to you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord God, you give us each day to live in your service and for the good of mankind.

C **We are indeed poor tools of your grace and mercy and deserve to be cast aside.**

M Forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake and by your Spirit grant us the fitness to work for you.

C **Make us mindful that we are but strangers and pilgrims in this world.**

M Let us not devote our efforts to purposes unworthy of you.

C **Let us not gather treasures merely for this world.**

M But, Lord, fasten our hearts and hopes on the life that is in you,

C **that our living and loving may be shaped by the treasures of your love and by your promise of an eternal home for all who believe.**

ALL **As long as we live in the land of our pilgrimage, hold our hands, guide our steps and bring us safely to your side for Jesus' sake. 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 525

The Son Of God, Our Christ

**The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the way,
Shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
From common folk he called his friends to be
Co-workers in his sacred ministry.**

**In ev'ry test, in trials manifold,
These servants witnessed, by their faith made bold;
And with the gifts and talents which they brought,
The Church was founded and God's message taught.**

**Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
To follow boldly and his work to share,
Declaring to the world his holy name
And showing mercy to the sick and lame.**

**In city street, in town, or on the soil,
May each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,**

And in each thought and kindly word and deed,
Obey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.

Where'er we find our witness should be made,
Whate'er our task, the Lord will be our aid,
And we will gladly give for him our best
And find each task divinely sent and blessed.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Jesus, you came to us today and poured out the riches of your love and grace in your Word.

C **In you we truly have all that we need and more!**

M Empower us as your forgiven children to live to your glory.

C **May the light of your love shine in us and through us.**

M We bless you now and forevermore.

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.

We desire to serve you in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

ST. PAUL'S PASTORS *Office (414) 422-0320*

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 303-1241
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Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 426-8236

Or you may contact us anytime via our website [here](#).



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.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WITH US!

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile”
(1 Corinthians 15:17).

Let God’s Word continue to give you an answer to this great
“if” of Easter.



Join us in the following weeks as we see the change...as we see the “then” that Jesus’ resurrection brings to our lives:

- Then I entrust my life to the Good Shepherd – 1 Peter 2:19-25 (May 3)
- Then I live a meaningful life – 1 Peter 2:4-10 (May 10)
- Then I live always prepared to answer – 1 Peter 3:15-22 (May 17)
- Then I will end my life well – 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11 (May 24)

Online Worship

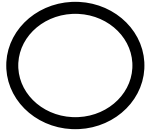
All online worship resources are available on our [website](#).

We encourage you to participate in worship at the time you would normally worship. The worship folders for all services are available for download on our website for you to follow along.

The Bridge, our modern/casual worship experience, is shown live on Sundays at 10:15 am on The Bridge [website](#), Facebook at The Bridge at St. Paul’s, and now also on our [YouTube channel](#). The service is also available for viewing later at any time on each platform.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please don’t hesitate to contact one of our pastors or use the contact form at the bottom of our [website](#). We have a team of dedicated prayer warriors ready to pray for you. If you would like to keep your prayer requests confidential among the pastors, check the applicable box.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. If you are doing this GroupWork in a virtual group or a home family group, begin by telling each other one thing you are thankful for from the past week. If you are doing GroupWork solo, begin by telling God about one thing you are thankful for!

2. This week's message introduces the thought that "Where I am FROM shapes how I live." Have some fun and share the harmless and humorous influences of your past on WHO you are. As you are able and comfortable, share the "not so harmless" influences you have had to fight.

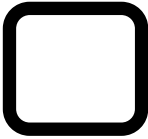
3. Read Luke 9:57-62.
 - What do you think Jesus meant by the words in v. 58?

 - Recall a time when you have experienced something like this. What Word of God did the Spirit use to "reorient" your compass?

4. Pastor Nate used the analogy that this life is like a camping trip. If you love camping, it's easy to fall in love with a nature escape and forget about our earthly home. How does our loving God help keep us focused on our true Heavenly home? What has God's "focusing" looked like for you personally?

5. Read I Corinthians 2:6-10. What kind of picture do these verses, especially v. 9, paint in your mind of our eternal home?

6. If "heaven is my home and I truly have all that I need," what is one thing you can do this week in response to the words of John 13:34-35, and in response to the needs of your community, in the middle of the pandemic? Any ideas for St. Paul's in how to love?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Muskego, WI

I Peter 1:17-25

WE LIVE IN AWE OF OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

TRUE or FALSE: *Where I am FROM shapes HOW I live?*

1. *Mindful of This Temporary Life*

A. Some of Us LOVE to Camp

Danger! Warning! Some of us **L**_____ it here!

B. Our Father Keeps Us Focused on Home

So our Father allows the winds of this life to **F**_____ the tent with us in it!

APPLICATION IF the pandemic had not happened...would we be *AS* focused on our status as redeemed children of God?

2. *Filled With Genuine Love*

A. "YOU First!"

If I have heaven, what more do I truly **N**_____?

B. What Is "Of God" Lasts

Peter encourages us to love *mindfully*. *Genuine love is a T*_____ *thing!*

APPLICATION How well are we *loving* in this pandemic?

CONCLUSION Where I am from shapes how I live? TRUE! **And that is the Word that was preached to you.**

Next Steps

- **I: Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-7.** Paul picks up the "tenting theme" of this life. What insights does he provide for us as we "live out our time"?
- **II. Read Acts 7:51-60.** "There's no place like home." How did Stephen's citizenship in heaven drive him toward his death, yet comfort him in that reality?
- **III. Make a List** of the things of this life that "pull at you" and tempt you to forget about "home". Which items on the list are sins to be repented of? Which items are distractions of this world for you to manage better to God's glory?