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BE A PART OF THE STORY – ACT II EMPOWERED

April 14, 15, and 18, 2018

Peter's Act I was marked by a cowardly denial of Christ. But his Act II was filled with a courageous sermon that launched the church into the first century. That's what the power of the Holy Spirit can do. Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with your power!

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 160

This Joyful Eastertide

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



CONFESSION OF SINS

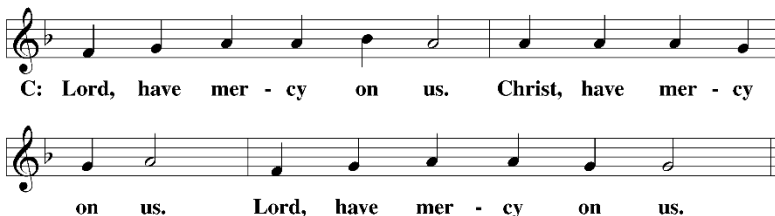
M Brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter who we are, we have all failed at times to give witness to the love and grace of our God in Christ Jesus.

C Like Peter, following his denial of the Lord Jesus, we wonder why Jesus would choose to use us to extend his kingdom to the world around us.

M We miss the point. It is because we ourselves are broken that we can speak into the lives of those around us who are also broken. Remembering this, as we come before God in worship, we freely confess our brokenness and sin, knowing that in Jesus we will find healing.

All 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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

RESPONSE HYMN 265, vv. 1-3

This Is the Feast of Victory

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

Refrain

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

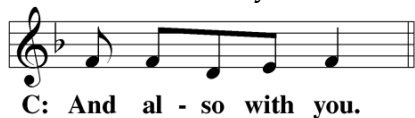
Refrain

**Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.**

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, through your death and resurrection make us bold to share with others the story of how your love and grace rescue us,

C that many more may come to know the peace that only you can give.

M For you live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

2 Corinthians 2:12—3:6, Bible page 1158

We are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 118, Hymnal page 108

I will not die but live and proclaim what the Lord has done.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49, Bible page 1061

Jesus appears to his disciples and assures them that he is alive.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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.**

HYMN 145, vv. 1-3

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

After the sermon the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)
(*Sunday*)

He's Alive, Joel Nelson
Jericho, String Ensemble

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.
- C Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- M In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.
- C Drive out all doubt and gloom, that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**
- M Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:
- C Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**
- M Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.
- C Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C **Alleluia! Thanks be to God! 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 557, vv. 1, 4, 5

On Galilee's High Mountain

CLOSING PRAYER

M Lord Jesus Christ,

C **send us out with confidence in your Word,**

M to tell the world of your saving acts,

C **and bring glory to your name.**

M We praise you now and forevermore.



C: A - men.

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.

WELS CONNECTION *Apache Mission 125th Anniversary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of April 16, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	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
	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	Premarital Enrichment Seminar (Main Church)
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Dorcas Society (Grace Room)
7:00 pm	Adult Volleyball Open Gym (Trinity Gym)	
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Holy Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service
6:30 am	TUG Talk – Teens Under God (Trinity Café)	

HEAR AND SEE THE MESSAGE ONLINE!



- **Watch Live:** Attend church remotely on Sundays at The Bridge at 10:15 am. Live streaming is available at www.thebridgemuskego.org, Facebook at *The Bridge at St. Paul's*, and You Tube at *The Bridge Church Muskego*. All past live replays are also available on each platform.
 - **Sermon Videos and Podcasts:** Sunday sermons are available at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org. They are usually available Sunday evening for that same Sunday's message.
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St. Paul's News

HOSPITALIZED

Stephanie Brandt is at Froedtert, and Robert Fox is at St. Luke's. Betty Teisel is rehabbing at Tudor Oaks and Robert Zirbel at Linden Grove New Berlin.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

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

ATTENDANCE

987 attended last week's worship services.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK



Your story isn't over, your life can change, and in Christ you are good enough for God. Find out more as we continue to celebrate the Act II of our lives because Jesus is alive! Next week our theme is "Steadfast," based on Acts 7:1 – 8:8. We will see how God is at work in our suffering today as was the case in the early church as well.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW JESUS BETTER

Anyone and everyone is invited to *Following the Promise*, a Bible study tracing the promise of the Savior through the Bible all the way into your own life. This study also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Nate Strobel is leading these studies in the Faith Room on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, beginning May 8. A second class begins Sunday, April 15, 8:30-9:30 am, in school classroom 9. It is not too late to register. Contact Pastor Nate at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org or mark the back of your Connection Card.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor John Brug, Ph.D., retired professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in looking at the beliefs and religious practices of Islam: political history, jihad, terrorism, and the role of women. The final lesson will offer suggestions for outreach to Muslims. As part of his doctoral studies, Professor Brug lived in the Middle East for a year. Attend in the Grace Room, Sundays at 9:15 am, through May 6.

DIVINE CALL EXTENDED

On Tuesday, the Lord of the Church, through our School Ministry Action Team and Ministry Board, extended a divine call to Mr. Joshua Lepke to serve as our 7th grade homeroom teacher and athletic director. Mr. Lepke currently serves as Dean of Behavior and Culture for 7th and 8th grades at St. Marcus in Milwaukee. Thank you for keeping Josh, his wife, and their three kids (ages 13, 11, and 3) in your prayers over the next few weeks as he considers this call to serve our students and families. Mr. Lepke sent the following letter to the congregation:

April 11, 2018

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran School and Church,

I am humbled to receive the call to serve as your 7th grade teacher and Athletic Director. In the next few weeks, I plan to meet with your school and church leaders to get to know the ministry of St. Paul's and gain insight about both the school and congregation. I will look at the needs of St. Paul's, as well as re-examine the needs of St. Marcus where I am currently serving. I ask that you join my family and I in praying that God grants wisdom and clarity, and that He guides the decision to place me where His kingdom will best be served. I look forward to meeting with many of you as this call is deliberated.

In His Service,
Josh Lepke

St. Paul's News

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

The time to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars recently closed. Thank you to all members of Thrivent who directed their Choice Dollars to St. Paul's. In the last year we have received \$3,296 for the Mortgage Fund, \$2,280 for Lutheran Elementary School Tuition Assistance, and \$974 for St. Paul's Childcare.

FAREWELL LUNCHEON — SUNDAY, APRIL 29

A farewell luncheon for Mrs. Bremer, Mrs. Loescher, and Mr. Walz is planned for noon on Sunday, April 29, in the Centennial Gym. A needs list will be sent out through My St. Paul's for those who would like to volunteer to help at the event or bring a dish to pass. A card box will be available at the luncheon for notes of appreciation and gifts. Please contact Wendy Hendrix at (414) 688-1472 or wendylauber@yahoo.com with questions.

GIVE BLOOD — HELP SAVE LIVES — MONDAY, APRIL 23

We will be hosting a blood drive on campus Monday, April 23, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm in the Grace Room. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are always welcome as well. Thank you for your support of this important community event.

THE POINT OF GRACE CAMPUS MINISTRY JOB OPENING

The Point of Grace campus ministry is hiring a ministry administrator. This new part-time position (20-25 hours per week) will work with students and partner churches to facilitate ministry operations. This is a great opportunity for someone who is passionate about sharing Jesus with young adults. For a full job description and more information, contact Daniel Schroeder at daniel@tpog.net or (414) 963-2047.

STONEY CREEK ADULT COMMUNITY JOB OPENING

Stoney Creek Adult Community is looking for a creative, energetic, and compassionate person who has a heart for seniors. The part-time position entails coordinating a balanced variety of activities for their community of residents. Contact Cindy at (414) 422-4686 to apply. More information about Stoney Creek may be found at www.stoneycreekmuskego.com

SCHOOL HOT LUNCH HELPER JOB OPENING

Our school hot lunch program is in need of another smiling face in the kitchen. Hours are 10:30 am – 2:30 pm the days school is in session, with duties including general food prep, serving the students, and clean-up. Contact Jill Fehler at j.fehler@taher.com to apply.

ALTAR GUILD IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

Altar Guild members are a vital part of worship. They set up Communion for worship services and fulfill a number of other tasks to prepare the chancel area for worship. If you would like to help out, please contact Pastor Bonack at jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 119.

GIFTS TO GOD

WISH LIST

This list of items would greatly benefit the ministry at St. Paul's. These items are above and beyond the budgeted expenses. If you would like to give toward a Wish List item, clearly mark your envelope, "Wish List," with the item title, or give online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give.

Item	Est. Cost	Received	Still Needed
Centennial Gym Windows	\$30,000	\$4,640	\$25,360
Landscaping for Church Entrance	\$6,700	\$4,725	\$1,975
Martin Luther College Tuition Assistance Grant	\$10,000	\$400	\$9,600

THANK YOU FOR ENCOURAGING FUTURE CALLED WORKERS

The Martin Luther College Tuition Assistance Grant provides a \$1000 scholarship for each of our members and each of the members of Garden Homes Lutheran Church who are attending Martin Luther College to prepare for fulltime ministry. Each of these \$1000 scholarships is matched by the college for the first 3 years at the college. The deadline for receiving these matching funds is June 1.

St. Paul's member Gabrielle Steidl recently sent us a thank you note for her scholarship: "I want to extend my sincere gratitude for all the support you have given me. Your gift toward my tuition is immensely appreciated and serves as great encouragement to me. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.' Thank you for actively living your faith and fulfilling this Bible passage through your generosity and prayers. I thank God for you! I am excited to continue my education at Martin Luther College as a Spanish Major. I look forward to spreading the Gospel message throughout the world, wherever Christ leads me. Thank you for being a part of my journey."

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Each year your generous contributions to the **Lutheran Elementary School Tuition Assistance Fund (LESTA)** allow us to provide tens of thousands of dollars tuition assistance to families who are not able to cover the cost of tuition. Please consider a gift as this fund is considerably below our expected needs for next school year. The **Secondary Christian Education Tuition Assistance Fund (SCETA)** allows us to encourage your youth to continue their Christian education at Wisconsin Lutheran High School or Luther Prep School in Watertown.

REMEMBER THE MORTGAGE FUND IN YOUR GIVING

Our mortgage has been reduced to \$1.82 million. This fiscal year our Mortgage Fund offerings have fallen slightly below the \$19,135 monthly payments. Our Mortgage Fund reserve enables us to make our payments in a timely manner. However, there is a need for us to grow in this area of giving. Thank you for prayerfully considering this need in your giving plans.

LET THERE BE LIGHT! – A COOL MILLION PROJECT

New lighting was recently installed in the altar area of the church. This is the first in a series of projects planned for the 60th anniversary of the Centennial Gym, the 50th anniversary of our school, the 40th anniversary of our church building, and the 5th anniversary of The Bridge. More information will be distributed next weekend.



WAYS TO GIVE

Contributions to all funds at St. Paul's can be made via your offering envelopes, clearly marking what the gift is for or by giving online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give or by using the QR code with your mobile device. Offerings for the general mission and ministry of St. Paul's can be made by texting a dollar amount to 414-316-6733.



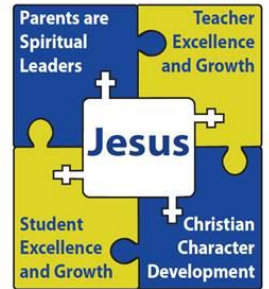
St. Paul's Loves Kids and Teens

LUTHERAN PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – ENROLL NOW

Our Pre-K enrollment is at 85 for next year. Praise the Lord! We are projecting a Kindergarten class of 23 children – again, praise the Lord! In total we project to have over 315 children enrolled in our 3K-8th grade school learning from a Christian worldview every day. What a blessing!

If you or someone you know would like more information about our school, please contact Mr. Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. He would love to give you a tour. You may also enroll directly at www.stpmuskego.org/TADS.

Generous tuition assistance packages are available in addition to the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. We don't want the cost of tuition to keep your children from the wonderful Christian education and experience at our school.



SUMMER CARE FOR AGES 3-10 AT ST. PAUL'S

Our Lutheran school offers a summer care program for children in pre-kindergarten through grade 4 from May 29 through August 8. Cost is \$5 per hour. Registration forms are available at www.stpmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL PRESENTS NIGHT AT THE WAX MUSEUM

All are invited to enjoy our talented Lutheran school kids as they perform *Night at the Wax Museum*. All performances will be presented on the Centennial Gym stage at the following times: Wednesday, April 18 – 1:00 pm; Thursday, April 19 – 7:00 pm; Friday, April 20 – 7:00 pm.

TUG TALK – APRIL 22

The next TUG (Teens Under God) Talk is Sunday, April 22, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. We will continue our discussion of Joseph: Abandoned, Tested, Trapped, Promoted. Through a thought-provoking video, we'll see how the choices Joseph made impacted his life dramatically. Contact Dr. Joel Nelson with questions about Teens Under God at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

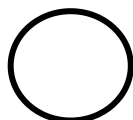
CLASS OF 2018 – LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS

St. Paul's will be celebrating our teens graduating from junior and senior high school this spring. Contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, with the following:

- What school are you graduating from?
- What are your plans for fall 2018? 8th grade graduates - what high school? 12th grade graduates - what college, branch of military, or work area?

EASTER FOR KIDS - ALMOST 100

Easter for Kids was once again a great success. 93 children (ages 3-13) attended and over 30 volunteers (9 teens and 22 adults) made this event possible. All in all, a great morning! Thanks to all of our volunteers and to all the parents who sent their children. If you would like more information about our children's ministry programs here at St. Paul's, please contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. How have you seen or heard the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life this past week?

2. Our current series encourages us to see that believers 2000 years ago and today have something in common – they're all "a part of the story." Discuss this theme and what it means to you.

3. Read 1 Peter 2:9. In the average week, how often do you remember that you are included in the words of this verse?

4. Out of the three roles in pastor's sermon this weekend, which do you most often identify with and why?
 - a. A Privileged Priest

 - b. A Proud Prophet

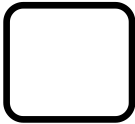
 - c. A Penitent Preacher

5. Read Acts 2:36-39. How do the promises connected with baptism help you to see yourself as a penitent preacher?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6.
 - a. Have you ever witnessed someone in your life display "the aroma of the sacrifice of Christ" out to the world? Talk about it.

 - b. What could you do this week to display this in your own life?

7. What was your biggest "A-ha!" from this week's message?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Be a Part of the Story Empowered

Acts 2:1-42, page 1091

1. The power of a privileged priest (1 Peter 2:9)

- a. The privileged priest of the Old Testament had d_____ a_____ to God.
- b. The privileged priest Peter: “Talitha koum” (Mark 5:41). “It is good to be here” (Mark 9:5). “You are the Messiah” (Mark 8:29).
- c. I am a privileged priest because _____

2. The power of a proud prophet

- a. The proud prophet knows better than _____ (Mark 8:32)
- b. The proud prophet is without f _____. “Even if all fall away, I will not” (Mark 14:29).
- c. I am a proud prophet when I _____

3. The power of a penitent preacher

- a. The penitent preacher is cut to the h _____ (Acts 2:37).
- b. The penitent preacher knows the path of healing is through r _____ and b _____ (Acts 2:38).
- c. The penitent preacher t _____ the Spirit’s power (Acts 2:38-39).

My Next Steps in God’s Story as a Pentecost Preacher

Privileged Priest/Proud Prophet: Read the Gospel of Mark. It is only 23 pages. It is generally assumed that Mark’s gospel is Peter’s account of Jesus’ ministry. Peter promised (2 Peter 1:15) to help us remember the events of Jesus’ life. Mark was Peter’s co-worker near the end of his life (1 Peter 5:13). As you read “Peter’s story,” note those times of privilege for Peter and those times when his pride showed itself. Celebrate your own times of privilege in your relationship with Jesus and confess those times of pride.

Penitent Preacher: Jesus prepared Peter to be a Pentecost preacher by calling him to repentance (John 21). Find a “confessor,” a trusted Christian friend, to whom you can confess the sin and guilt that Satan is using to make you feel unfit for God’s work. Experience the truth of this statement: “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).