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IF... THEN...

I ENTRUST MYSELF TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD

May 3, 2020

Life isn't fair! Today was supposed to be Confirmation Sunday! COVID-19 hasn't been fair to confirmands and graduates and so many others! Life wasn't fair for Jesus either. But our Father turned Jesus' suffering into infinite blessing for us. Let us trust that our Father can transform our suffering into infinite good.

BELLS AND WELCOME

- 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.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Good Shepherd knows his sheep. He knows you and he knows me.
- C **He also knows that our deepest need is for the forgiving and renewing love of our heavenly Father. That's why he laid down his life for us.**
- M Because that deepest need has been filled, we can approach our heavenly Father without fear confessing our sin and asking for his forgiveness.
- 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 God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C **Amen.**

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
My Savior gently leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feeds me.

Confused and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me,
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight,
A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight;
My cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd.
C You laid down your life for us, the sheep.
M Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word
C that we may dwell in your Father's house forevermore.
M You live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
C and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Stephen's proclamation of Jesus as the Good Shepherd sparks his martyrdom. The comforting vision of his Good Shepherd at the moment of his death allows Stephen to die in peace.

The Choosing of the Seven

⁶ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen Seized

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

² To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 23

M The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
C **He makes me lie down in green pastures,**
M he leads me beside quiet waters,
C **he refreshes my soul.**
M He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
C **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
M You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
C **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**
M Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
C **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Jesus sheep follow him because they know his voice.

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

¹⁰ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
 Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
 Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
 Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
 Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform;
 Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
 Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy,
 And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
 Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,
 Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
 We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.
 Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
 Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

SERMON

1 Peter 2:19 - 25

Pastor David Kuehl

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”^[a]

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,”^[b] but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M** O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins.
- C** **We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty, we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.**
- M** Help us all to believe and trust in you, to love and serve you, all the days of our lives. Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence.
- C** **Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**
- M** Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need.
- C** **Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick, and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.**
- 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 367

Christ Be My Leader

Christ be my leader by night as by day,
Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care;
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand.
Doubt cannot daunt me -- in Jesus I stand!

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation -- with Jesus I reign!

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



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*

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

CALL DECLINED – NICOLE GLODOWSKI

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

After prayerful consideration, the Lord has led me to return the call extended by Christ Our Redeemer. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement during this time. What a wonderful privilege to have the opportunity to consider both ministries. I believe the Lord still has many ways in which I can serve Hi here in Muskego, and I am excited to do so!

Please keep Christ Our Redeemer in your prayers as they prepare to make their next call

In Christ's Service,
Nicole Glodowski



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 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

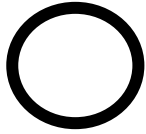
All online worship resources are available on our [website](#).

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 [You Tube 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. Begin your time together sharing highs and lows of the past week.

2. As we dig into the topic of suffering this week, consider our present world struggle.
 - What part of this pandemic is the most challenging for you and why?

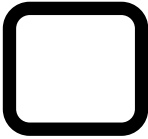
 - Where have you seen God's grace shining through this present darkness?

3. Read through the sermon text (1 Peter 2:19-25). Peter reminds us that we are called not only to suffer for doing good but also to endure it (v. 20-21). Can you recall a time when you've faced suffering for your faith and God gave you the strength to endure it?

4. Read Psalm 46. What verse brings you the most comfort and why?

5. Pastor Kuehl uses the analogy of tracing paper for how we are to imitate Jesus in our response to suffering. How does that look in your day-to-day life when you suffer? (Be specific)

6. Close your time together with a prayer for those affected around the world by the effects of COVID-19: those sick, those afraid, those out of work, those experiencing depression or anxiety, those in leadership positions, etc.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Muskego, WI

I Peter 2:19-25

If/Then...

If Jesus lives, then I can follow in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd.

Introduction: What COVID-19 hardships are you going through right now?

1. To follow in the Good Shepherd's footsteps is a path of patient suffering.

- The people to whom Peter wrote were considered social m_____.
- We are called to be different, to stick out, to s_____. (v. 21)
- God promises to b_____ us when we suffer unjustly.
- "The longer I live, the more convinced I am that life is _____% what happens to us and _____% how we respond to it." —Charles Swindoll
- Keeping time with Christ, we can sing even when all is d_____.

2. To follow in the Good Shepherd's footsteps is a path paved by the perfect Sufferer.

- Jesus is the model to t_____ when we suffer.
- In all of Jesus' life there was no s_____—in thought, word, and action.
- If we had walked in Jesus' sandals, how would we have suffered?
- God hasn't asked us to get b_____ at the people who have caused us to suffer.
- God has invited us to p_____, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."
- God removed our sin and adopted us in our baptism to l_____ for him.

Conclusion: Follow in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd.

My Next Steps

Memorize John 16:33: "In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Read Proverbs 31:10-31, Acts 17:1-12, John 14:1-12, and I Peter 2:4-10 to prepare for next week's Mother's Day message on *If Jesus Lives, Then I Live with Purpose*.

Look for ways to turn the other cheek when insulted or ridiculed for the sake of Christ, remembering that you were called to suffer for him.