

IF... THEN...
MY LIFE WILL END WELL
May 17, 2020

*Often we hear of individuals who, by God's grace, rose to great heights, but didn't end well.
Let us take warning and daily go back to the Empty Tomb.
If Jesus has risen, He has the power to protect us.*

BELLS AND WELCOME

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

C **Amen.**

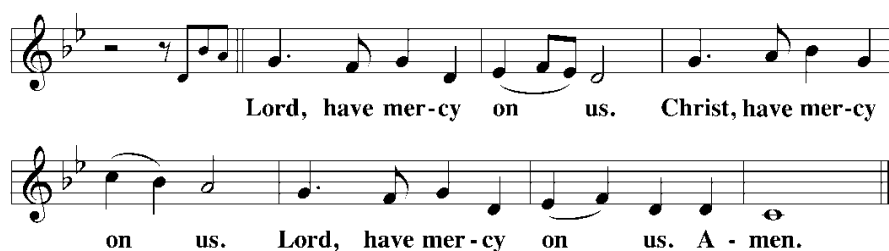
M Brothers and sisters, the scriptures call us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C **When we take our eyes off of our Savior, we are bound to go astray.**

M Our pride deludes us, causing us to believe that we have the power within us to escape temptation and to keep the faith. And we fall...again and again and again. But God's grace is greater than our sin. His forgiveness in Christ is always there for us. He is waiting with open arms. Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God our Father and find healing in his mercy.

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.**

HYMN 232

Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care

**Lord of my life, whose tender care Has led me on till now,
Here lowly, at the hour of prayer, Before your throne I bow.
I bless your gracious hand and pray Forgiveness for another day.**

**Oh, may I daily, hourly, strive In heav'nly grace to grow,
To you and to your glory live, Dead to all else below!
Tread in the path my Savior trod, Though thorny, yet the path of God.**

**To you my humble praise I bring For mercies day by day.
Lord, teach my heart your love to sing; Lord, teach me how to pray.
All that I have and e'er can do I'll use to serve and honor you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, your heart overflows with compassion and mercy. Your great desire is that all people to know your boundless love for them.

C **You have chosen us to be vessels through which you display your love to the world.**

M Yet we have hearts that are prone to wander. Only you can keep us faithful. Only you can empower us to end well.

C **Do whatever you need to, Lord, to keep our hearts true to you.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

David's Last Words

These are the last words of David:

"The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
the hero of Israel's songs:

²"The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me;
his word was on my tongue.

³The God of Israel spoke,
the Rock of Israel said to me:

'When one rules over people in righteousness,
when he rules in the fear of God,

⁴he is like the light of morning at sunrise
on a cloudless morning,
like the brightness after rain
that brings grass from the earth.'

⁵"If my house were not right with God,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation
and grant me my every desire."

PSALM 66

Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

*
Shout with joy to God, all the earth!*

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!*

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Praise our God, O peoples,*
let the sound of his praise be heard.

He has preserved our lives*
and kept our feet from slipping.

Refrain

Come and listen, all you who fear God;*
let me tell you what he has done for me.

If I had cherished sin in my heart,*
the Lord would not have listened;

but God has surely listened*
and heard my voice in prayer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Jesus promises to send us the Holy Spirit who enables us to end our lives well.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[a] in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

HYMN OF THE DAY 431, vv. 1, 2, 5

I Walk in Danger All the Way

**I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.**

**I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee
When storms of woe my soul dismay; I pass through trials all the way.**

**I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
He takes my ev'ry fear away When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by his footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.**

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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.**

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry. You may mail your gifts to St. Paul's, S66W14325 Janesville Road, Muskego, WI 53150 or give online at www.StPaulMuskego.org/give or text a dollar amount to 414-316-6733.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

M Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

M Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

M Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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 411, vv. 1-2

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

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 **Amen.**

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](#).

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 as we continue to see the change...as we see the “then” that Jesus’ resurrection brings to our lives:

- Then my ascended Lord rules all things for me – 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11 (May 24)
*This service will complete a trilogy of “Seven Candles – Seven Words” series of services—
Good Friday, Easter, and Ascension.*

PENTECOST POTENTIAL

The Holy Spirit who was active at creation is also active in our lives. As we begin the Pentecost season, we will study the origins of the world and celebrate the power of God that is at work in us.

- **Created with Potential – Genesis 1 – May 31**
- **Potential for Perfect Love – Genesis 1:26-28 – June 7**
- **Potential for Perfect Relationship – Genesis 2 – June 14**
- **Potential for Restoration – Genesis 3 – June 21**
- **Potential for Great Good and Great Evil -Genesis 4 – June 28**

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 on our [You Tube channel](#). The service is also available for viewing later at any time on each platform.

Bible Reading Plan Follow along with Pastor Panitzke in his daily Bible reading plan found [here](#).

Daily Devotion and Discussion about the Bible readings are available [here](#).

Video devotions are available [here](#) – three minutes talking about the Bible readings.

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.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE DURING THIS CRISIS



WHAT?

Food collection for the Muskego Food Pantry to assist area families in need.

WHEN?

Sunday, May 17, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

WHERE?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Muskego at all three entrance locations.

●●● *NOTE: If it would rain, drop off will be under the main church canopy and by the Trinity Café.*

HOW?

Drop off non-perishable (canned/packaged) items to help supply the Muskego Food Pantry. While any item is accepted, **items most needed** are listed below. Items must be in bags. If possible, use plastic bags.

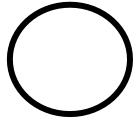
- 1) After entering the campus, proceed to the food drop-off canopy.
- 2) Open your car door and place bagged items on the driveway.
- 3) Close your car door and slowly drive on.
- 4) St. Paul's volunteers will collect the bags after you drive off.
- 5) Volunteers will be wearing protective masks and gloves.



ITEMS MOST NEEDED

Jelly	Pork & Beans	Chicken Broth	Beef Stew	Potatoes	Carrots	Conditioner
Tomato Paste	Refried Beans	Gravy	Spam	Ketchup	Toilet Paper	Soap
Tomato Sauce	Chili Beans	Hash	Pasta Sides	Mustard	Shampoo	Tooth Paste

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALSO ACCEPTABLE – MAKE CHECKS OUT TO “MUSKEGO FOOD PANTRY”



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

God's Power to End Well

1. Share the story of someone from your past who modeled to you what “ending well” really means.

2. Read the text: 1 Peter 5:6-11.
 - a. What are some of the anxieties or cares that “divide the mind” and cause people to lose hope especially during the COVID-19 pandemic?

 - b. What do you think is the connection between a person humbling themselves (verse 6) and casting anxiety on God (verse 7)?

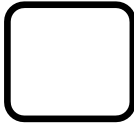
3. Read a portion of John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* (published in 1678).

Now before he [the Pilgrim] had gone far, he entered into a very narrow passage, which was about a furlong off the Porter's lodge, and looking very narrowly before him as he went, he espied two lions in the way. Now, thought he, I see the dangers that Mistrust and Timorous were driven back by. (The lions were chained, but he saw not the chains.) Then he was afraid, and thought also himself to go back after them; for he thought nothing but death was before him. But the Porter at the lodge, whose name is Watchful, perceiving that Christian made a halt, as if he would go back, cried unto him, saying, Is thy strength so small? Mark 4:40. Fear not the lions, for they are chained, and are placed there for trial of faith where it is, and for discovery of those that have none: keep in the midst of the path, and no hurt shall come unto thee. (<http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/christn/chfijba2f.html>).

 - a. What do you think John Bunyan was thinking about when he said the lions were chained? What “chains” the devil so that he cannot destroy you?

 - b. Read Mark 4:35-41 that Bunyan refers to in this reading. How can this miracle reassure you when your anxieties threaten to overwhelm you?

4. Jesus foretold that Peter would suffer a martyr’s death (Read John 21:18-19). How does knowing that Peter was facing a martyr’s death make Peter’s statement in 1 Peter 5:10-11 even more powerful?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

“If... Then...” If Jesus has risen, then I will end well. I Peter 5:6-11

1. Then I can trust God’s mighty hand.

- a. What divides your mind?

- b. What anxiety can you give to God as an offering? What makes your cares and fears an excellent offering to God?

2. Then I will not be devoured by the enemy.

- a. What is the point of story about the lions from John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*?

- b. “The God of all grace” – How does God’s grace heal you after you have been mauled by your enemy, the devil?

3. Then God’s plan for me will succeed.

- a. How will you stay connected to God’s power so that he can keep you “strong, firm and steadfast”?

- b. What are the references to “time” in this lesson? Why are they important to remember as you ask for God’s help to “end well”?

My Next Steps

- **See the danger:** Many great Christian leaders of the past and of the present have failed to “end well.” What anxieties is Satan using to attack you? What are temptations that could destroy your faith?
- **Find the healing:** Peter promises that “the God of all grace... will himself restore you.” Find a friend who can help you apply the healing message of God’s grace (forgiveness) to the wounds that Satan has inflicted on you.
- **Tap into God’s power:** Consider Pastor Kuehl’s suggestions about staying connected to your Savior. What daily practices could you begin that would help you tap into the power of God that can bring you safely to eternal glory in Christ Jesus?