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PRAYER IS POWERFUL

BIG PROBLEMS? BIGGER GOD!

June 24, 25, and 28, 2017

Although it looks like the bad guys are in control and the Church is small and beleaguered, God still is in control and where the Word is spoken boldly, God's Spirit is working great things.

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 419, vv. 1-6

(Sunday)

If God Himself Be for Me

Chapel Choir sings vv. 1, 3, and 5

INVOCATION

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M Dear friends, we know that the Lord is all-powerful. There is nothing he cannot do.

C **We also know that through our baptisms we have been made children of our heavenly Father. He truly loves us. He longs to hear what is on our hearts. He promises to help in the way that is best for us.**

M But our faith is weak. We often fail to go to the Lord in prayer. We think he doesn't care or that he doesn't have the power to help. These doubts are a symptom of unbelief and sin. Fully aware of the gravity of our spiritual weakness and the eternal consequences of our sin, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

All **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

My heart for joy is singing and can no more be sad,
'tis full of joy and singing, sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing.

THE WORD

SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, you teach us that a believer's prayer is powerful and effective.
C **Give us the faith to believe that this is true.**

M Empower us to pray for the things that really matter with boldness and confidence,
C **not doubting, but trusting that you will answer, and that nothing is impossible for you.**

M We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 1:6-19, Bible page 751

God calls the prophet Jeremiah. When Jeremiah shares his misgivings, the Lord assures him that he will give Jeremiah the words to speak and the strength to do whatever he as a prophet is called to do.

PSALM OF THE DAY (Sunday)

Psalm 124, Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir will sing the refrain once, the congregation will repeat it and continue to sing the refrain as indicated for the remainder of the psalm. Please see the screens.

VERSE OF THE DAY (Saturday and Wednesday)

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus said, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Alleluia (*Matthew 16:18*).

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-35, Bible page 979

Jesus tells the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast.

M This is the Gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
 To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
 Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
 That the light of Christ might be seen today
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
 All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
 Holy reverence, true humility;
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes
 In the radiance of Your purity.
 Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority.
 Words of pow'r that can never fail—
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
 That will echo down through eternity.
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
 And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
 Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
 And the earth is filled with Your glory.

SERMON

Acts 4:23-31, Bible page 1094

Pastor David Kuehl

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Second Petition

All Your kingdom come.

M What does this mean?

C God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.

M How does God's kingdom come?

C God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them up to the Lord**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C IT IS GOOD AND RIGHT SO TO DO.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Sanctus means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

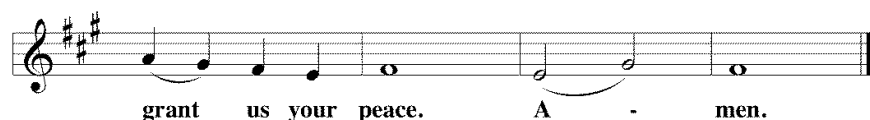
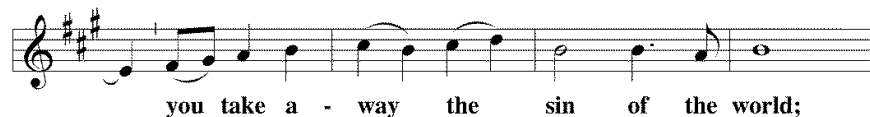
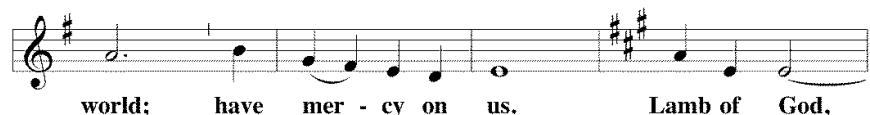
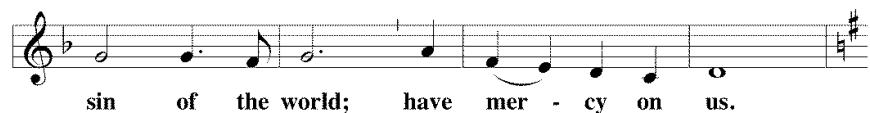
M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Jesus is God's Lamb [Agnus Dei], who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 6.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 413

431

**When In the Hour of Utmost Need
I Walk in Danger All the Way**

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

The Nunc Dimittis ["Now dismiss"] is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

**O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
Incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. "Following the Promise" is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room.

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. The first pews in the left center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of June 26, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:15 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>Following the Promise Bible Study (Faith Room)</i>
WED	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service Traditional Worship Service Grace Room Bible Study The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church and school office are open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, continuing through the summer until the start of school on August 24. The office is closed July 3 and 4 for Independence Day.

SCHOOL OF EARLY LEARNING JOB OPENING

St. Paul's School of Early Learning (SOEL) is our childcare and early educational ministry at St. Paul's. We are currently in need of a few outgoing, energetic people who love to make a difference in the lives of young children and serve as substitute teachers/aides to cover vacations/sick days, etc., especially during the school year (September-May). Experience in childcare or a related field is preferred. We offer a competitive hourly wage and a pleasant working environment.

If interested, please contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or (262) 470-0465, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org for more information. You may also stop by the SOEL office for an application. We're located off the east entrance of the church.

Multimedia Ministry

- **TV:** *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPtv, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the Time of Grace office at (800) 661-3311.
- **Radio:** Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 7:00 am on JOY1340 AM
- **Online:** Podcast and video sermons at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org
- **Live Streaming:** The Bridge, Sundays at 10:15 am at www.thebridgemuskego.org



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

PASTORS KUEHL AND PANITZKE OFFER THEIR THANKS

Wow! What a celebration last Sunday! Pastors Kuehl and Panitzke, first of all, offer up a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord of the Church for the honor and privilege of serving him in the pastoral ministry for 35 years each. Then they join to thank the Worker Care Committee and all you, the members and friends of St. Paul's, for your generous outpouring of love and appreciation last week. Your congratulations, warm wishes, hugs, personalized notes, and gifts will stay with us for a long time to come. "[We] thank [our] God every time [we] remember you, because of your partnership in the gospel, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to complete until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6).

FUNERAL

Karen Helm, born October 9, 1952, entered eternal life with her Savior on June 18, 2017, and received a Christian funeral on June 23, 2017. May the Lord bless and keep the family and loved ones of Karen as they look to the hope of their risen Savior.

FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar are from Pastor and Sue Kuehl in joyful celebration and thanksgiving to God for their 35th wedding anniversary on June 27. To God be the glory.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, and Sandra Holtz is at St. Luke's. Stephanie Brandt and Carole Schacht have been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: James Beyer, Mary Ann Boldt, Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Janelle Gray, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Marvin Pellmann, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Jake Strande.

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children (4 years old and younger), you might appreciate being able to focus on the sermon without interruption. We have a staffed nursery every Sunday during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church. A silent pager system allows childcare providers to alert you to any need your child has. Ask a worship host for directions. The nursery closes 10 minutes after the service, so please pick your child up promptly.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

934 attended worship services last week.

DIVINE CALLS

Pastor Stephen Kuehl of Powell, Ohio, continues to deliberate the call to serve as our Resident Missionary. The Staff Duties Chart is available at the Welcome Center for you to see how his duties would fit with the rest of our church staff.

Pastor Steve is deliberating the call here to St. Paul's, his current call, as well as a third call to Grace Lutheran in Yakima, Washington. May the Holy Spirit guide him to know where his gifts will be most beneficial in God's saving plan.

St. Paul's member Kristen Miller is also holding a joint call to St. Paul's, Christ the Lord in Brookfield, and Trinity in Waukesha, to teach Spanish.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

WE NEED ONE MORE SUNDAY

Our fiscal year ends on June 30. Right now it appears that **“we need one more Sunday.”** Our offering projection is that we will be about one Sunday offering short of fully funding an incredible ministry year. If you are able to give a special end-of-the-fiscal-year gift on-line or by text, please do so by June 28 to ensure that is processed before the end of the fiscal year. Thank you for your generous gifts!

TEXT TO GIVE 414-316-6733

We are excited to announce a new way to give. Text a dollar amount (always put the dollar sign before it) to 414-316-6733. You will receive a text to register your credit or debit card. After registration, giving is as simple as texting a dollar amount to 414-316-6733. Weekly, monthly or quarterly recurring gifts can also be set up. A generous donor has agreed to give a \$50 matching gift for each of the first 20 recurring gifts set up through text-to-give prior to June 28.

ONLINE GIVING – AN EASY WAY TO GIVE REGULARLY

Over 20% of our offerings are received through online giving. Because Christians give regularly to support the Lord’s work, online giving can help you carry out your plans for your weekly or monthly offerings. You can use the QR code or find the online giving tab at www.stpaulmuskego.org.



MISSION NEWS FROM LATVIA

In the coming months, we will highlight world mission news from the Book of Reports and Memorials prepared for this year’s synod convention.

The WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations maintains direct contact with the Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia (CLCL) through its contact man, Pastor Jonathan Balge. All the pastors of the CLCL have “tent-making ministries,” requiring them to hold other jobs in addition to carrying out pastoral ministry as time permits. Understandably, the Christians in this sister church are concerned about the geo-political situation in their part of the world. We continue to pray for them and for their gospel work in God’s kingdom (ref. Book of Reports and Memorials for the 2017 Synod Convention, page 26).

St. Paul’s leads our church body in support of mission work around the world! Of every dollar you give to our General Fund, 13% is sent to the synod to support our work together, totaling approximately \$237,000 annually. Praise God that you are part of God’s work in Latvia!

SAVE THE DATE...AND YOUR APPETITE!

The Annual St. Paul’s Church Picnic

When: Sunday, August 6, at 11:30 am (following the outdoor service)

Where: St Paul’s School grounds

What: Food, music, games, beverages, ice cream, and FUN

Why: FUN!

TEENS UNDER GOD (TUG) BEGINS NEW SEASON

Teens Under God (TUG) will launch a new format, location, and time. Sunday, June 25, is the first session and will run from 6:30 til 8:00 pm in the Trinity Café. Come and see what TUG 2017-18 is all about. Contact Dr. Nelson with questions at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or text (414) 750-2586.

UNDER THE CANOPY HOSTS

Available dates for this summer’s Under the Canopy are July 2 and July 16,. Please contact David Weise at (262) 271-3093 or dweise@aol.com to reserve your date.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

PRAYER IS POWERFUL

The Bible records some remarkable prayers. However, the people who prayed them weren't really all that remarkable. And as they prayed they sure didn't think their prayers were all that remarkable either. But God heard them anyway. Their prayers spoken to God in faith touched his heart and sometimes resulted in miracles happening. Lives were changed. History was altered. Hope was restored. Hearts were opened.



In every case, prayers were heard by a gracious God! In this series we're going to look at some of these prayers spoken by ordinary people to see that we too can pray powerfully. We too can touch the heart of God. We too can impact hearts, lives, and even history itself. And in every case, no matter what, we can be confident that our prayers offered in faith are heard by our gracious and loving God for Jesus' sake. *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).*

July 2	Negotiating with God (3rd Petition)	Genesis 18:20-33
July 9	When God Gives a Blank Check (4th Petition)	1 Kings 3:5-10
July 16	Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner (5 th Petition)	Psalms 51
July 23	Listen to These Insults! (6 th Petition)	2 Kings 19:14-19
July 30	Out of the Depths (7 th Petition)	Jonah 2
August 6 (Picnic Sunday)	Answered Prayer Leads to Praise (Doxology)	1 Samuel 1:9-7, 2:1-10

CLOTHED IN CHRIST IN BAPTISM

Our first step toward a stronger faith is a one-hour personal visit and study on baptism. Schedule this First Step visit with Pastor Pete by marking the Connection Card.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

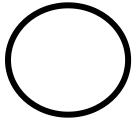
Never done a Bible study? This is the perfect place to start. God was planning for you before the creation of the world. God's first promise to you is found in the first chapters of the Bible. In this 13-week study, we follow that promise through the Bible and see how it impacts our lives. This also serves as a preparation-for-membership Bible study. Register with Pastor Pete or on the Connection Card.

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE NEXT FALL

Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). We Christians want to know "every word that comes from the mouth of God," but the Bible is an imposing book with so many characters and covering so much time. The third step in our core curriculum is a 30-lesson course taught every year to help you become more familiar with the Bible and prepare you for a life-time of Bible reading and spiritual growth. Join over 40 people already registered for this class by expressing your interest on the Connection Card.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Join Mr. Jon Eiche as he leads the study *The Theology of the Cross* on Sundays through July 9 at 9:15 am in the Grace Room. This study is based on the excellent book of the same name written by retired WELS Professor Daniel Deutschlander.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. How is your week going? What can we pray for you about?

2. In your daily life, what do you notice you do more of: pray FOR courage or pray WITH courage?

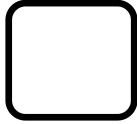
3. Read Acts 4:23-31 together. The disciples' prayed with courage, even in the face of intimidation and war. When Jewish leaders forbid the disciples to speak Jesus' name, their response was to *raise their voices together in prayer to God*. Who do you *raise your voice together in prayer to God* with when war and intimidation confronts you?

4. Martin Luther explains the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer - "Your kingdom come" - as this: "*God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.*" What makes this petition a courageous one?

5. Read Mark 14:32-42 together.
 - Jesus prayed: "*Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.*" Is he praying WITH courage or FOR courage here?
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt defined courage as "*not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear.*" What does Jesus' prayer point out is more important than fear?
 - Have you had any "cup" in your life that you prayed about courageously about as Jesus did?

6. Sometimes it's hard to remember who the enemy is that we're at war with. It's not our kids or our neighbors or our co-workers. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*" Read Ephesians 6:10-18 together and each take turns talking about which piece of this armor brings you the most comfort and courage this week.

7. Can you think of a regular time and place in your life this week that you can set aside 10 minutes to pray FOR courage and WITH courage? Ask someone in your group to hold you accountable to this time of prayer and offer to do the same for them!



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Prayer Is Powerful + Big Problems but a Bigger God +

Acts 4:23-31 (Bible page 1094)

Introduction: We're at war.

1. Let's pray with courage.

- A. I _____ is an effective weapon of war.
- B. The disciples weren't intimidated because they k_____ and t_____ God's promises (vv. 24-28).
- C. The disciples knew that God is in c_____ and allows only what will b_____ his people.
--Example #1: The c_____ of Jesus
--Example #2: The p_____ of the early Christians
- D. We pray that Jesus r_____ in our hearts and in the hearts of many others (Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer).
- E. We are the Church, the Body of Christ, and as such we want to s_____ and p_____ for the Church with courage.

2. Let's pray for courage.

- A. The apostles prayed for c_____ (vv. 29-30).
--They did not pray to be kept s_____ from their enemies.
--They did not pray for God to j_____ the Jewish leaders.
- B. For what do we tend to pray today?
- C. Why do we fail to use prayer as a weapon against Satan?
- D. God offered up his Son to pay for our f_____ to pray.
- E. Jesus r_____ in heaven as our High Priest and Great Intercessor.
- F. *Christ is our Great Intercessor, who takes every prayer we utter and lays it before his Father in heaven, insisting that he hear and answer it for his name's sake. (Martin Luther)*
- G. "Boldly" = "saying everything that needs to be said without fear or hesitation"

Conclusion: Because of Jesus we can pray with courage and for courage.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Genesis 18:20-33 to prepare for next week's message on *Prayer Is Powerful: Negotiating with God*.
- **Memorize** 1 John 2:1: *If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*
- **Make an intentional effort** to incorporate into your prayers requests for opportunities to boldly witness to Christ's love to your family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.