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PENTECOST POTENTIAL
FOR GREAT GOOD AND GREAT EVIL
July 5 and 8, 2020

We hope for great good, but sin constantly dashes those hopes. Why is there so much evil? Why am I so inclined to do the wrong thing? Our hope is found in the fact that, in spite of great evil, God always finds a way to work great good. The LORD is still our Savior God. God's name is on us from first to last.

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 618

Before You, Lord We Bow

Before You, Lord we bow,
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring; In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise To God our King!

Let's hear our Maker's Voice,
Our great Redeemer own,
Believe, obey, rejoice,
And worship him alone,
Cast down our pride, Our sin deplore,
And bow before The Crucified.

M In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen! He is our God and Lord; we live under him in his Kingdom!**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M The Lord our God has established us in a good land, a land where bread is not scarce.
C **When we have eaten and are satisfied, let us praise the Lord our God for the good land he has given us.**

M Righteousness exalts a nation! But sin disgraces any people.
C **We must confess our sin and, as we do so, remember – especially today – our failures to work as responsible citizens for the true good of our country.**

M We confess:

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.**

M Our gracious Father forgives our sin, and in his mercy he calls us again to live as his children – to be his blessing to the favored land we call our home.

C **Let us exalt our nation with righteousness! Let us live as servants of God, showing respect to everyone, and looking not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

Through ev'ry passing year
Let's walk in faith and love,
Serve Christ with joy while here,
And look to life above.
To friend and foe In love proclaim
His saving Name As home we go.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the freedom we have in this country to stand up for and make our beliefs known.

C **Help us seize every opportunity to make an impact.**

M Yet, our most important mission in this world is sharing your gospel love in Christ.

C **As we seek to live out your love in our lives, help us remember that our main goal is to change hearts for eternity.**

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



Paul reminds us that we are all plagued with spiritual blindness. Only through the power of God's Holy Spirit do we find true freedom, the freedom to walk in newness of life.

Instructions for Christian Living

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 1

- M Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
C **but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.**
- M That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.
C **Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**
- M Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
C **For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

M 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.

C Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:33-48

Jesus helps us escape the prison cell of our sinfully darkened mind and see what love and life are meant to look like through God's eyes.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Oaths

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Eye for Eye

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 OF THE DAY 378

All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

All mankind fell in Adam's fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God's wrath impends.

Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;
In guilt we draw our infant breath
And reap its fruits of woe and death.

From hearts depraved, to evil prone,
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;
God's image lost, the darkened soul
Nor seeks nor finds its heav'nly goal.

But Christ, the second Adam, came
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way,
Our only hope, our only stay.

Cain and Abel

⁴ Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." ² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

RESPONSE

**We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs;
This grace our ev'ry way attend
Until we reach our journey's end.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C **We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.**

M You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C **For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.**

M Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C **Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.**

M Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C **Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.**

M Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C **Hear our prayers 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.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

God bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might.

For her our prayers shall rise
To God above the skies;
On him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry,
God save the state!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDING

Alexandra Beyer and Paul Campen were married on July 4, 2020. We ask God to bless Alex and Paul as they live in unity together with Christ.

BAPTISM

Rory Louise Schacht, daughter of Casey and Rebecca (nee Parmley) Schacht, was born June 24, 2020 and baptized on June 30, 2020. We praise God for the saving faith given to Rory. God bless and keep her all her days.

FUNERALS

Arlene Duve, born November 12, 1934, entered eternal life in heaven on June 30, 2020. A Christian funeral was held on Friday, July 3, 2020.

Mildred Waedekin, born February 25, 1930, entered eternal life in heaven on July 1, 2020. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

May our God of all comfort and hope be with the loved ones of Arlene and Mildred today and always.

THE LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY SOCIETY IS STREAMING THEIR 57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

"Taste and See" virtually starting now through July 11. There are daily devotions, cooking demos and presentations from missionaries from around the world including our missionary John Holtz and his wife, Mindy. This is a chance for all of the ladies of our congregation to see a LWMS convention without having to leave their home! Join in at www.lwms.org. Scroll down and click on the 57th Annual Convention 2020 - You'll see "Taste and See" with all the details. The convention will be archived and can be viewed for 2 weeks after the event. Find out more about LWMS on their Facebook page at Lutheran Women's Missionary Society.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of July 6, 2020

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
WED	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service <i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i>
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Karen Caughell and John Strobel Wedding Ceremony
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion The Bridge Communion The Bridge Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

SUMMER HOURS FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church administration office, located in the school building, is open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm during the summer.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Doris Butke (Seasons Hospice at the Lutheran Home), Brittany Michaels (Froedtert), Marlene Sobczak (rehabbing at daughter's house, and Lois Stichmann (Linden Grove Mukwonago),). Robert Burkowitz and Bev Scharf have been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request, please contact one of our pastors or use the contact form at the bottom of our website at www.stpaulmuskego.org. 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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

NEW SERMON SERIES

Many people have begun reading the Bible only to give up because the stories seem impossible. Once you are past the creation account, you are challenged by incredibly long lives, the flood, and a tower reaching to the heavens. Could these stories really be true? How do you answer that question? What is the purpose of these stories?



July 12 **969 Years? Really?** **Genesis 5**
"Methuselah lived a total of 969 years." Really?

July 19 **The Flood? Really?** **Genesis 6-9**
Is the flood story an embarrassment or the answer to so many questions? Is it a story of God's judgment or God's mercy?

July 26 **The Tower? Really?** **Genesis 10-11**
What is wrong with a tower? Why did God see it as a threat to his plan? What towers does God see us building right now?

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Following the Promise is a class designed to challenge us in what we think we know, introduce us to the world's only Savior in Jesus, and take us on a journey from creation to the cross and to the halls of heaven. Join Pastor Nate for a look at the basics of what the Bible teaches and how God's promises relate to you on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Members and guests! Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card. Remote view options are available.

ONLINE SMALL GROUPS

The COVID-19 shutdown has resulted in an explosion of our gospel ministry to every part of our nation. We would like to help serve these members at a distance and those locally who must remain isolated for health reasons by developing online small group Bible studies. Six people have already expressed interest. If you would be interested in joining a zoom small group, email Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S HOSTING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SIMULCAST

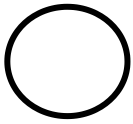
We all have influence. Our families, our churches, our businesses, and our communities need your influence now more than ever.

- COVID-19 – How are we to deal with the continuing effects of COVID-19? What are our next steps?
- Racial Inequality – What can we do to lead the way as Christians to bring healing to a divided nation?

The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day event featuring 15 world-class, diverse faculty members. The simulcast will be held in the Trinity Gym to allow for maximum social distancing. Register now for only \$99. Go to StPaulMuskego.org/GLS. Enter promo code INSPIRE2020

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER

We have an opening on our Child Care Center staff for a full time, year round, teacher's aide in the infant room. Hours are Monday – Friday, 11:30 am - 6:00 pm. Please contact Tammy Dockter at docterta@stpmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 200 to apply.

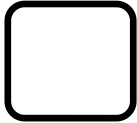


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share your high's and low's from the past week and begin your time together in prayer.
2. After reading through the account of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4), discuss what you consider the most and the least shocking about the actions of the three main characters, Cain, Abel and God and why you feel that way.
3. The message suggests that Genesis 4 might contain the first hint of how privilege and disadvantage rear their ugly heads in this broken world. Where do you see privilege and disadvantage impacting the world and the work of the church today?
4. The message also talked about our inclination toward projection rather than introspection. What does that mean? Would you be willing to share an example from your own life?
5. What's the answer to overcoming this spiritually destructive tendency? Share a couple practical examples of how you might incorporate processes in your life that remind you to be more introspective?
6. How was Cain's curse a blessing? Share some examples of curses that are blessings both from the world and from your personal life. How do you come to a point where you readily see and rejoice in the spiritual and relational blessings that flow from life's challenging situations?
7. Genesis 4 closes with the statement: **At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26b)**. This is a time when the public proclamation of the Word of God has incredible potential while at the same time faces its greatest peril. As you close, include in your prayers the work of God's church and God's people throughout the world—that the Holy Spirit may guide us to the best ways to witness to God's love and grace in these latter days.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Genesis 4

What if Cain had come in for a little pastoral counseling? What could we learn from that conversation?

PRIVILEGE

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did (Hebrews 11:4).

Did the life c_____ Abel experienced prepare the soil of his heart for God's grace?

Did Cain's p_____ status blind him to his need for grace?

Reflection: *How has disadvantage/privilege impacted your spiritual journey?*

TEMPTATION

"It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18).

Did Cain's desire to find l_____ and a_____ in his offering embitter his heart?

Cain chose to p_____ his anger on his brother rather than i_____ his own motives.

Reflection: *Do you tend to project or introspect? What processes can you adopt that will remind you to be more introspective—especially when anger flares?*

CURSE

"My punishment is more than I can bear" (Genesis 4:13).

Cain sees only the n_____ impact of the God's curse upon him.

In God's hands a curse becomes a g_____!

Jesus became cursed for us that we might be truly free. (Galatians 3:13).

Reflection: *What "curses" has God used (is God using) to bless your life?*

Next Steps

- Memorize Romans 5:8: ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***
- Work through the reflection questions above and meet with a trusted friend to talk about what you have learned about yourself.
- Do you know someone who is caught in the snare of bitterness and anger? Share this message with him/her and offer to meet and talk about God's love and grace.