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A WORLDWIDE FLOOD? REALLY?

July 18, 19, and 22, 2020

Could it be possible for the entire world to be flooded? Could an ark be built thousands of years ago that contained at least two of every kind of animal? So many questions arise about the flood. Perhaps the toughest is this: How could a loving God possibly destroy so many people in this way? Really?

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 376, vv. 1-4

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Jesus, your blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head. | 2. Bold shall I stand in that great day
Who can a word against me say?
Fully through you absolved I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. |
| 3. Lord, I believe your precious blood,
Which at the very throne of God
Forever will for sinners plead,
For me -- e'en for my soul -- was shed. | 4. Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made. |

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

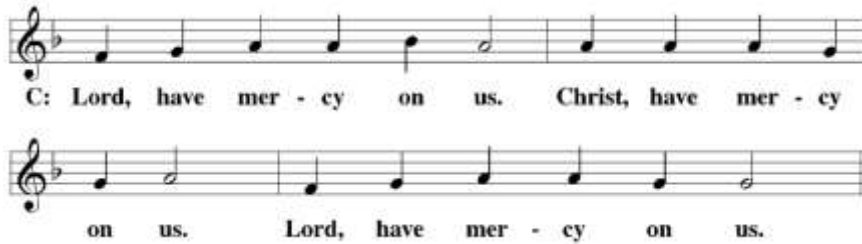


CONFESSION OF SINS

- M Dear brothers and sisters, the scriptures repeatedly remind us that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, that salvation, peace and eternal life come to us solely as a gift from God.
- C Yet a part of us wants to believe that God looks favorably on us because of how we choose to live our lives.
- M Our sinful nature taints everything that we think, do and say. Shortly before the Flood, the LORD revealed the true nature of the human heart declaring that every inclination of the heart is only evil all the time. Let us, therefore, confess our sin to God seeking his gift of forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ.

All Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am like a sheep who has gone astray. I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I do what is evil and fail to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. 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 one and 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.



M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lamb, whose blood covers all our sins.

HYMN 376, vv. 5, 6

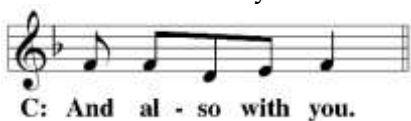
Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.

Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those who dwell in darkness and make your love known to them.

C **Though we deserve your wrath and judgment, we know that you have chosen mercy.**

M Open our eyes today to see more clearly the power of your forgiving love.

C **Strengthen us in our faith that we may put all our hope in you.**

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



FIRST LESSON

2 Peter 3:1-9

Although the unbelieving world does not want to accept it, God often chooses to step in and alter the history of the world. Just as God stepped in and brought devastating judgment on the world through the flood, he will also one day usher in the great and final judgment he has promised.

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ²I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

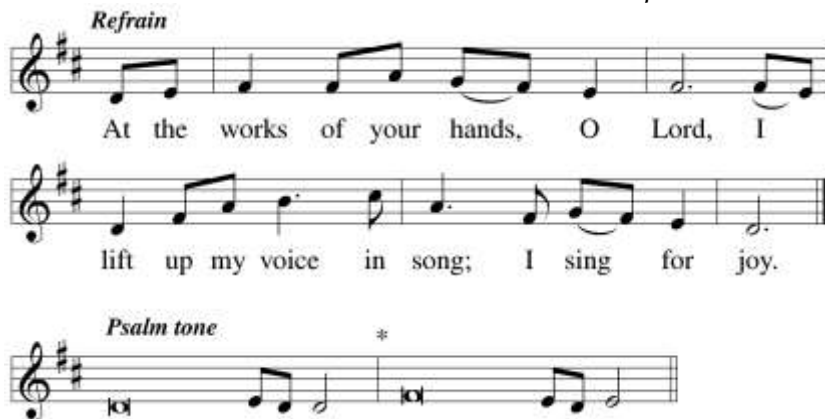
³Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 66

The Lord preserves our lives and keeps our feet from slipping.



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.**

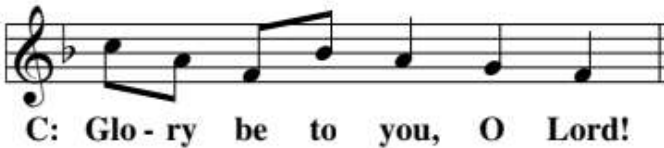
Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-51

Jesus reminds us that, although the exact day may be unknown the final Judgment is drawing nearer every day. We must be ready.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

⁴⁵ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' ⁴⁹ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with

drunkards. ⁵⁰ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹ He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN 208

Great God, What Do I See and Hear

1. Great God, what do I see and hear?
The end of things created;
The judge of mankind shall appear
On clouds of glory seated.
The trumpet sounds; the graves restore
The dead which they contained before:
Prepare, my soul, to meet him!
2. The dead in Christ shall first arise
At that last trumpet's sounding,
Caught up to meet him in the skies,
With joy their Lord surrounding.
No gloomy fears their souls dismay;
His presence sheds eternal day
On those prepared to meet him.
3. But sinners filled with guilty fears
Behold his wrath prevailing,
For they shall rise and find their tears
And sighs are unavailing;
The day of grace is past and gone;
They trembling stand before his throne,
All unprepared to meet him.
4. O Christ, you died, and yet you live;
To me account your merit,
My pardon seal, my sins forgive,
And cleanse me by your Spirit.
Beneath your cross I view the day
When heav'n and earth shall pass away,
And thus prepare to meet you.

SERMON

Genesis 6-9

Pastor Peter Panitzke

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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 Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son.
- C **Through him we have confidence to enter your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions.**
- M Out of the infinite bounty of your goodness, grant us a rich measure of your Spirit.
- C **Let the love of Christ fill your Church, so that it may flourish in all good works.**
- M Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need. Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you.
- C **Strengthen our faith so that we unfailingly come to you in prayer for all our bodily needs.**
- M Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid.
- Special prayers and intercessions.*
- M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M Help us patiently endure any chastening and afflictions you permit to come into our lives,
- C **knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.**
- M Accept our prayers and intercessions, and provide for all our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus our Savior. 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 379

Amazing Grace

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see. | 2. The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures. |
|--|---|

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

CLOSING PRAYER

M We have gathered here today, Lord God, as your redeemed and holy people. You have fed and refreshed us with your Word.

C As we go from this place, may we continue to know your presence and your power as we seek to be living examples of your love and grace, to your praise and glory.

M We bless you now and forevermore.



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PLANS FOR COMMUNION

We will have communion in our traditional worship services on the second and last weekend of the month. We will offer small group communion on the first and third weekends of the month. On the first and third weekends of the month, we will offer small group communion immediately after the Saturday and Wednesday services and from 8:20 to 9:20 Sunday mornings. More times will be added as needed. If you do not have internet access, you can register by calling Tammy at the church office at 414-422-0320 ext. 111. Please share this with news with family and friends in the congregation that you contact.

2020-2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Families with children who attend area public schools, who are not currently in St. Paul's Confirmation instruction classes, and who want their children to be confirmed at St. Paul's, should contact Dr. Nelson as soon as possible if you have yet to do so (jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 145). Confirmation Instruction at St. Paul's is a three-year, once-a-week program for public school students. We are in the process of putting together the student lists for 2020-2021 and want to make sure we have all eligible students included. All public school families/students in the program will receive a surface-mailing with more details soon.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of July 20, 2020

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:30 am	Ministerial Growth Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
WED	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

JOIN US ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online! A video archive of sermons is available at www.stpaulmukego.org/worship/sermons.

The Bridge, our casual contemporary service, is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:15 am on each of the following platforms. You can find an archive of past messages on each site, with the full-service HD replay on YouTube.



www.thebridgemuskego.org



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's



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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISMS

Morgan Juniper Sandbach, born March 27, 2020, daughter of Jason and Kelly (nee Neubauer) Sandbach, was baptized on July 8, 2020. Adeline Marie Chapman, born February 17, 2020, daughter of Derek Chapman and Elizabeth Moll, was baptized on Saturday, July 18, 2020. On July 19, 2020, four baptisms will take place after the worship services. Madison Marie Rhein, born February 10, 2020, daughter of Joshua and Emily (nee Rocklewitz) Rhein. Jayce Julian Beck, born June 11, 2020, and his father, Daniel Reuben Beck. Jayce is also the son of Analysisia (nee Rivera) Beck. Everly Marie Wallner, born May 27, 2020, daughter of Brett and Eden (nee Geier) Wallner. May God bless Morgan, Adeline, Madison, Jayce, Daniel, and Everly in their baptismal faith.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Audrey Wefel (hospice care at Angels Grace), Brittany Michaels (Froedtert), Nancy Rindfleisch (Waukesha Memorial), Marlene Sobczak (rehabbing at daughter's house), and Lois Stichmann (Linden Grove Mukwonago). Gerri Wetzels was discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 94 on Saturday; 77 on Sunday 7:45 am, 88 on Sunday 9:15 am, 110 at The Bridge, 33 on Sunday 10:45 am. 47 on Wednesday.

JULY 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 26

The Tower? Really?

Genesis 10-11

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Following the Promise is a 12-week class designed to challenge you in what you think you know, introduce you to the world's only Savior in Jesus, and take you on a journey from creation to the cross and to the halls of heaven. Join Pastor Nate for a **new class beginning on Monday, July 20** at 7:00 pm. Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card. **The class will be online due to Covid 19.**

OUTDOOR SERVICE – SUNDAY, AUGUST 2; 10:30 AM

Join us under the trees behind the Trinity Gym for our annual outdoor service. Bring your own chairs. Because of COVID-19, we will not be having a picnic afterward, but you are invited to bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy our beautiful campus. That weekend we will not have The Bridge, the 9:15 or 10:45 am traditional services.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF OPENINGS

We have two openings on our Child Care Center staff. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:30 am - 6:00 pm for one teacher's aide opening, and 12:30 – 6:00 pm, Monday – Friday for another teacher's aide opening. Please contact Tammy Dockter at dockterta@stpmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 200 to apply.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

In View of God's Mercy – A Study of Romans 12-16

How do we deal with people who think differently than we do and act differently than we do? How do we deal with people who mistreat us? How do we overcome the racial and economic divides and COVID-19 divides? We can find the answers if we remember to live "In View of God's Mercy," looking back to the mercy that we have received as the motivation for our actions and looking from that place of mercy to reflect that mercy in all our interactions.

August 2	Celebrate God's Mercy Together!	Romans 12:1-2
August 9	Serve in Humility	Romans 12:3-8
August 16	Love Un-hypocritically	Romans 12:9-21
August 23	Obey in Reverence	Romans 13
August 30	Submit in Kindness	Romans 14 – 15
September 6	United in Christ Alone	Romans 16

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. If you are interested in joining a zoom small group, email Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpmuskego.org and he will connect you with those who have also expressed interest!

ST. PAUL'S HOSTING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SIMULCAST

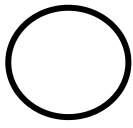
Whether at church, school, business or home, you are leading people and projects every day. Leadership takes perseverance, dedication and a commitment to stretch your mind, expand your heart and use your God-given gifts to impact your world in real and powerful ways. On August 6 and 7, 2020 you're invited to gather with thousands of leaders across North America for The Global Leadership Summit. Your registration comes with a 7-day replay after the event. St. Paul's will be hosting the simulcast in our Trinity Gym to provide maximum social distancing. Register by July 21 for the best price. Go to StPaulMuskego.org/GLS to register.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL RE-OPENING

St. Paul's Principal Seth Fitzsimmons has informed parents of the plan to re-open school in the fall with in-person, 5-days per week instruction. Enrollment is strong with 226 K-8th grade students and 76 Pre-K students. Our staff is excited to welcome our students back to school under the theme "Rejoice in the LORD always." A copy of the letter that went home to the parents is available at the Welcome Center. Please continue to pray for wisdom for your school leadership as we serve our students and their families during this unique time.

JOIN AN AMAZING TEAM

Do you love children? Has the Lord given you gifts to connect with children and lead them in a closer walk with Jesus? Would you be interested in learning more about St. Paul's Kids Club ministry and potentially how to become a part of it? If so, contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org, 414-750-2586, or mark the back of your Connection Card. God-willing, Kids Club will resume on Sunday mornings this fall. Kids Club and its staff of over 30 adults and teens serves 70 - 100 children ages 3-12 each Sunday.



GroupWork

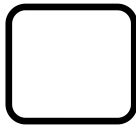
Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

“They Deliberately Forget” A Study of 2 Peter 3

It had been over 30 years since Jesus had said the world was going to end. People were already raising questions about it. Now it has been 2000 years. Can it really be true that there is going to be a judgment day? **Read 2 Peter 3.**

1. “In the last days scoffers will come.” COVID-19 has started a lot of talk about the end of the world. Share what you are hearing in your circle of friends about the end of the world. What are some questions being raised that you need help answering? If your group can’t answer the questions, jot them down and share them with Pastor Pete (ppanitzke@stpmuskego.org).
2. Look at verses 5-7. How does Peter use the Flood to prepare us for the judgment day?
3. Verse 8 is often misunderstood. Time is “relative” in the sense that it can seem to go by very quickly or very slowly. For example, the 12 years of the woman suffering in Mark 5:25 must have seemed like an eternity, but the 12 years that parents enjoyed with their daughter in Mark 5:42 must have seemed far too short. What might make a day seem like a thousand years to the Lord?
4. What does verse 9 reveal about God’s heart toward you?
5. Look at verses 10-13. What difference does it make in your daily life knowing that everything in this world will eventually be destroyed?
6. Read Revelation 21:1-5 for a fuller picture of the “new heaven and new earth.” What phrase is most comforting to you?
7. How do you “grow in grace” (2 Peter 3:18)?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

A Worldwide Flood? Really?

Genesis 6:1-8

1. A wasted effort?

- A. Noah didn't think the 120 years spent building the ark was wasted.
- B. Jesus didn't think effort to believe in the Flood was wasted (Matthew 24:36-39).
- C. Make the effort to remove the question mark.
 - a. Read Genesis 6 – 9. Notice the details.
 - b. Understand the difference between operational and historical science.
Watch AwakeAlive.com/June-Ultimate-Authority

2. The Flood message is needed today.

- A. Faith is divorced from the decisions of life (Genesis 6:1-2).
- B. The Nephilim are the heroes of today (Genesis 6:4).
- C. Every inclination of our hearts is only evil all the time (Genesis 6:5).
- D. The LORD “regrets” today (Genesis 6:6-7).
- E. The LORD promises “favor” today (Genesis 6:8).

3. Let us build the Ark!

- A. In the Ark we see we are all one race (Genesis 9:1).
- B. In the Ark we see every life is precious gift (Genesis 9:6).
- C. In the Ark we find rescue from the evil in our hearts.

My Next Steps

Dig Deeper: Learn more about how worldviews shape our approach to difficult questions about the ancient world. Read *Creation & Evolution: Compatible or in Conflict?* by Jay Seegert or watch his presentation at AwakeAlive.com/June-Ultimate-Authority.

Shape Your Worldview: How do you see that the impossible is possible with God? Only by allowing the Holy Spirit to shape your worldview. Begin a pattern of daily Bible reading, using Pastor Pete's daily readings or your own. Email him at ppanitzke@stpmuskego.org.