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**IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY
CELEBRATE GOD'S MERCY TOGETHER**
August 1, 2, and 5, 2020

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 234

Praise to The Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

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

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Psalm 103, selected verses

M The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
C **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

M He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
C **he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

M For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
C **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

M As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
C **for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

M The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;
C **the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.**

M But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
C **and his righteousness with their children's children—**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with his love he befriends you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23a).

C **Great is the Lord's faithfulness!**

M Confident of God's mercy, and longing to reconnect with our God and Creator, we humble ourselves before him and confess our sins.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all
that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now
with praises before him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him!**

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 4:1-8

Living for the Lord

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. 2 As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 3 For you have spent enough time in

the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. 7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

The Parable of the Weeds

24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ 28 “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ 29 “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

37 He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40 “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

BAPTISM (*Sunday 10:30 am*)

Samuel David Gleisner

Son of David and Angela (nee Grell) Gleisner, born May 21, 2020

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

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

THE 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 SONG

You Made a Place for Me

From before time began, By your design and hand
The author of life, Gave breath to me
Formed in the secret place, You smiled upon my face
Called me your child, what a mystery
And it's all because of Grace

You made a place for me, opened up my eyes to see
The wonder of my Father's love
And from eternity, placed me in a family
With all the saints bought by the Savior's Blood
You made a place for me

Facing this world alone, when darkness was all I've known
You were my hope in the dead of night
Strength of a Father's love, Warmth of a mother's touch
Foreshadows the love and joy of Christ
Jesus your arms are open wide

You made a place for me, opened up my eyes to see
The wonder of my Father's love
And from eternity, placed me in a family
With all the saints bought by the Savior's Blood
You made a place for me

O Lord forgive us, Jesus Restore us
Call us your children once again
O Lord forgive us, Jesus Restore us
Call us your children once again
As you renew us, Give us a boldness
So that the lonely, Would find rejoicing, built on the Rock of Christ a-lone

You made a place for me, opened up my eyes to see
The wonder of my Father's love
And for eternity, we are all your family
With all the saints bought by the Savior's Blood
We are Sons and Daughters of our God
You made a place for me, a place for me.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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 Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday 10:30 am*) *Pastor Nate Strobel*

ST. PAUL'S HOSTING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SIMULCAST THIS WEEK!

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 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. Go to StPaulMuskego.org/GLS to register.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of August 3, 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)
THURS-FRI		Global Leadership Summit Simulcast (Trinity Gym)
FRI	6:00 pm	Krabbenhof/Haas Wedding Rehearsal
SAT	8:00 am 2:00 pm 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Ben Krabbenhof/Emily Haas Wedding Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
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



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

FUNERAL

Audrey A. Wefel, born April 27, 1928, received her crown of eternal life on July 28, 2020. A Christian funeral was held July 31, 2020. Please keep Audrey's loved ones in your prayers.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Brittany Michaels (Froedtert), Nancy Rindfleisch (Care-Age in Brookfield), Marlene Sobczak (rehabbing at daughter's house), Jeanne Steinbrecher (home hospice care), and Lois Stichmann (The View at Pine Ridge).

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 99 on Saturday; 67 on Sunday 7:45 am, 92 on Sunday 9:15 am, 104 at The Bridge, 72 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 29 on Wednesday.

WORSHIP PLANS CONTINUE TO ADAPT

Beginning on Sunday, August 9, the 10:45 am service will be our "mask-required" service for those over 10 years of age. We recognize this will inconvenience some, but we also want to offer a worship experience that offers that extra measure of protection that many desire. Masks are encouraged but not required at our other services.

COMMUNION SERVICES

Communion is offered on the second and last weekend of the month. Small group communion in the Grace Room is offered the first and third weekends of the month. Call the church office (414-422-0320) to register for small group communion.

ANNIVERSARIES IN MINISTRY

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack and Mrs. Susan Kuehl recently completed twenty-five years in the pastoral and teaching ministry, respectively. During this time of pandemic, we've chosen not to celebrate these milestones publicly. However, if you would like to express your congratulations and well wishes to them in person or with a card, e-mail, note, or gift, please feel free to do so. *"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"* (Colossians 3:17).

A RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING

When the Safer-at-Home order was enacted, we prepared for a significant reduction in offerings. Instead, the offerings in the fiscal year that ended June 30th were 3% above plan. Seeing this generous response of God's people, the Ministry Board approved offerings of thanksgiving: \$11,850 to synod missions and \$5,630 to Wisconsin Lutheran High School. These amounts are 5% above our annual commitments to these ministries. Many are giving thanks to God for your generosity!

More Good News! For nearly 20 years, we borrowed money from dedicated funds for operating expenses. About 10 years ago, that internal debt had grown to \$265,000. We are happy to report that the internal debt has been erased! Our only outstanding debt is the \$1.4 million mortgage on our 2010 school addition. Gifts in the green "Picnic Offering" envelop will go towards reducing our mortgage or give online at StPaulMuskego.org/Give.

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 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

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 the class that has just begun meeting online on Mondays at 7:00 pm. Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email at nstrobels@stpaulmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card.

ONLINE SMALL GROUPS

The COVID-19 epidemic has resulted in an explosion of our online ministry across the world and also an increased demand for online Bible study. We would like to help serve those 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!

AUGUST “FAMILY IN NEED”

One of our members has been hospitalized awaiting a lung transplant for the last month. If she is accepted into a transplant program, it will likely be out-of-state. Another family member will also need to travel with her. Even with insurance, costs are and will continue to mount. If you would like to help this family, mark your gift clearly “August Family in Need” or go to StPaulMuskego.org/Give and donate to “Friends in Need” putting “August Family in Need” in the memo line.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

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.

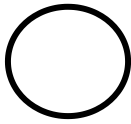
2020-2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

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.



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GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Can you believe it's August already? What kinds of things are you looking forward to in this month?

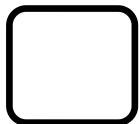
2. As we focus on God's mercy this week, consider two opposing views of mercy. Which one do you think is the more popular perspective in our world today? Which one do you personally agree with more?
 - *"Nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy."* - William Shakespeare
 - *"I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice."* - Abraham Lincoln

3. Read John 8:1-11. Discuss the two different approaches seen in this account towards correcting the woman's behavior.
 - Which approach do you think was more effective (and why)?
 - Which approach do you think would be more effective in your life (and why)?

4. How do you celebrate God's immeasurable mercy in your day-to-day life?

5. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Discuss this example of mercy, specifically in light of the words of verse 13.

6. Wrap up your study time by praying for God to show you (at least) one person in your life that needs to be shown mercy. Don't forget to ask God to help you give that mercy in his way and time, too!



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Romans 12:1, 2 + Celebrate God's Mercy +

Introduction: "I give myself to Jesus."

I. Appreciate God's mercy.

A. Our need for mercy

1. God's w_____ and w_____ are not what we by nature want (Romans 8:6, 7).
2. The penalty for sin is d_____ (Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23).

B. In the face of our sin and death dilemma, God acted.

1. In mercy God planned for our s_____, a plan that involved J_____.
2. Jesus did not act in any self-centered way, but his every t_____, w_____, and a_____ had us in mind (Matthew 20:28).
3. Pure joy and amazement at God's mercy prompted Paul to write, "The life I now live in the body, I live by f_____ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

II. Live God's mercy.

A. The response to God's mercy is thankful living.

1. God's Old Testament C_____ Law demanded the sacrifice of dead things.
2. Instead of offering t_____, inanimate objects, the early Christians would offer t_____.
3. A "wallet experience"
4. A comical example of "total sacrifice"
5. Our response means that in faith we c_____ to live and act contrary to the pattern of the world.

B. Can we trust God when we commit to living his way?

1. Yes, because God has r_____ us from a life slavery to sin, death, and the devil and r_____ us to a life of joyful service in his kingdom.
2. Yes, because in Holy Baptism God has renewed our h_____ and m_____.
3. Yes, because God has promised us great b_____ when we do.

Conclusion: As we celebrate God's mercy, may the Lord lead us to appreciate it and live it.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Romans 12:3-8 to prepare for next week's message on *In View of God's Mercy Serve in Humility*.
- **Memorize** Matthew 20:28 – "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."
- **Pray** that the Lord would use your living his mercy to make a difference in someone's life for eternity.