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DIFFERENT...

THE CHURCH'S DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

January 23, 25, and 26, 2025

*Facebook and Twitter added "like" and "retweet" and reported cases of depression began to rise. "The more people like me, the more successful I am...??!!" Maybe NOT. It's an easy trap, even for a church. But **popularity** while preaching the gospel is NOT proof of success...and **popularity** is NEVER the goal. The **central focus** of Jesus Christ is not things like personal improvement, healing the sick, or social justice. That message may draw a crowd, but it fails to carry out Christ's main mission. The good news of the forgiveness of sins is **central** to preaching and teaching...**it IS the mission of Christ and his Church.***



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S – CONNECTION CARD

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card, sharing any questions or prayer requests you might have. You can fill out the card online and find other resources by scanning the QR Code.

CHILDCARE EVERY SUNDAY 7:45 – 10:45 am in east wing of the church.

SUNDAY KIDS CLUB FOR 3K – GRADE 5 9:30 – 10:30 am at the school. Register online at stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub.

ACCESSIBILITY A hearing loop system and large-print worship folders are available.

QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE? Visit the Welcome Center in the lobby where a greeter will be happy to assist you.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN RED 82, vv. 1, 3, 5

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

**Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do Imitate and honor you
That we all like you may be At your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

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

C **Amen.**

M Sisters and brothers in Christ, the Scriptures remind us that we were bought at a price. We belong to God.

C **We no longer lives for ourselves. We live for Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us.**

M Yet we continue to struggle with our sin-nature. This nature seeks to make our comfort, our happiness, and our personal agendas the priority in our lives. We are easily influenced by a culture that is focused on doing what feels goods rather than doing what is good. We are not holy as God has called us to be holy. For this we deserve his eternal wrath and punishment. Because we have failed to live for God, because we have not earnestly sought to do his will, we come before him and confess our sin.

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.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.' The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall.

C **We cannot make this journey alone.**

M Strengthen us through Word and Sacrament in body, mind, and spirit,

C **and bring us safely through all temptations.**

M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen**

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Bible page 751

*The LORD called Jeremiah fearlessly to share God's Word,
 even if what he said made him unpopular.*

VERSE OF THE DAY (*Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 8:00 am*)

M Alleluia. Jesus said: "I am the Light of the word. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Alleluia. (John 8:12 NIV)

ANTHEM (*Sunday 9:30 am*)

Still, My Soul, Be Still

Blue Hymnal 834

St. Paul's Junior Choir

GOSPEL

Luke 4:38-44, Bible page 1031

Jesus was popular in Capernaum. The people wanted him to stay there permanently. Jesus knew for his mission to be successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY RED 353, vv. 1-2

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the Father's word of peace.**

**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
Praise the one who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the one who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the one who makes us one.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

DISMISSAL OF ONLINE WORSHIPERS *(Sunday 9:30 am)*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so 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 right to give him thanks and praise.

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 came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

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. If you are not a member of our Lutheran denomination, please speak with one of the pastors before joining us at the altar. Thank you.

Non-alcoholic wine (light-colored wine in tray) and gluten-free wafers (at Communion rail) are available.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN RED 311

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

**Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

**Hasten as a bride to meet him, And with loving rev'rence greet him,
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him, Saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, That I nevermore will leave you.**

**He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, Naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And his blood, for you once given.**

**Now I kneel before you lowly, Filled with joy most deep and holy,
As with trembling awe and wonder On your mighty work I ponder,
How by mystery surrounded, Depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden Secrets that with you are hidden.**

**Human reason, though it ponders, Cannot fathom these great wonders,
That Christ's body must be boundless Since the souls it feeds are countless,
And that he his blood is giving With the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded Are by God alone expounded.**

**Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you, Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited; Be your love with love requited.
By this supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me As your guest in heav'n receive me.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M Jesus, you came to us today and poured out the riches of your love and grace in your Word and sacrament.

C **In you we truly have all that we need and more.**

M As we go out into the world, empower us as your forgiven children to be instruments of your healing.

C **May the light of your love shine in us and through us.**

M We bless you now and forevermore.

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

PASTOR FRANK ITALIANO JR. CALLED AS PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Italiano, 52 years old, has been called to join our Ministerial Team. He and his wife, Gretchen, have four children, ages 20, 16, 13 and 11. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1999 and has served his entire ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crete, Illinois, a southern suburb of Chicago. Trinity is a congregation of nearly 1000 members served by two pastors. With a neighboring congregation they operate Illinois Lutheran Schools, a 3K – 12th grade school system with nearly 300 students. He asks for our prayers.