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## THE MESSAGE BEHIND THE MIRACLE

### GLORY IN HIS PROMISE

January 8, 10, and 11, 2025

*In John's Gospel he uses the word "signs" as a way of describing a miracle. It is another way of communicating important information. Today, Jesus returns to the town where he performed his first "sign" and word has gotten out about his divine power to do the impossible. One man, desperate for the healing of his dying son a day's walk away, begs Jesus for a miracle who grants the request, but not in the way we might expect. This time around, the miracle reveals the message that Jesus can be trusted!*



#### 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](http://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.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR GOSPEL MINISTRY** "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). You may place your offering in the box in the lobby or scan the QR code to give using Venmo. Thank you for helping us share the peace and joy we have in Jesus.



**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC MEDITATION (Sunday)**

**Rondeau**

*By J. Mouret, Arr. W. Barnes  
St. Paul's Brass Ensemble*

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**OPENING – RED HYMNAL 411**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

**What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.**

M The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

C **"No one comes to the Father except through me."**

M Sometimes, however, we fail to trust that Jesus is the one and only way, the way to God, the way through our pain, the way to peace for this life and the next.

C **In moments like that we wonder if we can really trust God or if we should take matters into our own hands.**

M As we approach God now, we come in humble honesty, confessing our struggles with sin and our desperate need for Jesus, the One who is trustworthy in every situation.

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 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 For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C **Amen.**

M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you show yourself to be reliable and trustworthy in all that you do.

C **You speak your Word and it comes to pass.**

M We confess that our faith in you wavers and our trust in you can be weak.

C **Strengthen us by your promises, that we would entrust everything to you, even the things that seem impossible.**

M We pray in your name, Jesus. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14:5-14, Bible page 69

*Sometimes in the face of overwhelming despair, it is best to be still and trust.*

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 2:6-12, Bible page 1183

*Our capacity to trust God comes through the relationship we have through faith.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

M In a world of confusion about where we come from, and who it is that provides and cares for us day by day, what do you believe?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

M Many in the world think that God isn't concerned about our pain and suffering. Some feel that they can solve their problems; others feel there is no hope. What do you believe God has done for you?

C **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.**

M Many people believe that faith is the one work they have to perform to come to God. Many fear death. What comfort can you give to them that would help them through their struggles?

C **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 – RED HYMNAL 353, vv. 1-2

**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

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 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 congregations 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

M Jesus Christ, Lord of glory, you delight in making yourself know to us and others.

C **Bring us to recognize and rejoice in your majesty and your ministry.**

M In love you chose to exercise your greatest strength to serve us in our greatest need.

C **You revealed the brightness of your glory through humble deeds of love.**

M You called ordinary men to do extraordinary things as your disciples and apostles. You also call us confidently to follow you, diligently to learn from you, and lovingly to imitate you.

C **Equip and empower us to serve you and our neighbor faithfully. Use us as your witnesses to bring many throughout the world to the light of your gospel.**

M You revealed your glory through mighty signs and wonders. Assure us that you still rule all things in the universe and use them to serve our eternal good. In wise compassion you often exercise your power to help and heal people with physical and emotional needs.

C **Give us courage and compassion to relieve the distress of the hurting, to pray for all according to their needs, and to be content and cheerful when in your wisdom you ask us to endure hardship.**

*Special prayers and intercessions.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M Preserve your truth among us, and by that truth preserve us until you appear in dazzling splendor to bring us to the glory of heaven.

C **Let our anticipation of the heavenly kingdom ennoble our thinking and speaking, enrich our conduct, and increase our joy in all aspects of earthly life.**

M Hear us, Light of the Gentiles and Glory of Israel.

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.

## 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 Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: 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.

## 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.*

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old  
 Was strong to heal and save;  
 It triumphed o'er disease and death,  
 All darkness and the grave.  
 To you they came, the blind, the dumb,  
 The paralyzed and lame,  
 The lepers in their misery,  
 The sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
 Gave speech and strength and sight;  
 And youth renewed and frenzy calmed  
 Revealed you, Lord of light.  
 And now, O Lord, be near to bless,  
 Almighty as before,  
 In crowded street, by beds of pain,  
 As by Gennes'ret's shore.

Oh, be our great deliv'rer still,  
 The Lord of life and death;  
 Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,  
 With your life-giving breath.  
 To hands that work and eyes that see  
 Give wisdom's healing pow'r  
 That whole and sick and weak and strong  
 May praise you evermore.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Lord Jesus, you are faithful and true.

C **You keep all your promises.**

M Grant that we would walk by faith and not by sight,

C **trusting in your word even when circumstances seem to contradict it.**

M We bless you now and forevermore.



C: A - men.

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.