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**RETHINKING RELIGION**  
**RETHINKING WHAT WE GIVE UP FOR LENT**  
February 24 and 25, 2024

*We often talk about giving something up for Lent... maybe chocolate or soda. Is that what Jesus meant when he said, "Deny yourself"?*



**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S – CONNECTION CARD**

*Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online by scanning the QR Code.*

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

**SUNDAY KIDS CLUB 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.

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

**Panis Angelicus**  
By C. Frank, Arr. P. Neu  
St. Paul's Brass Ensemble

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN RED 453, vv. 1, 3, 4**

**Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke**

"Come, follow me," the Savior spoke, "All in my way abiding.  
Deny yourselves; the world forsake; Obey my call and guiding.  
Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide;  
Take my example for your guide.

"My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing,  
And gracious words my lips express, With meekness overflowing.  
My heart, my mind, my strength, my all  
To God I yield; on him I call.

**"I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your souls' salvation,  
Your hearts from ev'ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul  
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."**

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

M Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,  
C **whose sins are covered.**

M Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
C **and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

M When I kept silent my bones wasted away  
C **through my groaning all day long.**

M For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
C **my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

M Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
C **and did not cover up my iniquity.**

M I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
C **And you forgave the guilt of my sin (Psalm 32:1-5).**

M Lord God, because it was for our sin that Jesus endured the mind-numbing anguish of the  
passion,  
C **we confess our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, our reluctance to bear  
the cross.**

M Forgive the poverty of our worship, our neglect of your Word and Sacrament, our  
unwillingness to spend the time to encourage fellow Christians, our hesitating witness for  
Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.  
C **Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been  
thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in our condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow  
to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.**

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.  
Forgiven and restored, we commit ourselves to following our Savior in life and in death.

**Then let us follow Christ our Lord And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to his Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain  
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

God of heaven, Lord of our salvation, you gave up your rightful place in heaven, coming into a hostile world to bring peace and comfort. You came to seek and to save the lost.

C **Thank you for sending Jesus to carry the cross for us.**

M Be with us in your love and keep us mindful of your forgiveness.

C **Give us strength to deny ourselves, to take up our cross and follow you.**

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

C **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 58:1-10**, Bible page 740

*God-pleasing fasting and self-denial is about more than how much food you eat. Godly fasting focuses on putting our faith into action.*

## SECOND LESSON

**Romans 5:1-11**, Bible page 1130

*Paul teaches that God works through our suffering to shape our Christian character and to lead us to cling to Christ's gracious promises.*

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 465, vv. 1-3

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me; They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; You are not, like them, untrue.  
And since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me - Show your face, and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In your service pain is pleasure; With your favor loss is gain.  
I have called you Abba, Father! You my all in all shall be.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me.

*After the sermon, the congregation sings:*

**Haste, my soul, from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
All but heav'n is transitory; God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story; Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

## 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 also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*

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 Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

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**

### **Our 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 429**

### **What God Ordains Is Always Good**

**What God ordains is always good; His will is just and holy.  
As he directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed In ev'ry need  
Knows well how he will shield me; To him, then, I will yield me.**

**What God ordains is always good; He never will deceive me.  
He leads me in his righteous way And never will he leave me.  
I take content What he has sent;  
His hand that sends me sadness Will turn my tears to gladness.**

**What God ordains is always good; He is my friend and Father.  
He will not let me suffer harm Though many storms may gather.  
Now I may know Both joy and woe;  
Some day I shall see clearly That he has loved me dearly.**

**What God ordains is always good. Though I the cup am drinking  
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.  
For after grief God grants relief,  
My heart with comfort filling And all my sorrow stilling.**

**What God ordains is always good; This truth remains unshaken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.  
I fear no harm, For with his arm  
He will embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

- M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## PRE-K BENEDICTION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek Lenten worship services continue every Wednesday through March 20, at 3:30 and 6:30 pm on the Muskego campus. The theme of this year's services is "God on Trial."

#### **Testimony: February 28**

- Matthew 26:57-75 – Pastor Chris Cordes, NPH Vice-President of Publishing

#### **Misconceptions: March 6**

- Luke 23:1-12 – Pastor Kuehl

#### **Truth: March 13**

- John 18:33-40 – Pastor Kuehl

#### **Sympathy: March 20**

- Luke 23:26-34 – Pastor Cordes

### WEEKEND MESSAGE SERIES: RETHINKING RELIGION

Join us on Saturdays at 5:00 pm or Sundays at 8:00, 9:30 or 10:30 am.

- **Third Sunday in Lent:** *Rethinking Why We Worship*
- **Fourth Sunday in Lent:** *Rethinking "Try Harder"*
- **Fifth Sunday in Lent:** *Rethinking Commitment*
- **Sunday of the Passion:** *Rethinking Real Strength*
- **Holy Thursday:** *Rethinking Our Appetites*
- **Good Friday:** *Rethinking Sacrifice*