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WHAT IF... JESUS DIDN'T MEET US WHERE WE'RE AT?

March 7 and 8, 2026

What if Jesus didn't meet us where we're at? He literally met the woman at the well where she was, but also didn't push her away because of her life choices. He met her where she was in order to bring the Gospel to her. What if Jesus didn't do that to us? What if he said, "you're on your own?" The Bible is there, but you're on your own to find it, to understand it.



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 8:45 – 11:45 am in the Kids hallway to your left as you leave the sanctuary.

SUNDAY KIDS CLUB FOR 3K – GRADE 5 9:00 – 10:00 am at the school. Register online at stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub.

ACCESSIBILITY A hearing loop system is on the pulpit side of the church. There are also large-print worship folders available. Ask and usher for assistance.

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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR GOSPEL MINISTRY 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)

Dona Nobis Pacem

Arr. B. E. Austin (ASCAP)

St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING – RED HYMNAL 479, vv. 1-3

Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me

Jesus, your boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare.
Dwell in my heart eternally,
And reign without a rival there.
To you alone, dear Lord, I live;
Myself to you, dear Lord, I give.

Oh, grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell but your pure love alone;
Oh, may your love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
My ev'ry act, word, thought be love.

**This love unwearied I pursue
And dauntlessly to you aspire.
Oh, may your love my hope renew,
Burn in my soul like heav'nly fire!
And day and night be all my care
To guard this sacred treasure there.**

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

C **Amen.**

M "Come, all who are thirsty, come to the waters," says the Lord.

C **"Let those who have no money come, buy and eat!" (Isaiah 55:1)**

M Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."

C **"Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)**

M Yet how often we turn away from the living water. We look to the broken cisterns of this world—our own pride, our own plans, our own pleasures—only to find ourselves empty and ashamed. Let us confess our sins to the Lord, who meets us even in our waywardness.

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 We praise God for his faithful love and pray for wisdom to lean on him in every trouble.

**In suff'ring be your love my peace;
In weakness be your love my pow'r;
And when the storms of life shall cease,
O Jesus, in that final hour
Be then my rod and staff and guide
And draw me safely to your side.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you came into this world not to call the righteous, but sinners.

C **You sought out the lost, the broken, and the ashamed.**

M You met the woman at the well in her need and offered her living water.

C **Meet us also in our need. Refresh our weary souls with the gospel of your grace.**

M Give us faith to drink deeply from the Word you speak and the sacraments you give,

C **and fill us with the joy of knowing we are yours.**

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



FIRST LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7, Bible page 73

The Israelites grumbled in the wilderness, thirsty and afraid. Yet God met them in their need, providing water from the rock and proving once again that he cares for his people even when they doubt.

VERSE OF THE DAY (Saturday)

M Jesus said: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

ANTHEM (Sunday)

Draw Me Nearer

By D. Sheets, Arr. G. Rhodes

St. Paul's Adult Choir

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-8, Bible page 1130

Paul reminds us that while we were still sinners—weak, ungodly, enemies of God—Christ died for us. At just the right time, Jesus met us where we were and brought us peace with God.

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 HYMNAL 389, vv. 1-3

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly -- Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

SERMON

John 4:5-26 Bible page 1065

Pastor Nate Strobel

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Gracious Father, you sent your Son into this broken world to seek and to save the lost.

C **Thank you for meeting us where we are and calling us to yourself.**

M We live in a world that is thirsty—thirsty for meaning, for love, for hope. So many are drinking from broken cisterns that can never satisfy.

C **Use us to point them to the living water found only in Jesus.**

M Strengthen your Church to boldly proclaim the gospel. Give us courage to speak your truth in love, and give us hearts that long to see others come to faith.

C **Bless the work of pastors, missionaries, teachers, and all who serve in your name.**

M Be near to those who are struggling—those who are weary, ashamed, hurting, or lost. Meet them in their need as you met the woman at the well.

C **Give them eyes to see your love and ears to hear your voice.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M Lord Jesus, you are the living water. Fill us to overflowing with your grace, that our lives may be a testimony to your goodness and love.

C **Come, Lord Jesus. Meet us again and again in Word and Sacrament. 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 9:00 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. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 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.

C: A - men.

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.

COMMUNION MEDITATION (Sunday)

I am Jesus' Little Lamb

Bruder Choral-Bach

Arr. C. Moglebust (ASCAP)

St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir

DISTRIBUTION – RED HYMNAL 465

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

DISTRIBUTION – RED HYMNAL 120

What Wondrous Love Is This

CLOSING PRAYER

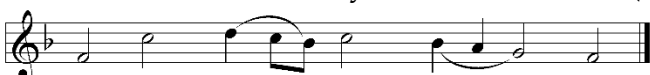
M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.

ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION