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LIVING HOPE

LIVING STONES BUILT ON THE RISEN CORNERSTONE

April 30, May 2 and 3, 2026

Because Jesus lives, you belong. Rejected by the world—chosen by God. In a culture where we often seek identity in approval, performance, politics, or cultural trends, all these things shift and fail us. But because Jesus Christ, the stone the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone through his resurrection, we who are united to him share in his exalted identity. We are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." The priesthood of all believers flows from our union with the risen Christ, and his resurrection changes everything about who we are.



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 enter the Commons.

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.



CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC MEDITATION (Sunday)

A Joyous Song

By J. W. Kerr

St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING – RED HYMNAL 531, vv. 1-3

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever
And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all your lovingkindness,
Hear your people as they pray,
And your fullest benediction
Speak within these walls today.

**Grant, we pray, to all your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain,
What they gain from you forever With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in your glory Evermore with you to reign.**

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 Brothers and sisters in Christ, we live in a world that does not always understand or welcome us. Like the first Christians to whom Peter wrote, we are scattered among people who may reject our values, question our hope, or misunderstand our identity.

C **But we are not without a foundation. We are not without a home.**

M We are built on the cornerstone—Jesus Christ, the one the builders rejected, whom God raised from the dead and exalted forever.

C **He is our sure foundation. In him, we belong.**

M Yet we confess that we often forget whose we are. We look to the world for approval. We seek our worth in what we accomplish or how we appear. We grow discouraged when we are misunderstood or marginalized. We forget that we are chosen, royal, holy, and loved. Let us confess our sins and find our identity once again in Christ.

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 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.**

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

**Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Almighty God, you raised your Son Jesus from the dead and made him the cornerstone of your Church.

C **Build us into a holy temple, a dwelling place for your Spirit.**

M Help us remember that we are chosen by you—not by the world, not by our performance, but by your grace.

C **Establish us on the solid rock of Christ, that we may stand firm in every season and proclaim your praises with boldness and joy.**

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



FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:8-12, Bible page 1093

Peter boldly proclaims that salvation is found in no one else but Jesus Christ, the stone rejected by the builders, whom God raised from the dead. This rejected cornerstone is now the foundation of our hope and identity.

PSALM OF THE DAY (Thursday and Saturday)

Psalm 118, Red Hymnal page 108

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. We rejoice and are glad in the victory God has won for us in Christ.

ANTHEM (Sunday)

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

By P. Palmer Knapp, Arr. J. Atteberry

St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir, Oboe, Clarinet

GOSPEL

John 14:1-11, Bible page 1081

Jesus assures his troubled disciples that he is the way, the truth, and the life. In his Father's house are many rooms, and he goes to prepare a place for them. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Because Jesus lives and reigns, we belong to him forever.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – RED HYMNAL 529, vv. 1-3

Built on the Rock

**Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.**

**We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.**

SERMON

1 Peter 2:4-10, Bible page 1221

Pastor Frank Italiano

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**Grant then, O God, your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ his message is bringing:
"I know my own; my own know me.
You, not the world, my face shall see.
My peace I leave with you always."**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Gracious Father, we give you thanks that you have called us out of darkness into your wonderful light.

C You have made us a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

M You did not reject us in our sin, but made us yours through the living and enduring Word of Christ.

C Build us up as living stones into a spiritual house, united to the risen Cornerstone.

M Keep us faithful in our calling as your royal priesthood. Make us bold to declare your praises in our words, in our homes, and in the world.

C Remind us daily that our identity is secure in you—not in the approval of this world.

M We pray for your Church in every place. Strengthen pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all who serve in your name.

C May they speak your Word with courage and live in the joy of the resurrection.

M Be with all who suffer rejection, opposition, or persecution for your name. Uphold them with the promise of your presence.

C Remind them that the stone the builders rejected is now the cornerstone, and they are built on him.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our personal prayers in silence.

Silent prayer.

M Lord Jesus, you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

CLOSING – RED HYMNAL 167, vv. 1, 2, 4

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Jesus Christ, my sure defense
And my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope here given,
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many an anxious thought.

Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
Likewise I to life shall waken.
He will bring me where he is;
Shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head
Rise and leave his members dead?

I am flesh and must return
To the dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide
In his glory, at his side.

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION