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THE TOWER?

REALLY?

July 25, 26, and 29, 2020

When we set out to accomplish "great things" apart from God, no matter how beautiful or impressive the final result, the tower will eventually come crashing down.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 478

With the Lord Begin Your Task

**With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For his aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And, when day is ended,
In his name then close your eyes; Be to him commended.**

**Let each day begin with prayer, Praise and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With his presence cheer you.**

**With your Savior at your side Foes need not alarm you;
In his promises confide And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.**

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

M Brothers and sisters, all too often we build in our lives towers of self-protection, self-confidence, self-preservation, and self-fulfillment. We forget that God is sovereign and that every plan made apart from him is doomed to ultimately fail. With the psalmist we plead: Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy

C **If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness.** (*Psalm 130:1-4a*)

M Confident that we are your dear children, loved and forgiven, we come before you, Lord, in humble honesty and in grateful expectation as we confess our sins.

C **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



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.**

**If your task is thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, Naught your soul distressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Father God, you have designed us to live and work together in community.

C **You have given us different gifts and passions that are good when we stand alone but even better when we work together.**

M But when you and your Word of Truth are not the foundation for this community, pain and dysfunction will ultimately rule.

C **In all we do, Father, help us to build our lives on and around you.**

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

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

James 4:1-10

Friendship with the world leads to enmity against God.

⁴ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 2

M Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,

C **"Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles."**

M The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

C **"I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."**

M I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me,

C **"You are my son; today I have become your father."**

M Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

C **You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."**

M Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

C **Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.**

M Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

C **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Only in connection to Christ can we bear good fruit.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 452

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.**

**Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.**

SERMON

Genesis 11:1-9

Pastor Peter Panitzke

11 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

⁸So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹That is why it was called Babe—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

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.

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 to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord.

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host 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 **Amen.**

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

We will distribute the Lord's body and blood using "continuous communion." The pastor will explain the process before communion. As you stand in line in the center aisle, please maintain social distance from the person in front of you. Cup your hands to receive the wafer. Pause as the pastor says, "Take and eat. The body of the Lord." Move to the communion table, pick up and a cup. The pastor will say, "Take and drink. The blood of the Lord." Then dispose of the cup and return to your seat by one of the side aisles.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 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.**

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 and equip us as your forgiven children to live to your glory.

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

OUTDOOR SERVICE – SUNDAY, AUGUST 2; 10:30 AM

Join us under the trees behind the Trinity Gym for our annual outdoor service. Bring your own chairs. Because of COVID-19, we will not be having a picnic afterward, but you are invited to bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy our beautiful campus. That weekend we will not have The Bridge, the 9:15 or 10:45 am traditional services.

WORSHIP PLANS CONTINUE TO ADAPT

Beginning on Sunday, August 9, the 10:45 am service will be our “mask-required” service. We recognize this will inconvenience some, but we also want to offer a worship experience that offers that extra measure of protection that many desire. Masks are encouraged but not required at our other services.

COMMUNION SERVICES

Communion is offered on the second and last weekend of the month. Small group communion in the Grace Room is offered the first and third weekends of the month. Call the church office (414-422-0320) to register for small group communion.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of July 27, 2020

MON	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Following the Promise (online)
TUE	8:30 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
WED	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
THURS	6:30 am 8:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am 10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service Outdoor Worship Service (bring your own picnic lunch to follow)

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Glenn Edwin Wefel, born on May 24, 1928, received his crown of glory on April 2, 2020. Beverly Lou Wefel, born on September 6, 1934, received her crown of glory on April 4, 2020. A service of celebration in their memory will be held at St. Paul's on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Louise Ellen Drobka, born on April 13, 1933, entered her eternal rest on March 24, 2020. A memorial service celebrating her life and eternity will be held at St. Paul's on Friday, July 31, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. A visitation will be held at 4:00 pm until the time of service.

"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Audrey Wefel (hospice care at Angels Grace), Brittany Michaels (Froedtert), Nancy Rindfleisch (Care-Age in Brookfield), Marlene Sobczak (rehabbing at daughter's house), Jeanne Steinbrecher (Waukesha Memorial) and Lois Stichmann (The View at Pine Ridge).

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 84 on Saturday; 57 on Sunday 7:45 am, 88 on Sunday 9:15 am, 110 at The Bridge, 49 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 23 on Wednesday.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

In View of God's Mercy – A Study of Romans 12-16

How do we deal with people who think differently than we do and act differently than we do? How do we deal with people who mistreat us? How do we overcome the racial and economic divides and COVID-19 divides? We can find the answers if we remember to live "In View of God's Mercy," looking back to the mercy that we have received as the motivation for our actions and looking from that place of mercy to reflect that mercy in all our interactions.

August 2	Celebrate God's Mercy Together!	Romans 12:1-2
August 9	Serve in Humility	Romans 12:3-8
August 16	Love Un-hypocritically	Romans 12:9-21
August 23	Obey in Reverence	Romans 13
August 30	Submit in Kindness	Romans 14 – 15
September 6	United in Christ Alone	Romans 16

2020-2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Families with children who attend area public schools, who are not currently in St. Paul's Confirmation instruction classes, and who want their children to be confirmed at St. Paul's, should contact Dr. Nelson as soon as possible if you have yet to do so (jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 145). Confirmation Instruction at St. Paul's is a three-year, once-a-week program for public school students. We are in the process of putting together the student lists for 2020-2021 and want to make sure we have all eligible students included. All public school families/students in the program will receive a surface-mailing with more details soon.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

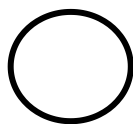
Following the Promise is a 12-week class designed to challenge you in what you think you know, introduce you to the world's only Savior in Jesus, and take you on a journey from creation to the cross and to the halls of heaven. Join Pastor Nate for the class that has just begun meeting online on Mondays at 7:00 pm. Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email at nstrob@stpaulmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card.

ONLINE SMALL GROUPS

The COVID-19 shutdown has resulted in an explosion of our gospel ministry to every part of our nation. We would like to help serve these members at a distance and those locally who must remain isolated for health reasons by developing online small group Bible studies. If you are interested in joining a zoom small group, email Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org and he will connect you with those who have also expressed interest!

ST. PAUL'S HOSTING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SIMULCAST

Whether at church, school, business or home, you are leading people and projects every day. Leadership takes perseverance, dedication and a commitment to stretch your mind, expand your heart and use your God-given gifts to impact your world in real and powerful ways. On August 6 and 7, 2020 you're invited to gather with thousands of leaders across North America for The Global Leadership Summit. Your registration comes with a 7-day replay after the event. St. Paul's will be hosting the simulcast in our Trinity Gym to provide maximum social distancing. Register by July 21 for the best price. Go to StPaulMuskego.org/GLS to register.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for us in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

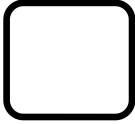
Our Celebration of Unity A Study of Revelation 7

In Revelation 6, the Apostle John saw visions of **war** (6:3-4), **famine** (6:5-6), **pandemics** (6:7-8), **persecution** (6:9-11) and **judgment** (6:12-17). Quickly read over Revelation 6 and write the bolded words in your Bible at the appropriate verses.

Jesus' goal in these visions is not to terrify us, but to prepare us for difficult days of sickness and unemployment and uncertainty. Notice that he began with a vision of gospel conquest (6:1-2). In spite of everything, "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

In Revelation 7, we see the dispersion of the Tower of Babel will be reversed in the resurrection at the end of the world.

1. **Read Revelation 7:1-8.** Even though difficult days are coming on the earth, "the Lord knows those who are his" (2 Timothy 2:19). How does it comfort you in the midst of this pandemic to know that the Lord has marked you as his own child?
2. **Read Revelation 7:9-10.** The rebellion at the Tower of Babel brought division into this world. At the resurrection, we shall see that division reversed. How does this vision help you as you think about, and discuss with others, the issue of racial inequality in our nation?
3. **Read Revelation 7:11-12.** On communion Sundays, the sentences leading into communion announce that we join with the angels in praising God. How would worship be different for you if you could actually see the angels joining in our praise?
4. **Read Revelation 7:13-14.** How could you use these verses to comfort someone who is filled with anxiety because of the fear of death?
5. **Read Revelation 7:15-17.** What do you think will be the best part of our "Celebration of Unity" before the throne of God?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

The Tower of Babel? Really?

Genesis 11:1-9

1. The frightening power of unity (Genesis 11:1-4)

- A. What is missing in verses 1-4?
- B. The human heart makes unity frightening (Genesis 8:21).
- C. Examples today: protests, government branches, social pressure changing our values.

2. The gracious power of unity (Genesis 11:5-9)

- A. Listen in on a divine conversation (Genesis 1:26).
- B. Notice the Name of independent and unchanging love.
- C. Trust the plan of the LORD (Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:22-23).

3. The saving power of unity (Genesis 12:3)

- A. Unity among the “clans” (Genesis 10:5,20,31 & Genesis 12:3).
- B. Unity is a miracle of the Divine Unity (Ephesians 2:22).
- C. Live the saving power of unity (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).

Our Mission: By every possible means we bring every person within our area of influence closer to Christ.

Our Celebration: Revelation 7:9-10

My Next Steps

Dig Deeper: Learn more about how worldviews shape our approach to difficult questions about the ancient world. Read *Creation & Evolution: Compatible or in Conflict?* by Jay Seegert or watch his presentation at AwakeAlive.com/June-Ultimate-Authority.

Shape Your Worldview: How do you see that the impossible is possible with God? Only by allowing the Holy Spirit to shape your worldview. Begin a pattern of daily Bible reading, using Pastor Pete’s daily readings or your own. Email him at ppanitzke@stpmuskego.org.