

GRACE WINS!

GRACE WINS IN REAL LIFE

July 27, 28, and 31

Last week we talked about how faith saves. This week we are going to see saving faith in action. Only we'll see that the power of faith in Abraham's life had little to do with him and everything to do with the one in whom Abraham placed his faith.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 381

Grace Has a Thrilling Sound

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

C **Amen.**

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, in his Word God has made a promise to us: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just. He will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

C **Why, then, would we choose to hide our sin and remain slaves to guilt and shame?**

M Through the cross of Christ God has taken away our sin. Trusting in God's promise to forgive us, we find the strength, as we come before him, to open our hearts to him and 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



Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

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

GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



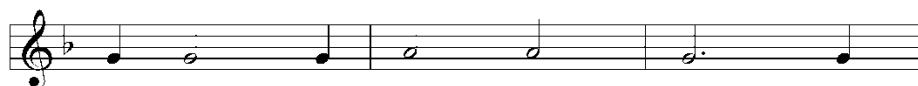
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



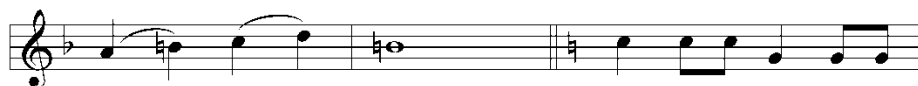
world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -



ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, there is no God like you. You are the God who heals and restores.
- C **You bring life from the dead and give courage to the hopeless.**
- M You invite us to put our faith and confidence in you.
- C **Give us strength to believe with all our heart that apart from you we have no good thing.**
- 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

Genesis 15:1-6, Bible page 13

Abraham trusted in the word and promise of God. That faith connected him to the righteousness Christ would one day win for him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

- M Alleluia. Alleluia. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Alleluia (*John 3:16*).

GOSPEL

Luke 15:11-32, Bible page 1048

What brought the prodigal son back home? His faith in the goodness, mercy, and love of his father.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

HYMN OF THE DAY 383

Blessed Are They, Forever Blest

SERMON

Romans 4, Bible page 1129

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

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.

OFFERING

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

Please see Communion note on page 7.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 382
377

**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

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

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*

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, entitled *Following the Promise*, to provide an overview of our teachings. Contact Pastor Nate Strobel at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org to register or to ask any questions you may have.*

*If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of *Christian Worship* to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.*

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pew in the left center section is reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.

JOIN US ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online! A video archive of sermons is available at www.stpaulmuskego.org/worship/sermons.

The Bridge, our casual contemporary service, is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:15 am on each of the following platforms. You can find an archive of past messages on each site, with the full-service replay on YouTube.



www.thebridgemuskego.org



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of July 29, 2019

MON	8:30 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
MON – THURS		WELS Convention in New Ulm, Minnesota
TUE	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Picnic Committee Meeting
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 with picnic to follow

CHANGES IN PRE-K STAFFING

In the middle of June, our Pre-K Director Michele Drska informed School Administrator Fitzsimmons of her desire to reduce her work load from full-time. As a result, Mrs. Drska will continue part-time in her duties as Pre-K Director, but she will no longer be teaching a half-day 4K program. Therefore, the St. Paul's Ministry Board extended a one-year call to Mrs. Laura Walz to teach a four-day half-day program. Laura is known to many in our school since she has served as a teacher's aide for several years. Below is her letter of acceptance:

Dear St. Paul's Congregation,

I am humbled to have received the call to teach four mornings a week in our PreK program. We are so very blessed at St. Paul's to be able to offer a loving, Christ-centered education to even our youngest children. I have seen firsthand the work of the Holy Spirit being carried out in our school, both as a parent and as a teacher's aide. I graciously accept this call and look forward to joining in the ministry at St. Paul's in this capacity.

I ask for your prayers, support and encouragement as I begin this new position and look forward to sharing the love of Jesus with our precious little ones!

In Christ,
Laura Walz



St. Paul's

Our mission is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Connie Hikade, Shelly Pearson, Mary Schauwitzer, Carol Smith, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr is in hospice care at The View at Pine Ridge in Oconomowoc and June Hackbart in hospice care at Dycora in Greenfield. Diane Bryant is at Waukesha Memorial, Carol Kolosovsky at St. Luke's, Sandra Merfeld at New Berlin Linden Grove, and Carol Gosseck at The Village at Manor Park. Donald Oakes has been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

904 attended last week's worship services.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH PICNIC—COMING SOON!

When? Sunday, August 4, at 11:30 am, following the outdoor church service.

Where? On the St. Paul's grounds.

What? Burgers, brats, and hotdogs for purchase. Plus, beverages, ice cream, and other treats.

What Else? Children's games and play area, face painting, adult bags tournament, musical entertainment.

Why? Because you couldn't have more fun on a Sunday afternoon if you tried!

We are still looking for more volunteer help. Primary needs are:

- Food Tent— Grill cooks and food preppers are needed.
- Children Games—An attendant is needed for each game (there will be 5 or 6 games) running in 2 shifts. This is an easy and fun job for a young adult!

Be generous with your time! Sign up for a volunteer position on the table in the lobby.



A COOL OFFERING ON PICNIC SUNDAY

In your offering packet is a green "Picnic Offering" envelope. These special picnic offerings will be included in the Cool Million effort.

COOL MILLION UPDATE

Please save us postage by picking up the Cool Million letter in the narthex.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Nate for a look at the basics of what the Bible teaches and how God's promises throughout the Bible relate to you on Tuesdays, 7:00-8:15 pm. Invite a friend and grow in the Word together. Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email at nstrob@stpaulmuskego.org, or register on the Connection Card.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT—AUGUST 8 AND 9

On August 8 and 9, the Global Leadership Summit will telecast live in HD to over 500 locations nationwide. St. Paul's will be one of the live telecast locations this year for the first time. St. Paul's receives a discounted rate of \$119, which is a savings from the \$208.00 regular rate if you use our priority code PV2019. Register at StPaulMuskego.org\GLS.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

God's grace wins over the guilt of every failure and every act of rebellion. Grace wins over the power of sin so that God can work amazing changes in us.



Invite your friends to celebrate with you: "Grace Wins Every Time!"

August 4, Picnic Sunday – Romans 5:1-11

August 25 – Romans 7:7-8:17

August 11 – Romans 5:12-21

September 1 – Romans 8:18-39

August 18 – Romans 6:7-7:6

LIVING FAITH: THE LETTER OF JAMES

Are you ready for anything? A Christian walks in danger all of the way. Temptations work to frighten us, mislead us, confuse us, and distract us. James, the half-brother of Jesus, did not want Christians in his day to be tricked by their spiritual enemies, so he wrote a letter to encourage and equip them. Many years have passed, but James' words remain exactly what we need today. Anything can happen. No matter what, you can be ready. Join Rev. Dr. Stephen Geiger of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary as he presents, "Living Faith: The Letter of James" on Sundays, August 11, 18, and 25, in the Grace Room 9:15 am.

SYNOD CONVENTION

This week Pastors Kuehl and Panitzke and Teacher Jeff Wetzel will serve as delegates to the synod convention at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. Election of officers and approval of a two-year ministry plan are the main orders of business.

ISRAEL TRIP – JUNE 2020

A trip to Israel enables you to read the Bible with fresh insights. Pick up a copy of the trip information at the Welcome Center. For more information, contact Pastor Panitzke at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org.

PARENTS: REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR FALL CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION CLASSES

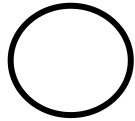
If you have a child entering 6th-8th grade this fall who will be enrolled in a school other than St. Paul's Lutheran School, please contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org to receive all the necessary information about the program and the August 19 orientation night that will be held in the church, 6:30-7:30 pm. These Wednesday afternoon classes begin August 28 at 4:30 pm.

READING BUDDIES WILL BE BACK THIS FALL – JOIN THE FUN!

Reading Buddies starts Wednesday, September 4, 9:45-10:45 am, in the Trinity Cafe. Read together with a Kindergarten - 2nd grade student in 15 minute increments. Help instill the love of reading and enjoy the camaraderie with our students. Contact School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons to volunteer at 414.422.0320, ext. 118 or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org. Volunteer for as many Wednesdays that work for you.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER INFANT OPENING

Our Child Care Center has an opening in the infant room (6:00 am – 6:00 pm, 6 weeks – 12 months). If you need child care arrangements, contact Child Care Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org or for a tour and answers to your questions.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Start by sharing the highs and lows from last week and begin your time together in prayer.

2. What was your favorite childhood vacation?

2. Before going on your favorite childhood vacation, your parents packed what you needed. Read Genesis 12:1-7. Before God sent Abram on his “vacation” to a new home, God packed some promises to help him on the way. List three or four of the promises. What are some of the promises of God which encourage you as you go through life?

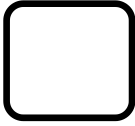
3. Fifteen years later, Abram began to doubt those promises, so God repeated the promise of a child (Read Genesis 15:1-6). Abraham believed and it was “credited to him as righteousness.” How would you explain that phrase “credited as righteousness” to a child?

4. Paul takes up the account of Abraham in Romans 4. Read the entire chapter.
 - What words and phrases comfort you?

 - What words and phrases do you want help understanding?

 - Do you think Abraham ran a good race? Why or why not? Is this question important? Why or why not?

5. Romans 4 ends with phrase that Jesus was “raised to life for our justification.” How does Jesus’ resurrection assure us that we are justified or declared not guilty in God’s sight?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

God's Grace Wins the Race of Faith

Romans 4, Bible page 1129

Introduction: Romans 4 = Abraham's faith race in instant replay.

- Our worldview impacts how we view our faith race for good or ill.
Are we grace or I_____ focused?

Will we win the final victory by running a good race?

- We have nothing to boast about.
Abraham ran a good race, but not a p_____ race.
"Abraham believed God, and it was c_____ to him as righteousness."
- Any doubts?
Check the t_____.
Remember the race has already been w_____.
- Maneuvering a race that has already been won is more challenging than we might think.
God sends d_____, construction delays and d_____ ends.
These all prove that, when God makes a promise, he k_____ it. He alone saves.
- Replay the darkest moment of your life? Look closely and what do you discover? Grace wins...e_____ t_____!

My Next Steps

Memorize Psalm 32: 1-2a: "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them."

Read Romans 5:1-11 to prepare for next week's message on *Grace Wins Every Time*. This picnic service is a great opportunity to extend an invitation to join us in worship. Who in your life needs an extra dose of grace?

Commit to a daily Bible reading plan if you don't have one already. Today is the day!