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## PURPOSE

### LET GOD LEAD

August 7 Outdoor Service

*When it comes to living out God's purpose for our lives, how often aren't we our own worst enemies? Selfishness, lack of focus, distraction — there are so many ways that we get in the way. Lord, give us the wisdom and strength to get out of the way so that we're doing your thing and not ours.*



#### WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

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 on the left.

#### OPENING SONG

#### Hosanna Loud Hosanna (All Praise and Honor)

##### *Refrain*

All praise and honor Lord, that you ride on for us  
In majesty you reign, with heavenly host above hosanna sing!

Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of saints and angels rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

##### *Refrain*

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his royal presence eternally rejoice.

##### *Refrain*

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, as our Lord Jesus taught God's truth, he said it is not enough for his followers just to say, "Lord, Lord," to him.

C **We will be judged, instead, by the fruit we bear in our lives.**

M These are the words of the law. They are meant to show us that we fall far short of the mark of perfection God requires of all people. These words fill us with fear. They remind us that we deserve God's wrath and eternal punishment. But God has been merciful to us. He has sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, let us confess our sin to him and be assured of his love and forgiveness.

All **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

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.**

## SONG

## What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a beautiful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus You brought heaven down  
My sin was great Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a wonderful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You  
The veil tore before You  
You silence the boast of sin and grave  
The heavens are roaring  
The praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival  
You have no equal  
Now and forever God You reign  
Yours is the kingdom  
Yours is the glory  
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is  
Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, your Word is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

**C** **Guide our footsteps by the light of your Word. Open our eyes to the many ways that we get in the way of your will for our lives, and then give us the desire and the strength to get out of your way.**

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

**C** **Amen.**

*The Lord's thoughts and ways are so different from those of sinful human beings. May the Lord renew our hearts and minds that they may be more in sync with his own.*

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup>Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. <sup>3</sup>Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. <sup>4</sup>See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. <sup>5</sup>Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup>“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup>so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

*Throughout his ministry, Jesus came face to face with many who were pushing their own personal agendas. Jesus reminds us that the individual who “speaks on his own” is all about self-glorification. But the person who seeks to glorify God is a person of truth.*

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. <sup>2</sup>But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup>Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. <sup>4</sup>No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup>For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. <sup>7</sup>The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup>You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” <sup>9</sup>After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup>However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. <sup>11</sup>Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, “Where is he?”

<sup>12</sup>Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.” <sup>13</sup>But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

<sup>14</sup>Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. <sup>15</sup>The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. <sup>17</sup>Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup>Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

## 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.**

## SONG

## Only Jesus

Make it count, leave a mark, build a name for yourself  
Dream your dreams, chase your heart, above all else  
Make a name the world remembers  
But all an empty world can sell is empty dreams  
I got lost in the light when it was up to me  
To make a name the world remembers  
But Jesus is the only name to remember

And I, I don't want to leave a legacy  
I don't care if they remember me  
Only Jesus  
And I, I've only got one life to live  
I'll let every second point to Him  
Only Jesus

All the kingdoms built, all the trophies won  
Will crumble into dust when it's said and done  
'Cause all that really mattered  
Did I live the truth to the ones I love?  
Was my life the proof that there is only One  
Whose name will last forever?

And I, I don't want to leave a legacy  
I don't care if they remember me  
Only Jesus  
And I, I've only got one life to live  
I'll let every second point to Him  
Only Jesus

Jesus is the only name  
Jesus is the only name  
Jesus is the only name to remember, oh  
Jesus is the only name  
Jesus is the only name  
Jesus is the only name to remember

And I, I don't want to leave a legacy  
I don't care if they remember me  
Only Jesus  
And I, I've only got one life to live  
I'll let every second point to Him  
Only Jesus

I don't want to leave a legacy  
I don't care if they remember me  
Only Jesus

## SERMON

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

*Pastor Nate Strobel*

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know – God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— <sup>4</sup>was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. <sup>5</sup>I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, <sup>7</sup>or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup>That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M Great God and Lord, we praise your name this day that in this congregation you are keeping the “main thing” the “main thing.”
- C **May the gospel of Jesus Christ always be the heart of this congregation. May the gospel of Jesus Christ always be the joy of this congregation. May the gospel of Jesus Christ always be the focus of this congregation.**
- M Send us whatever struggles we need that “your power may be made perfect in our weakness.”
- C **May your grace always be enough for us!**
- M O Triune God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit—thank you for our pastors, Peter Panitzke and David Kuehl, and for their 40 years of faithful service to your Church. Thank you for the gift of 24 years for Pastor Panitzke and 32 years for Pastor Kuehl of lovingly shepherding the souls of our church family.
- C **Thank you for their faithful service Sunday after Sunday, each and every day, proclaiming to us Jesus and his gift of forgiveness and eternal life.**
- M Grant to our shepherds, heavenly Father, continued health of body, mind and spirit for joyful service still in your Kingdom. Jesus, continue to be their personal strength and joy.
- C **Holy Spirit, continue to fill our shepherds with the counsel of your Word, that we and our children may stand prepared to meet our God with joy on the last day, and inspired to live for you every day.**
- M Thank you for Joni and for Susan who continue to support their husbands in this soul-changing work. Thank you for their families who continue to share their fathers and grandfathers with this family of God.
- C **Bless St. Paul’s with love for your Word, and with deep appreciation for these men who bring your Word into the moments of our lives.**
- Special prayer and intercessions.*
- M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M To you, oh Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.
- C **Hear our prayers for Jesus’ sake. 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 PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

## CLOSING SONG

## 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  
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything 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 every 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.