

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST KNOW HOW TO LOVE THEIR FAMILIES



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —

IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:



The Need for Followership: Love can cause harm. Consider the wife whose husband wants little to do with church. When he wants her and the children to stay home Sunday morning, she complies without protest to the spiritual detriment of the whole family. Or consider the father who loves his child so much that he gives the child everything that child asks for. That father's love is shaping that child to be a selfish, entitled adult.

In our families, we need to love rightly, in a way that leads to blessings for those we claim to love. In Jesus we see perfect, self-sacrificial love: he loves us as we are, yet he also loved us too much to leave us as we are. In love he gave his life up so that we might be holy and blameless. He also shapes the way we love. Today we see that followers of Christ know how to love their families.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship on this morning. At St. Paul's, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the main message – the unconditional love Jesus has for us – comes through clearly.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. Feel free to sing along with the hymns and songs. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see paraments. These are the colored cloths with symbols on them hanging from the altar and pulpit. They change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. Green is the color of life and nourishment...the basic color of nature. After reliving the great events of the life of Christ...the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers.

PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located down the hall to the right of the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. While we share the promises of God's Word with you, we encourage you to create community. Use the comment and chat areas to let others know you are worshipping with them. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

The Sundays after Pentecost comprise the longest season of the Church Year. After spending a half-year looking at Christ's life *for* us...we now spend a half-year looking at Christ's life *in* us. By the power of the Spirit working through the Word and Sacraments...Christ produces spiritual growth within us. That growth is symbolized by the green colors that drape the church for much of this season.



OUR WORSHIP SERIES

"We need better leadership!" Have you ever said that? You were frustrated because no matter how many resources an organization has, it will flounder if leaders do not lead well: providing direction...training...motivation...coordination...encouragement...and even grace. Leadership is extremely important. And so...there are times we lament, "We need better leadership!"

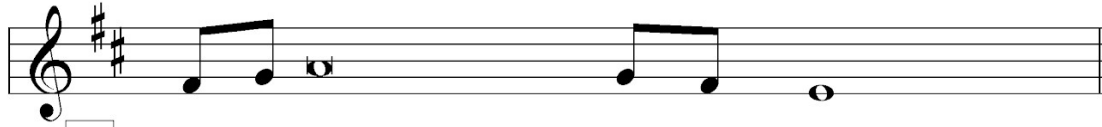
Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas...what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life...better make his priorities our own...and better serve our God and neighbor.

THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP – FOLLOWERS OF JESUS...

15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 1 st	... <i>Obey the Word with Clean Hearts</i>
16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 8 th	... <i>Are Amazed by His Power to Save</i>
17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 15 th	... <i>Are Armed Against the Devil</i>
18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 22 nd	... <i>Are Humble Servants</i>
19 th Sunday after Pentecost (<i>St. Michael & All Angels</i>)	Sept. 29 th	... <i>Have Powerful Allies</i>
20 th Sunday after Pentecost	Oct. 6 th	... <i>Know How to Love Their Families</i>
21 st Sunday after Pentecost	Oct. 13 th	... <i>Treasure Him Most</i>
22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Oct. 20 th	... <i>See Jesus by Faith</i>

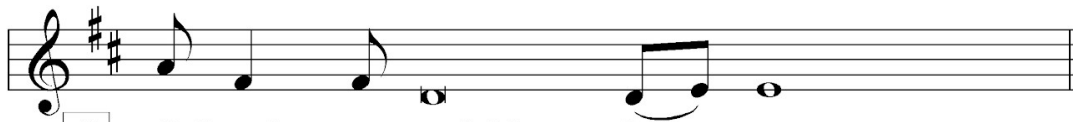
Stand

O Lord, open my lips.



C And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God.



C O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

Refrain



Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us shout with joy to our



sav - ing Rock; come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,




come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verse 1




You are a great and a won-drous God, cup-ping in your hands all the



depths of earth. You made the hills and the moun-tains high,

Repeat to Refrain



you made the seas and the dry land.

Verse 2




Come, let us wor - ship and, bow-ing low, kneel be-fore the One who has



made us all. You are the God whom we call our own,

Repeat to Refrain



we are the flock that you shep - herd.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Loving God and Father,
the blessings of marriage and family
come from your gracious pleasure
and careful design.**

**Lead all who value these gifts
to follow your path of wisdom
so that they may enjoy the fullness of your love;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

Be seated.

BAPTISM AFFIRMATION | 10:30A

*Noah James Berry
son of Jake and Alison Berry*

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:18-25

Married couples live in reverence for God's establishment of marriage and the blessings of companionship, intimacy, and children it brings.

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

Oh, How Good It Is | 731

Led by St. Paul's Gr. 2-4

Congregation is invited to join in the final refrain

1 Oh, how good it is when the fam'ly of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruits of his presence here among us. *Refrain*

Ref So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
and with one heart we'll live out his word,
till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for he dwells in the presence of his people.

2 Oh, how good it is on this journey we share
to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace
when we offer the blessing of belonging. *Refrain*

3 Oh, how good it is to embrace his command
to prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one we all share in the love
of the Son with the Father and the Spirit. *Refrain*

Refrain

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
 and with one heart we'll live out his word,
 till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come,
 for he dwells in the pres-ence of his peo - ple.

Text: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974
 Tune: Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

Family members love each other in the husband's Christ-like love for his wife, the wife's honor for her husband, and children honoring their parents.

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be

united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL

Mark 10:2-16

Family members love each other as husbands and wives are joined by the Lord and children are brought to the Lord.

²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

³“What did Moses command you?” he replied.

⁴They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

⁵“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. ⁶“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing | 764:1,2,4,5

Sermon

Mark 10

*An Inseparable Marriage
Joined by God on earth – Joined to the Groom from heaven*

Stand

Refrain

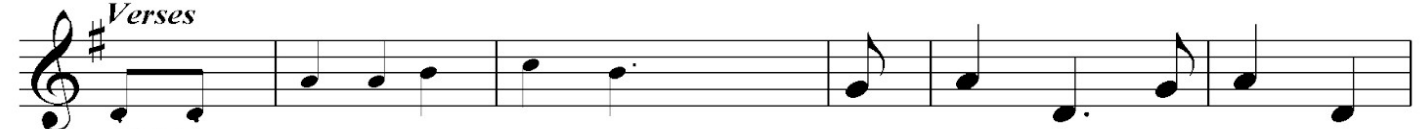


You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac- claim you. To



you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

Verses



1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
2. Cre - a - tor of all things, **People: We praise you, we praise you!**
3. O — Christ, King of glo - ry,



With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
O — Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **We praise you, we praise you!**
You be - came a man to set us free;



With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,
 O Spir - it, most ho - ly,
 You have ris - en to free us;

We praise you, we praise you!



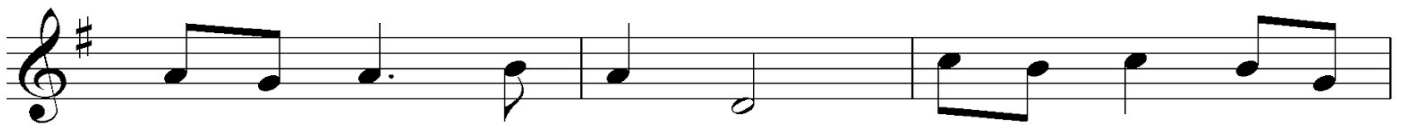
With the mar - tyrs and your ho - ly Church,
 To the Trin - i - ty most bless - ed,
 And with all your saints in glo - ry,



We sing in end - less praise!

(v. 1 & 2) to Refrain
 (v. 3) to Final Refrain

Final Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac -



claim you. To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers



praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

Be seated

CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a Connect Card now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, we kindly ask that you also fill out a digital Connect Card. What will be the "next steps" you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!

OFFERING

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering...please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

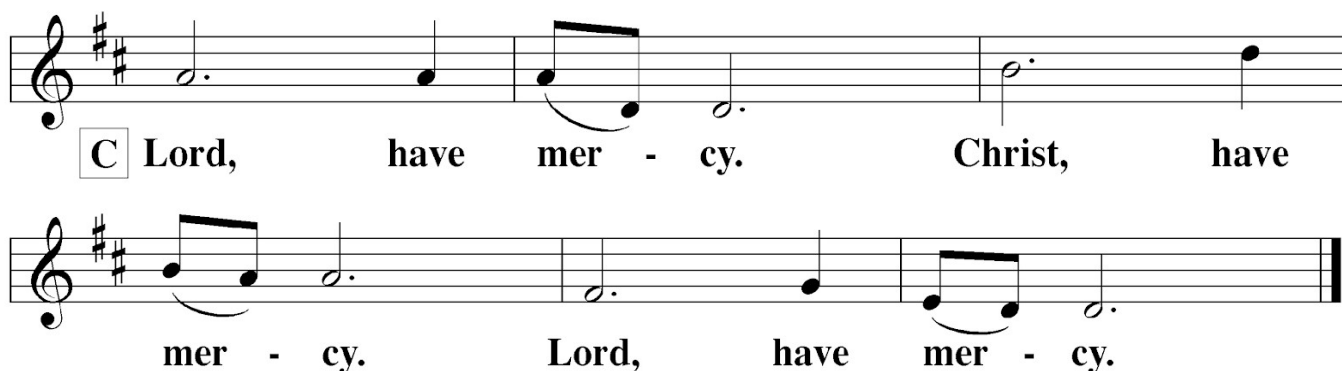
- ♦ Scan the QR code to the right.
- ♦ give your gift online.
- ♦ via text message: text "GIVE" to 877.492.5452 and follow the text instructions.



Stand

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

The Prayer of the Church is one of the three responses to the Word that worshipers have heard in the readings and sermon. We respond with faith (speaking the Creed), with offerings, and with prayer. In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do the work of priests, making intercession for themselves...for others...and for the world.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.
Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Special intercessions may be spoken

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

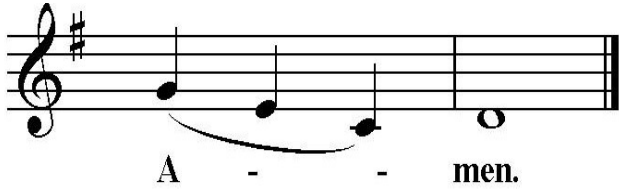
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

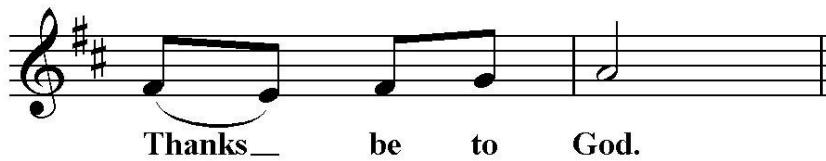
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

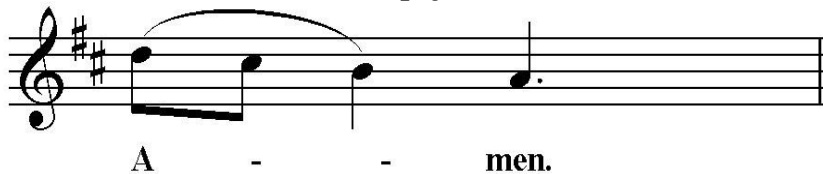
O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.



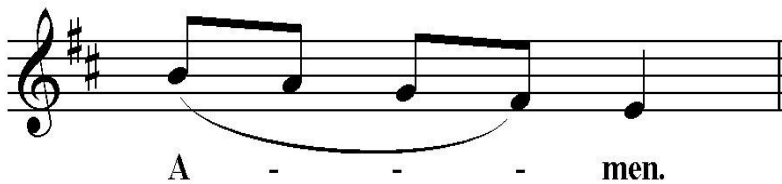
Let us praise the Lord.



The Lord bless and keep you.



The Lord's face ever shine upon you.



The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



Be seated

Hymn Appreciation: Jaroslav Vajda...the author of this hymn...shares this: "I was asked to write a text for the beautiful Welsh melody associated with 'All Through the Night'. Because evening or nighttime texts have limited use, the idea was for me to develop a 'day-time text' so this lovely melody could be widened. The original text of 'All Through the Night' was a description of a mother singing a comforting song to her child at bedtime. Most of the texts I have written have come about through inspiration. I don't remember struggling to put something original together in this instance...As I sat down to begin work on this assignment, instead of envisioning a mother singing to her child, I pictured our Heavenly Father singing to his children. The melody is so powerful, and the parental image of the original is so appropriate a human metaphor of God's love."

SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER: Pastor Adam Bode

SERVICE ACCOMPANIST: Gillian Curia

MUSICIANS: Nikki Leahy and Tanya Schmidt

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Jean Porter, Julie Brunner, Lisa Specht.

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Randy Wehrmann, Craig Thiel, Niel Pahl, Zach Prem, Matthew Prem.

10:30a.m. – Brian Grimm, Travis Krell, Nick Schmidt, Zach Theobald.

OFFERINGS: 9/29 & 9/30 - \$21,900 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$100 – FAITH FOR THE FUTURE. \$2,680 – GROWING FORWARD. \$4,820 – ERWIN EICKHOFF MEMORIAL.

ATTENDANCE: 9/22 & 9/23 – 8:00 A.M. – 190. 10:30 A.M. – 101. 6:00 P.M. – 43.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

- ◆ Noah Berry growing as a child of God.
- ◆ Those affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Helene

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