



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



**FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST
TREASURE HIM MOST**



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

The Need for Followership: treasure him most. People think that establishing priorities is about ranking things in order of importance. But it is more than that. Without proper priorities...one inevitably will pursue *that which is nice* while downplaying *that which is needed*. Throughout Scripture believers are urged to prioritize. Jesus calls for prioritization when he says, "*Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness*" (Matthew 6:33).

Good news: followers of Christ treasure him most. Even better news: followers of Christ receive his forgiveness for all the times they haven't.

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 in the southwest corner of the narthex across from 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. 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.

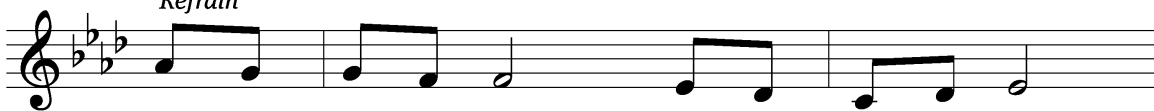
THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP – FOLLOWERS OF JESUS...

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>

OPENING HYMN

Where Your Treasure Is | 828

Refrain



Where your trea - sure is, there your heart shall be.



All that you pos - sess will nev - er set you free.



Seek the things that last; come and learn from me.



Where your trea - sure is, your heart shall be.



- 1 What do you gain from all your wor - ry,
- 2 Look at the ra - vens high a - bove you.
- 3 Be - hold the lil - ies in their splen - dor.
- 4 O lit - tle flock, do not be fright - ened;



what you should eat or what to wear?
They do not work their whole life through,
In grace and beau - ty are they dressed,
yours is the king - dom of the Lord.



There is no peace in stress or hur - ry.
and yet God feeds them and pro - tects them.
and yet so soon their bloom is fad - ed.
Give your pos - ses - sions to the need - y;



Do you not know that you are held with - in God's care?
So how much more will God pro - tect and care for you?
So how much more will those who look to God be blessed?
ob - tain a trea - sure in God's heav - en safe - ly stored.

Text (st. 4): Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; (sts. Ref-3): Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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In the name of the Father and
of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OPENING RESPONSES FROM PSALM 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth
and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
**Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may
rejoice and be glad all our days.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us come before God with humble hearts, confessing that we often treasure things that are passing, instead of treasuring Christ who is eternal.

Soloist:

*My worth is not in what I own;
Not in the strength of flesh and bone,
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross.*

We confess our sins.

Gracious God, we confess that we have sought our value in the things of this world. We have placed our worth in what we possess – our status, our achievements, our wealth. We have allowed the desires of our hearts to turn away from you, seeking satisfaction in things that will not last. Forgive us for treasuring earthly things more than we treasure you, the Giver of all good gifts. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts back to you, that we may find our worth and joy in Christ alone.

Soloist:

*My worth is not in skill or name,
In win or lose, in pride or shame,
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross.*

Lord, you alone are our hope and salvation. Psalm 90 reminds us that our days are brief, but your mercy endures forever. Teach us to trust not in fleeting treasures, but in your eternal love and grace. In our striving for earthly success, we have forgotten the truth that you are our only true security and refuge.

Have mercy on us, Lord. Restore us to your grace and teach us to value Christ above all else.

Soloist:

*I rejoice in my Redeemer,
Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul;
I will trust in him, no other,
My soul is satisfied in him alone.*

Our worth is not in what we own or achieve, but in Christ's redeeming work. Hear the good news: for the sake of Jesus, God forgives you all your sins. In Christ, we are set free from the chains of worldly idols. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Soloist:

*Two wonders here that I confess:
My worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed-my ransom paid
At the cross.
I will not boast in wealth of might,
Or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross.*

ALL (sing twice):



I re-joyce in my Re - deem - er, great-est trea - sure, Well-spring
of my soul. I will trust in him, no oth - er; my soul is
sa - tis - fied in him a - lone.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

whose grace always precedes and follows us,

help us forsake all trust in earthly gain

and find in you our heavenly treasure;

for you live and reign with the Father

and the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-27

Nothing can be hidden from God. It is so typically human for us to imagine, as Gehazi did, that we can hide anything...even the deep thoughts of our hearts...from God. But as God showed...both in Naaman's case and Gehazi's case, the Lord knows all and sees even the deepest motivations of our hearts.

¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

¹⁵Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

"So please accept a gift from your servant."

¹⁶The prophet answered, "As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing." And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

¹⁷"If you will not," said Naaman, "please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD.

¹⁸But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this."

¹⁹"Go in peace," Elisha said.

After Naaman had traveled some distance, ²⁰Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, "My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him."

²¹So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. “Is everything all right?” he asked.

²²“Everything is all right,” Gehazi answered. “My master sent me to say, “Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.””

²³“By all means, take two talents,” said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. ²⁴When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left.

²⁵When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?”

“Your servant didn’t go anywhere,” Gehazi answered.

²⁶But Elisha said to him, “Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? ²⁷Naaman’s leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.” Then Gehazi went from Elisha’s presence and his skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

You Are My All in All
St. Paul's Kindergarten & Gr. 1

You are my strength when I am weak, you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool; you are my all in all.

Refrain: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless your name; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up. When I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-13

This reading explains what Jesus was doing in the Gospel. The man had convinced himself of his goodness, but the truth was uncovered before Jesus, the Word made flesh. The Word of God is alive.

The Word is active. No matter the self-satisfied thoughts and judgmental attitudes our hearts harbor...God's Word cuts and gives life.

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 4:12



Refrain



Tone



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GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-27

Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter and shows this rich young ruler what he is missing. Jesus seizes on this teaching opportunity to demonstrate the one thing we all are missing by nature. In our natural pride...we fail to see our need. When we fail to see our need...we fail to see our Savior.

There is nothing we can do to inherit eternal life. So God gives it as a gift. "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" (verse 27).

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²²At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

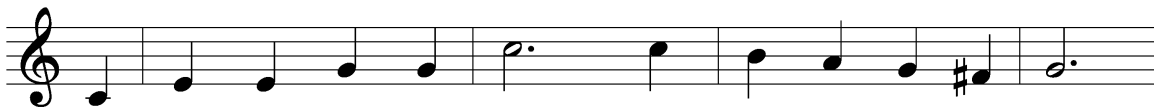
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ | 560



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak glad-ness to this heart;
2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sin-ful soul;
3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the dread-ful load
4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, has paid the ran-som due;
5 Your right-eous-ness, O Christ, a-lone can cov-er me;



they tell me all is done, they bid my fear de-part.
your wounds, not mine, con-tain the balm that makes me whole.
of sins that none could bear but the in-car-nate God.
ten thou-sand deaths like mine would have been all too few.
no oth-er right-eous-ness can set a sin-ner free.

Refrain



To whom but you, who can a-lone for sin a-tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, alt.
Tune: The Parish Choir, London, 1850
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Mark 10:17-27

"Resembling What We Revere"

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 truly 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.**

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.



SPECIAL PRAYERS & LORD’S PRAYER

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

**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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

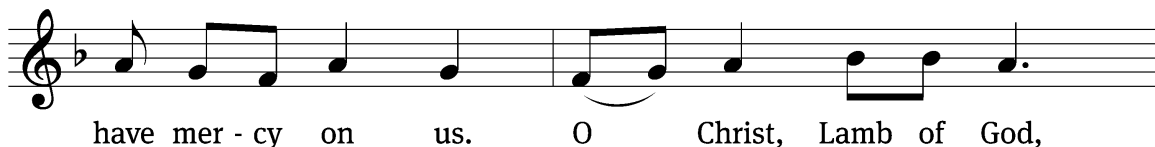
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

CW 169



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.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Through the Apostle Paul Jesus tells us that celebrating the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity with him and with the others who partake in this meal (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). He also says, "So, then whoever eats of the bread and drinks of the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). For these reasons, St. Paul's practices close communion with those united to us in beliefs and church membership. We welcome confirmed members of the WELS and ELS to the Lord's Table. We ask that you speak with one of our pastors before taking the Lord's Supper. They are eager to meet with you. We thank you kindly. And greatly look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you. In preparation for communing today...you may use the questions found on pp.295-296 in the blue hymnal.

Hymn Appreciation: This hymn's beauty is found in its conversational style and simplicity...its question and answer format. This is a "teaching" hymn...it teaches you about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Although the hymn is written in the first person...the hymn's focus remains on the objective nature of the means of grace.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE

What Is the World to Me | 717:1,4



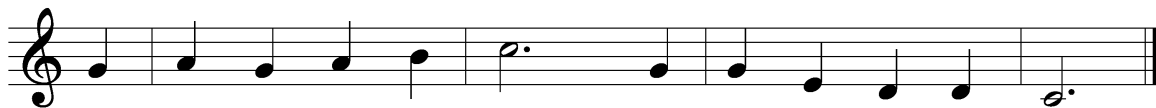
1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645-1732, abr.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629-1701
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER: Pastor Brian Pechman

SERVICE ACCOMPANIST: Dawn Johnson

MUSICIAN: Tanya Schmidt

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

USHERS: 8:00a – Randy Wehrmann, Craig Thiel, Neil Pahl, Zach Prem, Matthew Prem

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

OFFERINGS: 10.06 & 10.07 – \$20,600 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200) | \$3,000 – GROWING FORWARD

ATTENDANCE: 10.06 & 10.07 – 8:00A – 244 | 10:30A – 120 | 6:00P – 32

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

- ◆ Those affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Helene & Milton
- ◆ Barb Gillis, who is on hospice at home with cancer

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