

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)
"The Second Sunday After the Epiphany"
Sunday, January 19, 2025
Divine Service
9:30 AM

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D.

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller, Ph.D.

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

Mission

To foster the freedom and love we share in Christ to the community by nurturing faith in Him through tangible expressions of God's grace.

Vision

To share the Truth and Love of Christ to all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café at 10:30 am and Adult Bible Study at 11:00 am
 - Wednesday Bible Studies at 10 am and 7:15 pm in our church offices.
- You may come in person or join us via TEAMS fully interactive.

Welcome to Saint Paul's

We praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to serve and bless us through His Word and Sacraments. We follow the ancient liturgy which draws from the Word of God to order and guide our worship. Its biblical structure has been used in the Christian Church before any denominations within Christianity existed. Our worship emphasizes order, beauty, and reverence. We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of sins. We are excited about what the Lord is doing at St. Paul's, and it is our great joy to serve you!

This is the Saving Gospel/The Good News:

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to take your sin upon Himself and Jesus gave to you His perfect righteousness and holiness. In Christ, it is a fact, and it is reality that your sins are forgiven, covered by His blood. And because Christ defeated death, you too – as you trust in Him alone – have eternal life. This is the Good News. It is so powerful because the Holy Spirit works through it to create and sustain faith in our hearts to hold to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel costs Jesus everything but costs us nothing. It is yours. It is God's GIFT to you. Hold to it and know that you ARE (present tense) saved from sin, death, and the power of the devil; that you are saved TO (present tense) the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! That's the Christian, a forgiven sinner who lives for God and loves their neighbor. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The Lord's Supper

The Holy Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed**, are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, **are asked first to speak to one of the pastors.**

Prayer Before Divine Service

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

+ In the Name of Jesus +

Prelude

We Praise You and Acknowledge You -- Jeffrey Blersch

Greeting

P "Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,"

C "who walks in his ways!"

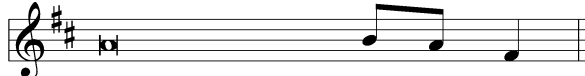
- Psalm 128:1

Opening Versicles

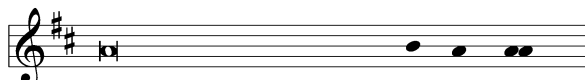
Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



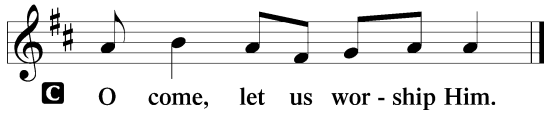
C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sit

Office Hymn: **408 Come, Join in Cana's Feast** (*all stanzas*)

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:1–5

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 62.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

L A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to

mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 2:1–11

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen. Our Gospel text from St. John Chapter 2 begins with the words, "on the third day." In God's Word the third day is a big day. Abraham arrived at the mountain to sacrifice his son Isaac on the third day. (Gen 22:4) On the third day God gave His Word on Mount Sinai. (Ex 19:16) And on the third day of course, Jesus rose from the dead. Furthermore, this third day in John chapter 2 **is also in the narrative the sixth day.**

1. On the **1st Day:** John the Baptist is giving his testimony about Jesus Christ. (John 1:19ff)
2. At John chapter 1 verse 29 St. John is now counting days and says, "The next day." That's the **2nd Day.**
3. At John chapter 1 verse 35 St. John continues counting the days and says, "The next day" again. That's the **3rd Day.**
4. At John chapter 1 verse 43 St. John keeps counting and states once again, "The next day." That's the **4th Day.**
5. Then at the beginning of our Gospel at John 2 this morning, St. John writes, "On the third day." That is, from the 4th day mentioned at chapter 1:43. The second day from that day is the overall **5th day**, and then the third day from that day is the overall **6th day. That is, at John 2:1 where the Word says, "On the third day," the 3rd Day is also the 6th Day by the counting of St. John.**

The third day is also found in God's Word in respect to Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. In all these instances, **God gives life:** God gave a new life for Isaac and Isaac was spared his life; God gave His Word to His people Israel that they could have life through God's Word; and God raised His Son Jesus from the grave so that we could have life. **The third day gives life.**

But what about the sixth day? **The sixth day is the day when God completes His creation.** God created the heavens and the earth in six days. God's Word teaches that creation is completed on the sixth day. At the wedding of Cana, something extraordinary happened and it wasn't just a miracle for the sake of a miracle, but on the day of this wedding when our LORD changed water into wine, **this occurred on the third day when God gives life and on the sixth day when God completes creation.**

The third day gift of life is wine. And what does the wine of Jesus Christ give? In, with, and under that wine, Jesus gives His lifeblood to the world.

In His wine and His blood, He gives you His life. ***You now have God's life through this wine.***

In Holy Communion, you receive Jesus' wine, and you receive Jesus' blood so that you receive God's life, and you are cleansed by the healing and forgiving power of that wine and blood of Jesus Christ. St. John wrote elsewhere at ***1 John 1:7: "...and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."***

The sixth day is the day of completing creation. What happens when you receive Jesus and all the saving work He has accomplished and is accomplishing for you? ***You are being re-created into and kept in the new creation. You are in Christ Christians, your old life has gone, your new life has come. (2 Cor 5:17)***

Our problem is that we are blind as bats according to our sinful flesh to see any of this. It is like a person who attends a Christian wedding when the LORD teaches what is happening on that day: ***"they are no longer two, but one."*** (Matt 19:6) But how do so many people treat weddings? The world is blind to what is happening. The sinful flesh considers it an anthropological and sociological ritual; an occasion to party; with the full understanding that there is about a 50% chance that any wedding you attend will end in divorce.

And even for those couples that remain married. Well, just look at them: the appearance of their relationship as it ages is like the appearance of the body as it ages. What really makes it so special?

Our sin blinds us to the significance of the holy life-giving and creating work of God. And when we do not see it, then life becomes extraordinarily cheapened, ordinary, and dull, even to the extent that faith is neglected and where faith is neglected, love is neglected, and if love is neglected, people forfeit knowing how to live and as result, simply live for themselves. Life becomes about consumption that leads to death. Life becomes sad. Life is wasted.

This happens when we miss that in all these Epiphany texts God is revealing His plan to join us poor sinners; to become one with us. Last week we heard that baptism – as we celebrated the 2nd great epiphany – is about union with, becoming one with, and being conjoined to – God. Before that, the first great Epiphany of the star that led the magi to Christ was a joining of heaven and earth. That star was no ordinary star but a miraculous star that led the magi like a heavenly GPS. Heaven and earth united so that those Eastern sages could see and worship the toddler-Savior of the world.

And here again with this third great epiphany of Jesus changing the water into wine at the wedding of Cana, we have the occasion of two becoming one: marriage.

God's Word begins with one at Genesis 1 and ends with one towards the very end of Revelation. Marriage is all over the place in God's Word. What makes it so special? Marriage is about union and becoming one with. That's why Ephesians 5 teaches, "In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." (verse 28) This is astounding!

The husband's very body includes his wife's body. Remember when Jesus confronted Saul in the book of Acts? "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:4) But Saul was persecuting the Church not Jesus. No, that's wrong. Because Saul was persecuting the Church, which is the Body of Christ, He was inherently also persecuting Jesus. Jesus makes no distinction. He has married us. We are His Body now. What happens to you, happens to Him. He knows all our tears and pains, our trials and tribulations, and He takes them personally. The preacher in Hebrews says, "15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses. He suffers with us.

That is why He came to save us from this veil of tears. He can and He does because He is one with us. It is only for a brief time we are on earth to know some of the humiliation that He knew when He came to live for us on earth. God uses the humiliation and difficulty for good, because through these we learn we need God and learn to pray and call upon His Name.

But we take it all for granted. We underestimate the union that God gives. We underestimate epiphanies.

The people of God were celebrating one of God's great gifts: marriage. Jesus' mother, Mary, comes to Jesus and reports, "They have no wine." (John 2:3) Maybe it doesn't seem like a big deal. After all running out of wine isn't a breach in national security, it isn't like losing one's home in a terrible fire, it's not a cancer diagnosis. No, it is none of these, and yet it is all of these: it represents running out. And symbolically, to run out of wine is to run out of the occasion for joy and having reason to treat life as we ought to: as a celebration and not drudgery; as a reason to rejoice, not mourn.

For the wine to run out is a reminder that all things run out. Gas runs out, patience runs out, health runs out, and everything around us runs out.

Reasons for rejoicing and celebrating can seem to run out. The burdens of life can make our souls downcast. We run out of things to look forward to. We are robbed of the celebration of life. We run out. Mary took the problem to Jesus. Straight to her son: "They have no wine." (John 2:3)

The words evoked a strong reaction in Jesus. He had just been baptized and now He was being asked to do something about humanity's need, any need, all need, it is all wrapped together in the mind of our Savior. He does not want us to suffer want. He has compassion for us when we run out. But where did this take Jesus in His mind and heart? It took Him to the cross waiting for Him about three years into His future from the wedding at Cana. So, He said to His mother, "My hour has not yet come." (Jn 2:4)

The hour for what? The hour of His restoration of our marriage and union with God. The LORD said through His prophet Hosea: ¹⁶"And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'My Husband.... ¹⁹And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

²¹ "And in that day I will answer, declares the Lord, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth,

²² and the earth shall answer the grain, **the wine**, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel,

²³ and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy,

**and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people';
and he shall say, 'You are my God.' "**

God's goal and desire for us is be married to Him, to be One with Him, so what is ours – all our sin and despair – would be His and what is His – all His love and holiness and healing – would be ours.

Jesus came to conduct our wedding to God. He was at a wedding in Cana and a request came: there was a need, the wine had run out. What would this evoke? He knew He was going to give new wine to His people: His very blood. Three years prior to the Last Supper, He was already thinking about His hour: when He would shed His blood from the cross and how this blood would become our wine.

Again, we want to underestimate these things, but we should not underestimate wine. Wine represents purification. St. Augustine taught

that water is latent in wine. This is of course self-evident. Water is for purification, wine even more so. It is medicinal, but not just for physical help, but it is healing for the mind and soul. In Scripture wine symbolizes the blessings of the Kingdom of God. Psalm 104:

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,

that he may bring forth food from the earth

¹⁵ **and wine to gladden the heart of man,**
oil to make his face shine

and bread to strengthen man's heart.

Enjoy Life with the One You Love Ecclesiastes teachers.

Ecclesiastes 9: ⁷Go, eat your bread with joy, **and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.**

⁸Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

⁹Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might...

Ecclesiastes 10:19a: ¹⁹ *Bread is made for laughter,*
and wine gladdens life,

I'm not prescribing a drastic change in your lifestyle. If you drink a little wine, then good for you. But the point is its symbolism. Wine celebrates being one with God: Bride and Bridegroom together and when that happens life changes: and wine even describes a new landscape. Amos 9:13-15:

¹³ "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord,
"when the plowman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;

**the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.**

¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;

**they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.**

¹⁵ **I will plant them on their land,
and they shall never again be uprooted
out of the land that I have given them,"**
says the Lord your God.

And this of course applies to you dear Christians. Wine is for healing, for restoration, for purification, and for union with God...and for your lives to

know a new landscape filled with mountains dripping with wine. These things you may now see through eyes of faith and they all represent reasons to rejoice in the LORD.

The symbolism for us is more than symbolism.

One of the greatest tragedies of the Christian Church in America is the loss of celebrating the Holy Eucharist, Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar. Whereas Holy Baptism is the Sacrament of Initiation, where you are effectively married and joined to God; the Sacrament of the Altar, however, is the Sacrament of Continuation (in the grace of God in Christ) and it facilitates the JOY of your ongoing Communion with God, a Communion with the body and blood of Jesus Christ who brings us new lives.

This Wine of the Sacrament is for healing. It is a medicine that gives the number 3: LIFE and the number 6: A NEW CREATION. It is the most important spiritual food in the life of the Church and therefore in the life of every Christian.

What should we expect from this WINE?

1. The WINE gives reason to rejoice. The Wine and Blood of Jesus strengthens our ability to see. Our eyes of faith become stronger to "see" that through every trial, every suffering, every cross, the LORD works a work that works for our good. In Bible Study last Sunday, I spoke about the young gentlemen who started serving free Breakfast Tacos in the Pasadena area in response to the terrible fires. It has morphed into a massive resource of clothing, and diapers, and food, and water, and has become this sight in the Los Angeles area that some people thought could never be seen when in the normal flow of urban life, it is easy to feel like people just live for themselves. It is as if angels set up camp to help those suffering in front of God, in front of the world, the cameras and all to see that love abounds, and faith sees that God works through tragedy. And who will chronicle the accounts of restored faith through these terrible fires? God has worked and is working in ways that only eyes of faith can see. The same is given to you through Jesus' WINE and Jesus' BLOOD.

2. The WINE gives forgiveness. But someone will say, "But I already know I am forgiven!" It is too bad when even Christians go there, because what they are saying in effect is that all they need to fuel their Christian lives is their

knowledge. What an anemic faith that is. God desires to be in your life beyond your head knowledge Christians, He desires to sup with you, to fellowship with you, to be in your life...He wants to make His home in you (John 14:23). In the WINE and BLOOD of this celebratory Sacrament, that is exactly what occurs. Beyond mere knowledge, God comes and communes with you, His body and your body become one, along with the rest of the Body of the Holy Church. We become one with each other and we are never alone.

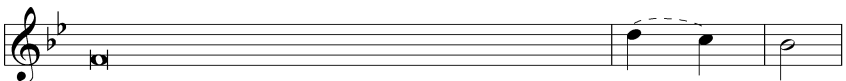
3. The WINE cleanses the guilt and shame of sin. Jesus' gift of His Wine protects us from Satanic attacks. The devil's goal is to destroy, and he seeks to do it through accusation. Who is the one who arrives to the point of complete desperation and as a result, critical vulnerability? It is the one who is without hope; the one who becomes convinced that they are too far gone. And the devil specializes in producing isolation through accusation. He uses this deception and flood of lies to try to lead us to give up on life. Instead, Christians, come to the table, come and celebrate and take the WINE, because it says that God rejoices to be married to you; He rejoices that He took Your sins and burdens on Himself; and we rejoice that this Eucharist, this Great Thanksgiving is leading us to an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. Thanks be to God. Jesus' WINE celebrates your marriage to God Christians, drink the WINE and be saved. Drink the WINE and receive new life.

Canticle

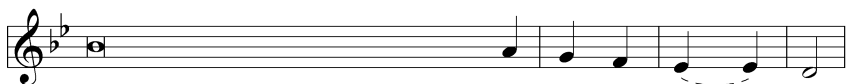
Stand

Te Deum

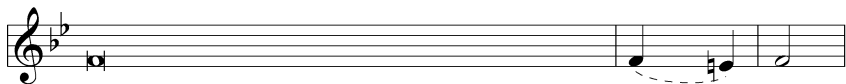
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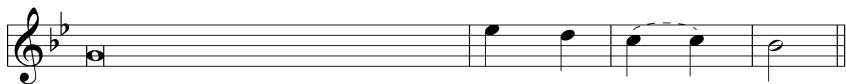
- 1** We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



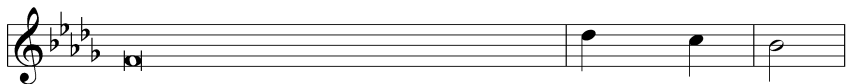
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
- 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
- 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
- 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
- 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
- 4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



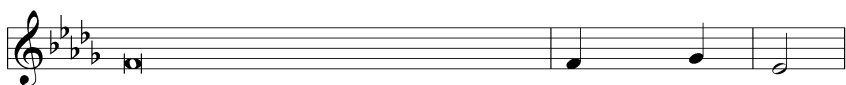
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
- 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise You.
- 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
- 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



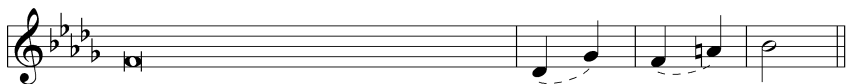
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
- 6 You sit at the right hand of God



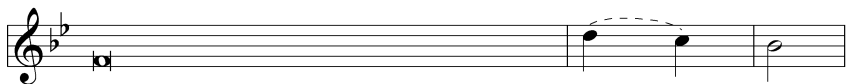
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
- 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
- 6 We believe that You will come



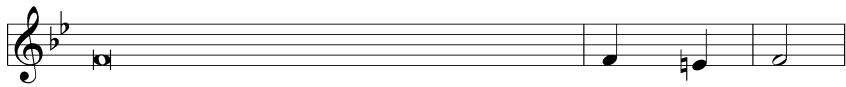
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
- 6 to be our judge.



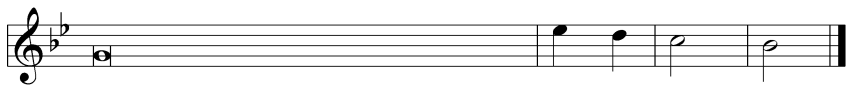
- 7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
- 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
- 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227



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

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord who manifested His glory in the sign at Cana and restored creation through the shedding of Christ's blood, that He would give us joy and gladness in the revelation of His truth and the abundance of His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Holy Church, brought together at the Lord's banquet, both now in the Word and Sacraments and in the eternal wedding feast to come, that the banner of Christ's steadfast love would rest over the doors of every congregation, that the preaching of His righteousness would be constant, and that patient love may mark our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all married couples and their families, that Christ, who blessed the wedding at Cana with His presence and honored it with His first miracle, would be present in our homes and lives with His free and abundant forgiveness to preserve us in the true faith from each generation to the next, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation, that our heavenly Father would bless every effort to maintain peace and promote justice, watch over and guide all military personnel, thwart every effort to destroy life unnecessarily, and permit righteousness and goodness to flourish in our land, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those in need, [*especially* _____,] that as Jesus showed divine compassion even for a groom who ran out of wine, the Holy Spirit would grant us compassionate hearts to notice the needs of others, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For worthy reception of the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith, that as Christ manifested Himself by the sign at Cana, changing water into wine, so He would also manifest Himself to us here, making bread and wine His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that of Your grace You have instituted holy matrimony, in which You keep us from unchastity and other offenses. We implore You, send Your blessing on every husband and wife. Do not let them provoke one another to anger and strife, but let them live peaceably together in love and godliness. Strengthen them with Your gracious help in all temptations, and help them to rear their children in accordance with Your will. Grant us all to walk before You in purity and holiness, putting our trust in You and leading such lives on earth that, in the world to come, we may have everlasting life. Let us pray to the Lord:

P Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

Offering

Come, Join in Cana's Feast

+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Corporate Confession and Absolution

- P** Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Stand

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

- P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

- P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

- P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Blessing

- P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord

Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩
peace.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise. **P**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



G 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

859 Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest (all stanzas)

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (sts. 1, 6–8)

533 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure (all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Benedicamus

LSB 228

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 228

- P** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

Postlude

Tocatta in Seven -- John Rutter

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book
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Announcements

Worship Attendance Form for Members & Guests



Please scan the QR code to fill in an attendance form, or you may fill out an attendance card located in the seatbacks in sanctuary.
 GUESTS, please sign our guestbook at the entrance table.



Offerings will be collected during the worship service.

Guests, please note that offerings are always voluntary.

How to Help Those Impacted by the Recent Fires



Thank you, people of the Pacific Southwest District, for your continued prayers on behalf of our brothers and sisters affected by the Southern California wildfires. If you would like to donate to the PSD Emergency Relief Fund, scan the QR code or go to the link below.

Thank you!

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NTD5G XKZXAALL

Updated Process for Requesting Announcements



We are updating the process for sending out announcements to the congregation and our community. If you would like an announcement created, you can now submit a request to the Office Administrator, Jackie Johnson, using the form at this link or scan the QR code:



<https://forms.office.com/r/Hsgrm6zAup>

You will be able to choose whether you want your announcement in the bulletin, email, website, livestream, and more

Daily Devotionals for Reading Through The Holy Bible in 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday, I encouraged you to join me for the wonderful New Year's resolution to read the entire Bible in 2025.

I will present these devotionals — The LORD permitting — every day on:

- **Facebook @ "Alfonso Espinosa"**
- **TikTok "@alfonsoespinosa356"**
- **Instagram "@alfonsoespinosa88"**

I will also be making these available via email. Let me know if you want to be added to the mailing list.

Let us rejoice that God has revealed how He will keep our faith in Christ strong in 2025: through His Word!

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,

Pastor Espinosa



Congregational Meeting- Sunday, January 26th

Mark your calendars! Our next congregational voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, after Divine Service and a brief fellowship period. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the congregation to review our 2025 budget.

Please consider joining us for this important discussion about our congregation's fiscal needs.



The Bulletin Board



Life Quote: "No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: "His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever He tells you.'" What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, "What does this have to do with Me?" But she knew this: whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knows what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That's still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives — including in our generosity toward the Lord's work in the church.

Mercy: Love Throughout Life Conference

The conference, hosted by LCMS National Mission, will take place March 14–15, 2025.

Conference sessions, all of which will be livestreamed, will take place in three different locations. Participants may attend in person at one of these locations, or they may watch online.

The three in-person locations will focus on the following subject areas:

- Concordia University, Irvine, Calif., will host sessions on **marriage, life and the family** at its Concordia – Spectrum Campus.
- Grace Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., will host sessions on **spiritual care**.
- The International Center in St. Louis, Mo., will host sessions on **advocating, teaching and caring for human life**.

Featured presenters will include:

- Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS president
- Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, LCMS National Mission managing director
- Rev. Michael ~~Salemink~~, executive director of Lutherans For Life
- Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa, senior pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Irvine, Calif.
- Rev. Dr. Brian Heller, manager of LCMS Specialized Spiritual Care Ministry

A Spanish track will also be available. The sessions, conducted in Spanish, will be made available to watch online. To register please go to: <https://events.zoom.us/j/98642822222>

Opportunities to Study God's Word:

1. "Journey Through the Parables"

Our "Journey Through the Parables" Bible Study will continue today after the worship service and a brief fellowship time with Parable #13. Please consider joining us for this study!

2. Young Adults Group – "Lamplight"

Lamplight is a group of young adults between the ages of 18-23 that aims to study God's Word in an engaging yet traditional format of Vespers! Come join us as we read, sing, and meditate upon His Word. The fun doesn't stop there – join us for fellowship after every meeting and our occasional bonding outings! Lamplight meets every second and fourth Sunday at 4pm in the fellowship hall at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Irvine.



For any questions or information, please contact:

Shane Perry at (949) 400-6426 or

shaneperryca@gmail.com or

Instagram: @lamplight_youngadults

3. Wednesday Bible Studies

We will meet **THIS Wednesday, January 22nd** with Hebrews Chapter 9. We will be meeting at 10 am and 7:15 pm in our church offices. You may come in person or join us via TEAMS fully interactive.

4. The Chosen Bible Study Groups

St. Paul's now has two *The Chosen* Bible Study groups that meet once per month. If you are interested in the next meeting, please speak to Pastor.

- Group #1: Will be meeting 1/25 at Bill and Ali Franks house, please talk with Pastor Espinosa for more information or to join the group.
- Group #2: More information coming soon.

5. Confirmation Class for Youth

Next Confirmation Class is to be determined. More information coming soon.

6. "Iron Sharpens Iron"

Next Iron Sharpens Iron bible study meeting time is to be determined. More information coming soon.

Light of the World Podcast

Join us online:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsIrvine YouTube:

www.youtube.com/SaintPaulsIrvine



**LIGHT OF THE WORLD
PODCAST**

 APPLE PODCASTS

 SPOTIFY

 AMAZON MUSIC

 AUDIBLE



ALSO ON YouTube
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@SAINTPAULSIRVINE](https://www.youtube.com/@saintpaulsirvine)

Circle of Friends



For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home.
Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor?
Use this QR code to let us know!



More comfortable with pen and paper?
Paper forms are available on the entrance table.

Words of Evangelism

Ch. 3 - Death and Guilt

From the Evangelism Committee. There are three points you should remember when the opportunity to share the Gospel presents itself. First, death and guilt are universal problems. Second, there are two religions in the world; Christianity and all others. Third, remember the Gospel. Christ has died for you and your sins and gives you eternal life. Let's talk about this first point, death and guilt are universal problems. Concerning guilt, we can ask others if they have upheld their own moral standard. Most people, if they are truly honest with themselves, will acknowledge they have not upheld theirs. Most people will acknowledge they have guilt. "There is none who does good, not even one." (Ps 53:3) "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin." (Rom 3:20) Here, Paul identifies that the Law serves as a mirror that reflects our own sin back to us and makes it plain. With this in mind, there are some great questions you can ask somebody while trying to engage them about Christianity. Have you upheld your own moral standard? Do you feel guilty about something you have done? Do you have regrets? Concerning death, people fear death and grieve at the loss of a loved one. "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." (Heb 9:27) A great thing to proclaim to somebody to get their attention is to tell them that they are going to die.

Remembering that death and guilt are universal problems and thinking of questions to ask about these points cut through to the heart of the matter. They help cut through the chaff so that you can proclaim the Gospel to those who need it. For the Gospel tells us that Jesus Christ died for our sins so that our sins and regret no longer bring us death but life.

Lord God, we confess before you that we have a heart and flesh problem. Our sin is ever before us and leaves us humbled. We have sinned by not loving you, o God, before all other things and by not loving our neighbor as ourselves. We plea with you, o God, to remember your promises that you gave us through Christ. For the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, forgive us our sins. Amen.



Come, let us **sing for joy** to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalms 95:1

Choir Schedule for February 2025

- ♪ **Sunday, Feb. 2:** Rehearsal before church at 8:30 am
- ♪ **Sunday, Feb. 9:** Rehearsal before church at 8:30 am
- ♪ **Sunday, Feb. 9:** Sing for Divine Service at 9:30 am

Rehearsal on 2/2 will be in the cafeteria area by the piano.
Rehearsal on 2/9 will be in the Sanctuary. ***Please be prompt!***

Sheet music PDFs and recordings of the music, including the individual parts, are now on the "Choir" page of the church website. Questions? Contact Mark Howard (714) 423-6460 or markahoward@sbcglobal.net.

SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

Date	Altar Team	Ushers/ Greeters	Elders on Duty	Entrance Area	Livestream
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
3 rd Sunday 1/19/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff, Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4 th Sunday 1/26/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, A. Wright	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1 st Sunday 2/2/2025	Nina Mueller, Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Miles Johnson	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2 nd Sunday 2/9/2025	Mei Kuntz, Elizabeth Brothwell	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla	Myra Taylor	Shane Perry

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

3 rd Sunday 1/19/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th Sunday 1/26/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
1 st Sunday 2/2/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 2/9/2025	Espinosa's