

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)
**"The Purification of Mary and the Presentation
of Our LORD"**
Sunday, February 2, 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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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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring-- JS Bach

Greeting

P Blessed are those who dwell in your house,

C ever singing your praise!

- Psalm 84:4

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

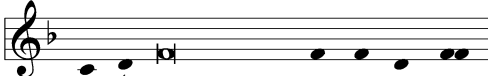
Entrance Hymn:

722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

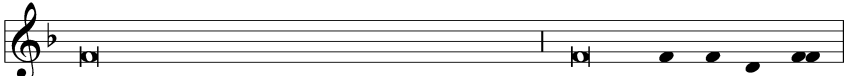
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



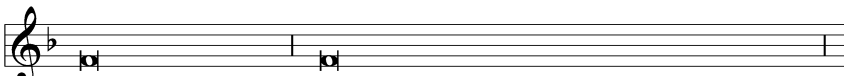
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



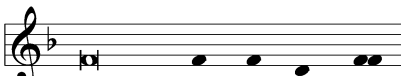
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



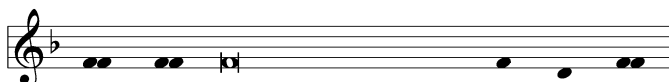
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



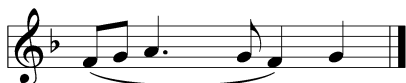
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 1:21–28

²¹The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." ²³Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. ²⁴And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this child I

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand | elsewhere.*

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*

No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk up- | rightly.

O | LORD of hosts,*
blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning;
is now, and will be forever. | Amen

Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!

Epistle

Hebrews 2:14–18

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

G Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of text, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

^{32a} a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

519 In His Temple Now Behold Him

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"A Light for Revelation"

(Luke 2:22-32)

Pastor Espinosa

Text from St. Luke chapter 2: **Jesus Presented at the Temple**

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel.”

In the Name of Jesus’ Amen. The Feast of the purification of Mary and the presentation of our LORD Jesus Christ can be one of those Church days that appears very random. What does it mean? And perhaps more importantly, why is it important to my life today? It’s in things like these: things hard to see and to recognize that God often shines His saving light most brightly that we might see with eyes of faith God in our lives.

We have been on this journey of light during Epiphany, the season of light, hearing proclaimed the guiding star, the amazing baptism of Jesus, His first miracle in Cana, last week the light that comes from the Body of Christ and all her members like you and me, but today – this latest epiphany of light – is just coming through Jesus Himself. How does God’s light flow into our lives through Jesus according to today’s gospel in Luke chapter 2?

The first way is that Jesus – God in the flesh – did something that no one could have dreamed, especially given the perspectives of the people of the time: it was from a Greek perspective repugnant to think that what is from above would soil itself with the fading quality of what is below. From a Jewish perspective, it would have been preposterous that this baby was the Messiah. And perhaps from *our* perspective what utility and pragmatic value is the Christ good for? Aren't the things of the economy, immigration, and national security far more important?

At every turn, our sinful thoughts completely underestimate the light of Jesus Christ.

Let's start to see the light of Jesus in our lives from Luke chapter 2. God in the flesh our Savior Jesus was born under the law. (Gal 4:4) And the events described here for Mary's purification according to the law and Jesus' presentation according to the law prove Jesus' total and complete commitment to subject himself to the law of God. And this in itself is incredible to us.

How is it that we are so fully aware of our sin? Our voluntary sin and our involuntary sin, our sins of weakness and our presumptuous sins to our great shame, our sins of commission and our sins of omission, our internal sins and our external sins, our venial and potential mortal sins. All of these flowing from the core of our hearts, where our condition and spiritual disease abide. Jesus taught:

What Defiles a Person

¹⁰ And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." ¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?"

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

Our sin ages us, it stresses us out, it contributes to all our pains and illnesses. It makes us compulsive. It urges us towards addiction. It invites depression. It encourages anxiety. It trains us to worry. It excuses and justifies our anger. It propels our lust. It makes us ambitious so that even the most holy positions in the church become marred by a sense of self-importance. It divides families. It makes people paranoid and neurotic. It celebrates our grudges, and it keeps us trapped in unforgiveness and resentment. And if it remains untreated, it destroys a person.

But how do we know about this terrible monster called sin? We know through one thing: be it the law of our conscience or the crystal-clear Law of God’s Holy Word: we know all about what is wrong with us and the world through the law. The law shows our sin. The Latin *lex semper accusat* means “the law ALWAYS accuses.” This is a biblical truth. No matter how good we think we are, the law presents a different view. It is a mirror that reveals our true colors. The law conducts an open and shut case against us: we are sinful and people who are sinful commit sins and our sins are all over the place: in our thoughts, in our feelings, in our words, in our relationships, in our actions...everywhere. The law makes our sin so well-known – no matter how good a front we put on or happy face – that it puts us into a spiritual prison.

Before Luther discovered the true meaning of the righteousness of God in the book of Romans, he had learned to hate words “the righteousness of God” because he had mistakenly took them as law-words that meant he had to perform the standard of God’s righteousness; that he had to make himself righteous to know God and be right with God. Again, with this understanding Luther hated these words and confessed to being locked in a spiritual prison. There could never be any peace in himself, because the law just revealed the truth that he was totally and completely a mess and there was nothing he could do to change it.

How much does this law-prison impact the human psyche? When we are confronted with our black hole of darkness, we fight or fly. We either go into complete denial mode where we train ourselves to avoid ever admitting our weakness and sin (and I am no psychologist, but it would not surprise me that narcissistic personalities are trying to cope with the nightmare of their sin by acting like it doesn't exist, and casting blame on everyone else); OR it puts us into fight mode: where we can seem and appear very religious and be like Luther before he knew the saving Gospel and tried to work it off: praying more, reading our bibles more, giving more, doing more, acting more holy, trying desperately to fight against our sin, and this is where being religious must never be confused with saving faith.

Do you remember the rich young man in Scripture? He had deceived himself into believing he could keep the Law. He told Jesus that he had kept the commandments of God, so to reveal his true condition, Jesus gave him another law tailored made for him, so that he might finally understand:

The Rich Ruler

¹⁸ And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " ²¹ And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

Note the instantaneous result of the law breaking through the mind and heart: "But when he heard these things, he became very sad...". The realization is crushing.

What brings all this light again? Answer: the law. And here is Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, our sinless Savior, through Whom the light of God flows through and shines forth, this God-man Savior desired to and executed being born under this law. And here in this event called His presentation – at 40 days old – here he is conducting himself and being conducted as one under the law, this law that accuses people as 100% verifiable sinners. There he was at 40 days old, being associated with the likes of you and me, under the law, subject to the law, and needing to keep it, this law which accuses and condemns sinners like you and me. Jesus was presented to be in the same boat with us. This is God with us in Luke 2. Not very glamorous, but one thing was certain and true: Jesus didn't come to run away from you Christians, but He came to run towards you and unite Himself to you, and associate Himself with you, and to be one with you.

Bad company corrupts good character. Choose your friends wisely. Jesus went the other way. He came to make friends with us sinners to the extent that He wanted to be completely identified with our corruption. The Father knew of course that His Son was pure, spotless, and holy, but Jesus was determined in His mission for the day to come when His Father would see Him and treat Him like the worst sinner the world had ever known, bearing the sin of all sinners of all times and in all places when He was on the cross of Calvary. The day was coming when Jesus would be so successful of being one with all sinners that the Father would prove His acceptance of His Son's sacrifice to the extent that Jesus Himself would verify the Father turning away from Him, effectively forsaking Him. Jesus' association with you and me would be complete. It all started, however, with a kind of guilt by association when he was 40 days old and certainly even before that when He was circumcised at eight days old.

For a Jew, he or she also had to be considerate of the special laws given to the Israelites. The two turtledoves were for His holy mother Mary, but there was something that had to be given for Jesus as well. That's why the holy family came to Jerusalem and went up to the Temple. Here is the law that they had to abide by for Jesus as recorded in Numbers 18:15-16:

“¹⁵ Everything that opens the womb of all flesh, whether man or beast, which they offer to the Lord, shall be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn of man you shall redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. ¹⁶ And their redemption price (at a month old you shall redeem them) you shall fix at five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs [the gerah is the smallest Jewish coin].”

That is, it was a law applicable to Jesus. that because He was the first-born in the family, the family had to keep the law of Israel and come to the priest to pay the redemption price. Like the two turtle doves required for Mary, both standards indicated that the family was by no means wealthy. For example, they could not afford to bring a lamb for Mary, though in truth Mary had brought *The Lamb Jesus*, but instead for Jesus, Joseph paid what would have been about \$90 today in the U.S. Jesus was born under the law, and it was already costing his family, and, in a way, it was already costing Himself.

What did the payment of money stand for? The first-born male children of Israel automatically belonged to the LORD and as a result, would have to enter priestly service, but since the tribe of Levite provided the priests – and Jesus was of the tribe of Judah – the money was to “buy-back” the first-born from the LORD. Nevertheless, Jesus was already the Priest of priests, our High Priest, who came to save us. Still, He was under the law. He put Himself in the position to be stuck under it. Like us, who can’t get away from it. The law is always demanding payment: our blood, sweat, and tears, so much energy exerted to deal with what is within ourselves and what is outside of us demanding from us. It is exhausting. So, what did Jesus do? He was born and came right up alongside us and lifted His arms to hold up for us what was otherwise crushing us.

But wait a minute, Jesus befriends, loves, and unites with sinners? Yes, that’s right! And that is what makes the good news, the gospel, so good and the best news ever. Because that shedding of His light upon us directly through Himself means that we become united with His holiness, His purity, His innocence, His authority, and His power. With His life now shared with ours, we are released from sin, shame, guilt, and all

condemnation. We are set free by Jesus into eternal life that nothing can interfere with.

Simeon knew it.

God's Word won't permit us to assume that there was anything special about Simeon. It is not mentioned that he was a high ranking official or religious leader. He is identified simply as "a man," but there is one thing that stands out: Simeon was righteous, devout, and waiting. These words put together are describing someone who takes hold of something and will not let go. He proves persistence, determination and an unwavering grip on something. There was something he was holding in his life that he would not let go of. It was the most important thing in his life.

And what was that? It was the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Messiah who would bring what our text refers to as the "consolation of Israel." (Luke 2:25) God's Word predicted this consolation in Isaiah:

Isaiah 40:1-2: **Comfort for God's People**

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
 that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
 that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins."

AND

Isaiah 61:2: "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;"

We should never underestimate this consolation. Please turn with me to Hymn 347 and take a look at the first two stanzas to understand exactly what Simeon had been waiting for, and then understand that by the Holy Spirit he was able to recognize – even though there were other parents and children there to see the priest – and Simeon knew by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus was Messiah, the Anointed One, bringing

salvation and complete healing for all of us sinners by covering His sin with His blood and restoring us to real life.

So, Simeon says this: "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word." (Luke 2:29) The words, "letting your servant depart in peace," does not mean that Simeon is saying "Beam Me Up Scottie, I can die now." Not at all, rather, Simeon is saying that he is being released from the waiting, the anticipating; his peace is no longer on hold. His eyes have finally seen God's salvation through the Only One who brings it. That meant that Simeon could start living in a way that was brand new. His life was transformed. He had the best of the best through Jesus the Messiah. He was free now to live by giving His life to follow Him. In Christ, Simeon knew that His life was full and overflowing. So, he sang. He had to because the Holy Spirit led him to express overflowing joy for sin being conquered. Please turn with me to Hymn 937 (as we look it up...) here are many forms of this in our liturgy, in the divine services, but here it is in the form of a simple hymn, the song or canticle of Simeon: Hymn 937.

This One, this Christ, is as the preacher in Hebrews says, "is able to help those who are being tempted." (Hebrews 2:18) That sin that brings chaos can do so no more. You are no longer its prisoner. It is no longer your master. It does not control your life. How is that? Because Christ has come and the light of God shines through Him and that light overcomes the darkness, that light gives new life. John 1: "5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." And John 1: "12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

What do you do now Christian as you face all the things that try to take your life into chaos and pain? See Christ's light that shines on your darkness. Stop trying to look at the darkness. Look at His light. Your sins have been removed. You have been cleansed. The waiting is over. Christ has come. Rejoice and live as those who are set free from the bondage of sin.

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith like Simeon, who trusted God's promise that he would not die until he had seen the Savior, that trusting in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we who have received His body and blood and behold Him by

faith would be prepared for the day we meet Him face to face, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors in Christ, that the Lord, who sent His Son to the temple and placed Him in the hands of blessed St. Simeon, would abide with those placed in the Office of the Holy Ministry, that their hands would be ever ready to deliver His gifts to His people and their lips bold to speak the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes, that they would be places where the truth of God is taught and confessed; that husbands would love their wives with the courage and compassion of Joseph, and wives submit to their husbands with the grace and respect of Mary; and that all parents would be blessed in their work of instructing their children in the Word of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who have been placed in authority over us, that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind; and for our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the suffering, sick and sorrowful, [*especially* _____] that our heavenly Father would hear Jesus' intercession for these afflicted members of the Church and bless them by His loving visitation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well prepared to depart in peace according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of Your faithful people of all times and places, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, until He comes again in glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering


Toccata from *Fiori musicale* [Musical Flowers]

-- Girolamo Frescobaldi

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

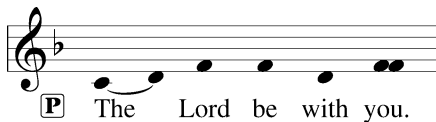
+ Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing +

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.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



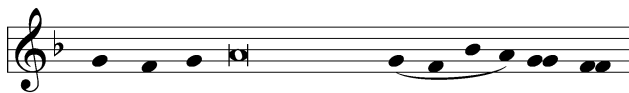
C And al - so with you.



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 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, who, sharing Your eternal splendor, was presented on this day in Your temple in the substance of our human flesh and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and the light of all peoples. 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 161



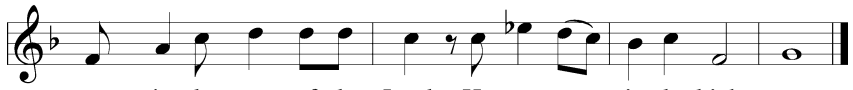
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

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."

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

855 For All the Faithful Women

(stanzas will be sung in the following order: 1, 6, 8, 3)

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

(all stanzas)

529 Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus

(all stanzas)

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

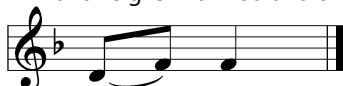


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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 A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.



Postlude

Recessional -- Frank Asper

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements

Special Announcement

Pastor Espinosa will be traveling from February 7-9. In case of any pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Dargatz at 714-474-3444.

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.

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



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

Psalm 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.

❀ **Calling All Women: Interest Check for a Women's Retreat!** ❀

We're excited to explore the possibility of hosting a **St. Paul's Women's Retreat**, and we want to hear from you! This retreat will be a time for spiritual renewal, personal growth, and connecting with fellow women of faith.

Before we move forward with planning, we'd love to gauge interest and see how many women would like to participate. If you're excited about the idea of taking time away to recharge, grow spiritually, and build meaningful connections, please talk to Laura Miller or email the church office at office@saintpaulsirvine.com

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://bit.ly/3EeBUHl>

Daily Devotionals for Reading Through The Holy Bible in 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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



***Lux et Veritas* K-8 Lutheran Classical Academy Update**

Lux et Veritas K-8 Lutheran Classical Academy continues preparatory stage to work with LCEF feasibility study in raising funds for the study and conducting groundwork on research for grants and other financial opportunities. In addition, hard work is going into mission and vision formation. The LORD continues to identify for us more people desirous of helping this vision. We are

also working closely with the district executive director of schools and our local LCEF representative. Please keep this Great Commission ministry in your prayers for the growth of our congregation and the light of Christ to reach out to many in the Irvine area who may not know the saving Gospel.

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,
Pastor Espinosa

Special Sermon Series for Our Six Wednesday Night Services at 7pm:

Spiritual Renewal According to the 12 Minor Prophets

- **March 5th:** Spiritual Renewal According to *Hosea and Joel*
- **March 12th:** Spiritual Renewal According to *Amos and Obadiah*
- **March 19th:** Spiritual Renewal According to *Jonah and Micah*
- **March 26th:** Spiritual Renewal According to *Nahum and Habakkuk*
- **April 2nd:** Spiritual Renewal According to *Zephaniah and Haggai*
- **April 9th:** Spiritual Renewal According to *Zechariah and Malachi*

Mercy: Love Throughout Life Conference

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

To register please go to the link below:

bit.ly/MercyLovePSD

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

The Bulletin Board



Life Quote: "All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well' (Psalm 139:14)." *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church–Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message:

Luke 2:24 – "[They went] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.'" Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you'll see that the sacrifice for purification was either a lamb or a pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us — and of course Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion, but His all.

We are Seeking More Volunteers to Serve the Congregation



We are seeking volunteers for ***Ushers, Altar Guild, Welcome Table*** and ***transportation services*** and visiting shut-ins. Please let Mark Kuntz know if you are interested. We need additional volunteers for: ***Livestream, Family Sunday School, Quilting & Fellowship Team.***

Please speak to Pastor Espinosa if you might be able to help with these.

Thank you to all our current, amazing volunteers. You are appreciated!

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 #14. 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 continue our bible study this **Wednesday, February 5th** with Hebrews Chapter 10. 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: Upcoming meeting time TBA.
- Group #2: Will be meeting at the church on 2/18 at 5:30pm.

5. Confirmation Class for Youth

Our Confirmation group for youth met at Pastor Espinosa's house on 1/25. We try to meet monthly, depending on the needs of our students' families. If there is a youth in your family who is interested in talking to Pastor more about confirmation, or if you are interested in adult confirmation, please contact office@saintpaulsirvine.com.

6. "Iron Sharpens Iron"

Iron Sharpens Iron is a men's bible study group that meets virtually on a monthly basis. For more information on meeting times and to join the group please contact Jacob Thornblad at Jacobiot1998@gmail.com

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.



Please pray for our Missionaries Council Members & Elders



St. Paul's is helping to support these missionaries with financial gifts to the national synod annually:

- Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad
- Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic
- Erin Mackenzie
- Serving the Lord in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region
- Britt Odemba
- Serving the Lord in Kenya
- Rev. Dr. Tom Park
- Serving the Lord in Taiwan

St. Paul's has formed friendships with these missionaries and are not currently supporting them financially:

- Tirzah Krey, Regional Human Care Coordinator
- Serving the Lord in the Latin America and Caribbean Region
- St. Paul's also supports our local evangelist Rev. Mark Jasa.

Please pray for our Church Leaders:

Our Parish Council members and Elders are so appreciated. Please pray that God grant them strength and bless their ministry to our church:

St. Paul's Parish Council Members:

- Debbie Dannemeyer – President
- Matt Bures – Recording Secretary
- Ken Mott – Treasurer
- Laura Miller – Financial Secretary
- Jon Rutherford – Trustee Director
- Ali Frank – Stewardship Director
- Mark Kuntz – Presiding Elder
- Renee Mott – Fellowship Director
- Bradley Hustad – Evangelism Director
- Jacob Thornblad – Education Director
- Miles & Jackie Johnson – Youth Director

St. Paul's Elders:

Mark Kuntz (Presiding Elder), Bruce Dannemeyer, Bryan Kilduff, John Church, Jon Steele, Karl Blanke, Michael Padilla, Steve Fischer, Ricky Cuenca, Alex Padilla

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>
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
3 rd Sunday 2/16/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele
4 th Sunday 2/23/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, A. Wright	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

1 st Sunday 2/2/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 2/9/2025	Espinosa's
3 rd Sunday 2/16/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th Sunday 2/23/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott