

***Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!***  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)**

***Midweek of Lent 3***

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**7:00 P.M.**

**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**

**Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson**

**Office: 12-4 M-F; 949-599-4760**

Website: [www.saintpaulsirvine.com](http://www.saintpaulsirvine.com)

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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 Lenten Midweek Services at 7:00 pm
- Holy Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm
- Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Divine Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
  - Easter Fellowship Breakfast in between services at 9:30 am

**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)

**Prayer Before Worship**

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 +

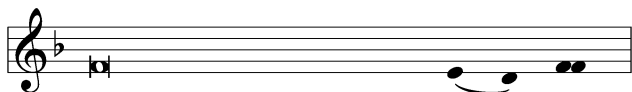
**Prelude**

**Service of Light**

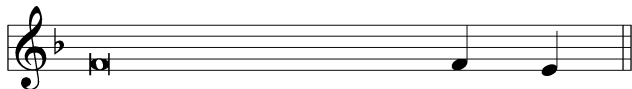
*Stand*

**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

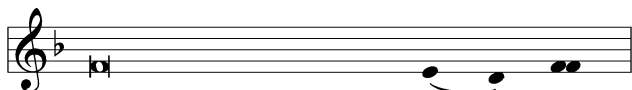
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.



**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.

## Phos Hilaron

LSB 244



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:  
the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

## Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,  
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of  
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;  
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion  
and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.  
**C** A - men.

Sit

# Psalmody

## Psalm 141

LSB 245





to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in  
the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.  
Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,  
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

**L** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**G** Amen.

## Office Hymn:

## 728 How Firm a Foundation

*(all stanzas)*

## Readings

### Reading

*Nahum 1:7–15*

**L** A reading from Nahum, chapter 1.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD is good,  
a stronghold in the day of trouble;  
he knows those who take refuge in him.

<sup>8</sup>But with an overflowing flood  
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,  
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

<sup>9</sup>What do you plot against the LORD?  
He will make a complete end;  
trouble will not rise up a second time.

<sup>10</sup>For they are like entangled thorns,  
like drunkards as they drink;

they are consumed like stubble fully dried.  
<sup>11</sup>From you came one  
 who plotted evil against the LORD,  
 a worthless counselor.  
<sup>12</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
 "Though they are at full strength and many,  
 they will be cut down and pass away.  
 Though I have afflicted you,  
 I will afflict you no more.  
<sup>13</sup>And now I will break his yoke from off you  
 and will burst your bonds apart."  
<sup>14</sup>The LORD has given commandment about you:  
 "No more shall your name be perpetuated;  
 from the house of your gods I will cut off  
 the carved image and the metal image.  
 I will make your grave, for you are vile."  
<sup>15</sup> Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him  
 who brings good news,  
 who publishes peace!  
 Keep your feasts, O Judah;  
 fulfill your vows,  
 for never again shall the worthless pass through you;  
 he is utterly cut off.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*Habakkuk 1:1–6, 12–13; 2:1–4; 3:17–19*

**L** A reading from Habakkuk,

<sup>1</sup>The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.  
<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
 and you will not hear?  
 Or cry to you "Violence!"  
 and you will not save?  
<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see iniquity,  
 and why do you idly look at wrong?  
 Destruction and violence are before me;  
 strife and contention arise.  
<sup>4</sup>So the law is paralyzed,  
 and justice never goes forth.  
 For the wicked surround the righteous;  
 so justice goes forth perverted.

<sup>5</sup>“Look among the nations, and see;  
wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days  
that you would not believe if told.

<sup>6</sup>For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,  
that bitter and hasty nation,  
who march through the breadth of the earth,  
to seize dwellings not their own.

<sup>12</sup>Are you not from everlasting,  
O LORD my God, my Holy One?  
We shall not die.

O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment,  
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

<sup>13</sup>You who are of purer eyes than to see evil  
and cannot look at wrong,  
why do you idly look at traitors  
and are silent when the wicked swallows up  
the man more righteous than he?

<sup>1</sup>I will take my stand at my watchpost  
and station myself on the tower,  
and look out to see what he will say to me,  
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it.

<sup>3</sup>For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

<sup>17</sup>Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,

<sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

<sup>19</sup>GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer’s;

he makes me tread on my high places.  
To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## Sermon

"Nahum and Habakkuk: Trusting God's Plan"

Pastor Espinosa

Introduction:

Lent = "Spring" =Renewal

The Process Thus Far:

1. Hosea and Joel: Return
2. Amos and Obadiah: Mishpat (Justice)
3. Jonah and Micah: Hesed (Mercy)
4. But how do we endure?

Part 1: "Step 4"...Now we are in the long game

- A. It's frustrating
- B. God knows: His plan is to use the frustration to our advantage
- C. Stop the presses! Time out! Say what?!

Part 2: Nahum = "Consolator"

- A. God's people were being oppressed by the Assyrians
- B. We know oppression. God permits it
- C. Why? To learn Nahum 1:7:

"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."

1. The way of our flesh is always to stray from God
2. But the LORD is good (TOV)
3. Good as in life-giving when the world is trying to sap our life
4. The LORD wants us to know Him as our refuge and fortress in the day of trouble

### Part 3: Habakkuk

- A. He was also frustrated
- B. Habakkuk was complaining against God
- C. Why was God allowing injustice?!
- D. God's response: I will send the Babylonians
- E. Habakkuk was even MORE frustrated
- F. 2:3: God: "If it seems slow, wait for it."
- G. God's plan: 2:4...F A I T H

Conclusion: Even if things do not seem to be working out (see Habakkuk 3:17), YET (vv 18-19).

## Canticle

*Stand*

**434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy**  
*(all stanzas)*

*Sit*

### Offering

### Prayer

*Stand*

### Litany (Lent)

*LSB 249*

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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 mercy.**

**L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For *[names of synodical and district presidents]*, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For *[name of president or monarch]*, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayers then continue:*

**L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C Thanks be to God.**

**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C To You, O Lord.**

## Collect for Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

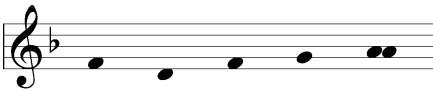
- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

*Stand*

## Benedicamus

LSB 252



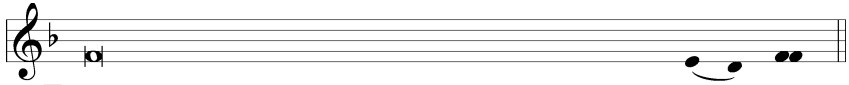
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 252



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the  $\text{✠}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn:

## 729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

(all stanzas)

### Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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## Coming Up:

### Spiritual Renewal According to the 12 Minor Prophets Wednesdays at 7:00 PM | March 5 – April 9

Join us for a six-week sermon series exploring the timeless messages of the 12 Minor Prophets. Each week, we will uncover how these prophetic voices call us to deeper faith and spiritual renewal.

#### Series Schedule:

Date	Prophets & Theme
April 2	Zephaniah & Haggai: Renewing Our Devotion
April 9	Zechariah & Malachi: Hope & Restoration

Come and be refreshed through the Word as we seek renewal in our walk with God.

### Congregational Voters' Meeting- This Sunday!!

We invite you to join us for a Congregational Voters' Meeting on **Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** after Divine Service to discuss an important proposal. The topic for this meeting will be the approval of funding for the installation of an air wall between the sanctuary and the adjacent classroom.

This air wall will help improve the functionality of our space, providing greater flexibility for both worship and community activities.

Your input and participation are vital in making this decision, so we encourage all eligible voters to attend.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the life of our church!

### Holy Week Services

- **Holy Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm**
- **Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00 pm**
- **Easter Sunday Divine Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am**
  - Easter Fellowship Breakfast is in between services at 9:30 am

### General Announcements

#### Easter Egg Hunt – Candy Donations Needed!

We're preparing for a joyful Easter celebration, and we need your help! Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** is coming up, and we're collecting **individually wrapped candy donations** to fill the eggs for our children's event.

If you'd like to contribute, please bring your candy donations to the church by **April 16**.

Prefer to give online? You can make a donation through our **Amplify Giving Portal** at:

 <https://giving.myamplify.io/app/giving/saintpaulirvine>

Thank you for helping us make this Easter a fun and memorable experience for our church family!

If you have any questions, please contact **Traci Espinosa** at **281-627-2646**.

#### Quilting Team Needs Your Help!

The **Quilting Team at St. Paul's** is in need of **cardboard boxes** for storing and shipping quilts. If you have any boxes to donate, we would greatly appreciate your support!

Additionally, if you're interested in joining our **quilting team**, we would love to have you. No experience is necessary—just a heart for giving and a willingness to learn!

For donations or more information, please contact **Myra Taylor** at **949-636-3431**.

Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry!

## Women's Retreat Update

Laura Miller and Pastor Espinosa met for next steps for our 2025 Women's Retreat. We are looking at a one-day event on **Saturday, August 9** in an affordable location in Dana Point. There are two leading topics right now that Pastor Espinosa will present to the women: 1) "The Power of Confession" (which is what pastor is presenting at the Men's Retreat September 19-21); OR 2) "Womanhood in Holy Scripture" OR you may suggest another topic. **Please inform Laura Miller or Pastor Espinosa if you would like to attend this one-day retreat.**

## Paul Ackley Memorial Service

Paul's service will be held at Pacific View Memorial Park and Mortuary in Corona Del Mar at 11 am on **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**" Please keep the family in your prayers. If you knew Paul, which includes such members as John Church, and Paul and Ackley Fick, who were all with Paul when we were in Laguna Beach, then the family would like to invite you to the service and the reception immediately following. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Espinosa know."

## Circle of Friends

The most effective way for a church to grow in the Kingdom of God is to be faithful in the Word and Sacrament of Christ and to truly love people. One way to do that is to allow us to pray for those you know who need Christ and/or a church home. Please submit the names of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others to us through our ministry called Circle of Friends.

Thank you! Pastor Espinosa.

*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!*

