

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

The Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 4, 2025 – 9:30 am

Divine Service

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

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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 10:30 am. Adult Bible Study 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 Saint 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:

Prelude and Fugue in C -- JS Bach

Greeting

P You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

C O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

- Psalm 30:11a, 12b

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

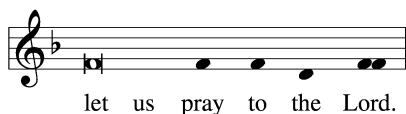
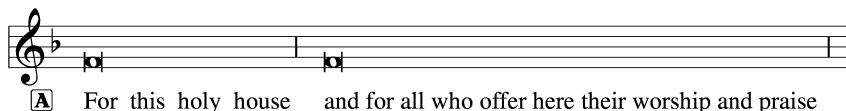
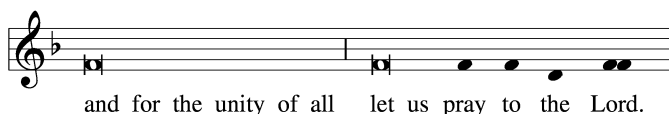
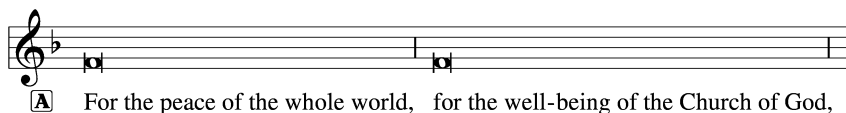
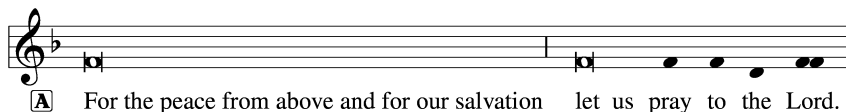
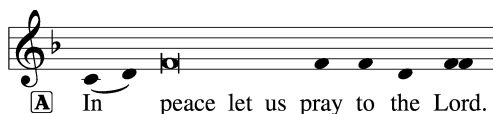
Entrance Hymn:

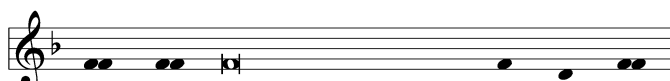
812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

(all stanzas)

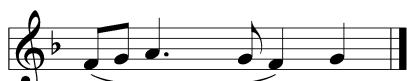
Kyrie

LSB 152





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



C A - - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world.
Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death,
perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And

here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 30; antiphon: vv. 11a, 12b



P You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing;*
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

C I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.

P O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.

C O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.

P Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.

C For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a | lifetime.*

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the | morning.

P As for me, I said in my pros- | perity,*
"I shall nev- | er be moved."

C By your favor, O LORD,
you made my mountain | stand strong;*
you hid your face;
I | was dismayed.

P To you, O | LORD, I cry,*
and to the Lord I plead for | mercy:

C “What profit is there in my death,
if I go down | to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your | faithfulness?

P Hear, O LORD, and be merci- | ful to me!*

O LORD, be my | helper!”

you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with | gladness,

C that my glory may sing your praise and not be | silent.*
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

C 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

P You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing;*

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

Epistle

Revelation 5:1–14

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden

bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

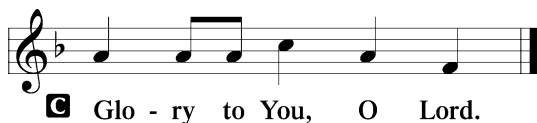


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 21:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They

said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message/Blessing of the Graduates

Hymn of the Day:

483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"The Real Jesus"

Pastor Espinosa

(John 21:1-14)

Introduction: Glorious Resurrection But Accessible Savior

- A. Glorious Yes, Untouchable No
- B. We think we should be like Peter when He was first called: "Go away from me LORD for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8)

- C. Jesus won't have any of that.

Part I: The LORD Knows Our Need for Constant Reassurance

- A. What were the disciples doing?
 - a. Does God really "need" us?
- B. They required affirmation, so do we.
 - a. What have you done for me lately? Our frail humanity needs reassurance.
 - b. Crucial in relationships.
 - c. We need the "little things" to be constant.
- C. So, Jesus comes to their/our daily ordinary lives.

Part II: Jesus Comes Not To Overwhelm, But To Be One With:

Jesus the Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For 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. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

John 11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.

Matthew 4:4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."
37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Part III: Even In His Glorious Body With All Power and Authority:

- A. "Any fish?"
- B. Then the reminder...the catch!
- C. Charcoal fire and "Come and have breakfast."
 - a. Lunch with Edward James Olmos
 - b. Feast with the LORD of the Universe, Savior of All!!!
- D. So ordinary and so marvelous! And for you!

Conclusion:

The Resurrection makes your ordinary extraordinary!

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the Lord would accomplish His holy purpose in calling many joyfully to know His redemption; and that we, as the people of God, would live lives of service as a kingdom of priests in accordance with God's holy will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church of God, that many men would be called to the service of the Church and to suffer for the Gospel, confounding her enemies with Christ's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church of Jesus, that He who provided fish for His apostles and sent them out as fishers of men would bless the Word and gather in as many as would be saved, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all fathers and mothers, that God would strengthen their faith and increase their joy in the Gospel, and that they would declare the mighty acts of God to the generation to come, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our rulers and all the nations of the earth, that God who orders all nations would inspire His Church to shepherd them unto eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who struggle among us, [*especially* _____], that God would give them faith and grace and be glorified through their trials, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful reception of Christ's very body and blood, that God would give us the Holy Spirit so that what we receive with our lips we may keep in holy hearts and show forth in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord, You are holy, and You sanctify us in Christ. Give us strength during temptation, courage in times of fear, comfort in distress and resolve in the face of persecution. Help us to abound in hope in every circumstance; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering:

Intermezzo IV -- Hermann Schroeder

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.



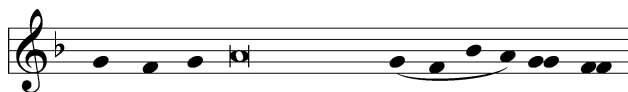
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



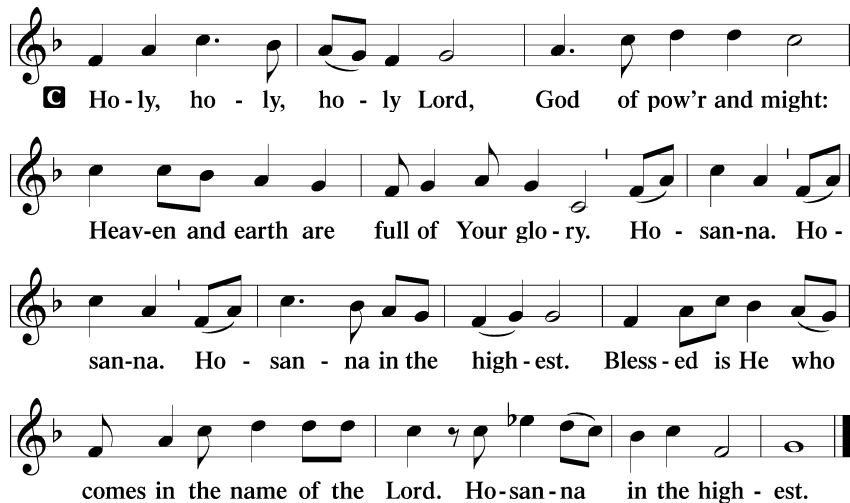
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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. And

most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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.

C 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.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

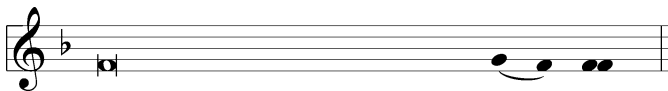
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final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

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 163



- P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

G Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

(all stanzas)

464 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

(all stanzas)

467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

(all stanzas)

469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

(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 - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



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

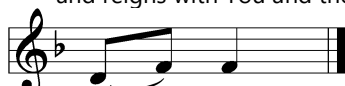


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

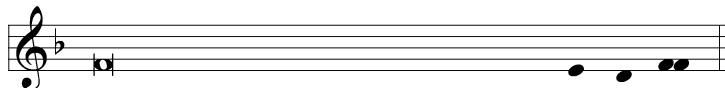
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You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



C A - men.

Postlude:

Allegro Maestoso from "Water Music"-- GF Handel

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

Congregational Voters Meeting: Today

Topic—Approval of the revised Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has been working for about a year on reviewing and revising the Saint Paul's Constitution and Bylaws, originally written in 1947. The committee was comprised of experts and consultants from within and outside our Saint Paul's membership. The proposed changes were presented to the Church Council, wherein the Council made additional recommendations. The final draft is available for review both online (QR Code) and printed on the welcome table. The voters' meeting content will focus on the significant changes recommended, after which we will conduct a vote.

God's blessings to our Saint Paul's church family!

Debbie Dannemeyer, President

Bible Study Will Not Meet Today

Journey Through the Parables will continue next Sunday, May 11th. Please join us today for our congregational meeting after a brief fellowship following Divine Service.

This week:

Wednesday Will Not Meet This Week

We are not having class this Wednesday, May 7th as Pastor Al must travel to St. Louis in service as chair for the LCMS Board for National Mission. We will return to our study through Hebrews Chapter 11 on **Wednesday, May 14th**.

Join us next week, all are welcome! Whether you prefer to meet in person or join virtually, we'd love to have you there. For more information or to access the virtual study, please contact **Pastor Espinosa** at **revdrespinosa@saintpaulsirvine.com**

Let's grow together in faith — we hope to see you there!

Chosen Bible Study

Group #2 will be meeting **Saturday, May 10th at 5:30 pm** at the Miller's

home in Capistrano Beach. Saint 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.

General Announcements

Exciting News from Our Church Family!

We are thrilled to share that one of our fellow brothers in Christ, Ben Fisher has written a beautiful **free** children's book that will be available for download starting **April 29!**

Book Title: *Scribbaloo and the Color Cruncher*

This delightful picture book follows *Scribbaloo*, a magical little creature who loves to draw, as he faces his biggest mistake yet—creating the *Color Cruncher*, a monster that gobbles up colors! With the help of his cheerful best friend, *Scribbaloo* embarks on an uplifting journey to find the Golden Crayon and restore the rainbow.

Full of vibrant illustrations and a powerful message, the story gently teaches kids how to embrace mistakes, grow in resilience, and celebrate creativity. Parents will appreciate its encouragement of a growth mindset and the opportunity to start conversations about God’s unconditional love and grace through Jesus Christ.

Here’s what inspired the author:

“I wrote this book to help my own children—and others—overcome perfectionism and understand that they are deeply loved, even when they make mistakes. My prayer is that this story helps kids everywhere learn how to breathe, grow, and trust in the love of Christ.”

Let’s support our fellow brother in Christ by spreading the word and sharing this meaningful, joy-filled book with the young ones in our lives! Thank you for being a part of this encouraging launch!

[Amazon.com: Scribbaloo and the Color Cruncher eBook : Fisher, Ben P., Bentley, Tadgh: Kindle Store](#)

Church Council Treasurer’s Report

YTD Totals: Jan - March 25

Category	Actual	Budget
General Offerings	\$55,749.00	\$72,500.00
Other Offerings	\$209.00	\$412.00
Total Income	\$55,958.00	\$72,912.00

25-March Totals:

Category	Actual	Budget
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General Offerings	\$20,331.00	\$27,900.00
Other Offerings	\$72.00	\$138.00
Total Income	\$20,403.00	\$28,038.00
The Bulletin Board Life Quote: May 4 “By the washing of water, John made God’s divine intentions clear. Jesus was our brother indeed, on a heavenly mission to rescue and purify us from all sin. Dear Lord, keep us patient as we wait for You. Amen.” <i>Rev. Paul Koelpin, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org</i> Weekly Stewardship Message: May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter John 21:6 – “He said to them, ‘Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.” Won’t the disciples ever learn? Jesus did this once before — when the odds seemed completely against it, the Lord gave them a command to let down the nets, a command that seemed crazy. But they complied and He blessed their obedience. When will we learn this lesson, too?		
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 recently met to discuss the next steps for our 2025 Women’s Retreat. We are planning a one-day event on Saturday, August 9, at an affordable location in Dana Point.		

Pastor Espinosa will present on the topic **“The Power of Confession”**, which is the same theme he will cover at the Men's Retreat from September 19-21. His presentation will be divided into three parts:

1. Confession of **Sin**
2. Confession of **Faith**
3. Confession of **Praise**

If you are interested in attending this one-day retreat, please inform Laura Miller 949-441-8606 or Pastor Espinosa.

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!



Upcoming Event Dates:

• **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** July 21–25

VBS will be held this summer at Irvine Park. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Jackie or Miles Johnson. An informational meeting will be held in April to begin the planning process.

• **Higher Things Conference:** July 29–August 1

The mission of Higher Things is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. St. Paul's will be taking a group of young adults to the conference at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. For more information, please talk to Pastor Espinosa.

Worship Attendance for Members & Guests

Scan the QR code or use the iPads at the Welcome Table to sign in. **Guests**, please sign the guestbook at the entrance.

Offerings: Collected during the worship service. All contributions are voluntary.



Requesting Announcements

To request an announcement for the congregation or community, submit your request via the QR code or this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hsgrm6zAup>. Choose where you want it published: bulletin, email, website, livestream, etc.

Daily Bible Devotionals – 2025

Join Pastor Espinosa in reading through the Holy Bible in 2025!

Follow along daily on:

- ✦ **Facebook:** @AlfonsoEspinosa
- ✦ **TikTok:** @alfonsoespinosa356
- ✦ **Instagram:** @alfonsoespinosa88

Let's rejoice as God strengthens our faith through His Word!

Want devotionals sent to your inbox? Please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com to be added to the list.

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers for **Ushers, Altar Guild, Welcome Table, Transportation Services, and Visiting Shut-Ins**. If interested, please contact **Mark Kuntz**. We also need help with **Livestream, Family Sunday School, Quilting & Fellowship Team**. Please reach out to office@saintpaulsirvine.com if you can assist.

Thank you for serving our congregation!

Words of Evangelism: Ch. 6 – Points of Encouragement

Greetings from your evangelism committee. Through our first five sections, we have discussed why we should share the Gospel and also discussed three points that you should remember while sharing the Gospel. We share the Gospel because God has asked us to and because we want to share our love for our neighbor. There are very few better services we can render to our neighbor that are better than sharing the saving Word. Despite the exhortations given us by our Pastors, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit, we can still feel discouraged and afraid to share our faith. We might feel that we are inadequate. We might think we do not know enough about the Bible or God's Word. We might think someone else should do it because they are more

capable than us. Here are some points of encouragement to keep in mind that can help give you hope and comfort in undertaking the task.

First, God is with you. When Christ instituted the Great Commission, he said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.” (Mt 28:19-20) Christ himself said that he will be with us. Christ said it. You do not need to be discouraged. Christ said he will be there and unlike sinful human beings, Christ will not renege on his promises. Christ is there for you and with you.

Second, Christ told us that he will send us the Holy Spirit to put the words in our mouth. Christ said, “Do not be anxious about... what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Lk 12:11-12) We might not think we have the courage to say what needs to be said. But, Christ extends to us the promise that the Holy Spirit will help us.

Third, if we feel tongue-tied or discouraged, we can simply remember the three points we already mentioned before. Point A: Death and guilt are universal problems. Point B: There are only two religions in the world, Christianity and false religions of man. Point C: We know the Gospel, the very heart and kernel of our faith. We might not know everything, but we do know the basics. We should constantly return to the Gospel, the redemption we receive through Christ Jesus. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is Christ Jesus, who God put forward as a propitiation by his blood.” (Rom 3:23-25) We have been saved by Christ who paid the price for our sins so that we may be reconciled to God and have eternal life.

Fourth, God’s Word stands on its own power. Paul himself felt that his words and speech were inadequate. In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul said that he “did not come proclaiming ... the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.” (1 Cor 2:1) Yet, Paul proclaimed the Word nevertheless. If God’s Word derived its power from the abilities of man’s word and speech, then Paul said that “the cross of Christ” would “be emptied of its power.” (1 Cor 1:17) Paul, therefore, decided to know nothing except “Christ crucified” among others. (1 Cor 2:2) Christians, “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.” (Heb 4:12) We are merely the vehicle God chooses to employ to share his Word. As long as we are proclaiming his Word and not another, we are on solid ground when we engage others.

Lord God, our knowledge of your Word is not infinite and we can sometimes be intimidated to speak the Law and Gospel to others. Give us encouragement to share the basics of your Word, o Lord, to others despite our

own inabilities. Help us remember that your Word stands on its own power, that you, o Lord, are with us, and that the Holy Spirit will help us. Amen.

Please Pray for our Missionaries, Council Members & Elders

Missionaries Supported by St. Paul's

(Financial gifts given annually to the national synod)

Missionary	Location
Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad <i>Please send mail through the LCMS directly.</i>	Dominican Republic
Erin Mackenzie Email: erin.mackenzie@lcms.org	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: britt.odemba@lcms.org	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park Email: tom.park@lcms.org	Taiwan

Missionary Friends

(Non-Financial Support)

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: tirzah.krey@lcms.org	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

If you are interested in mailing a letter or giving a donation directly to our missionaries, please send mail directly to the LCMS with the specific Missionaries name in the attention line:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ATTN: *(enter missionaries name here)*

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Local Evangelism Support

- **Rev. Mark Jasa** – St. Paul's supports our local evangelist.

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 Directors

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/ Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Entrance Area</u>	<u>Livestream</u>
<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 5/4/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 5/11/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jim J.
3 rd Sunday 5/18/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

1 st Sunday 5/3/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2nd Sunday 5/11/2025	Espinosa's, Anne Marie Hines
3rd Sunday 5/18/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott

If you are a volunteer and believe this schedule does not accurately reflect your assigned service days or would like to update an announcement, please email Jackie at office@saintpaulsirvine.com.