

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

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 18, 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 +

Greeting

P Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

C his majesty is above earth and heaven.

- Psalm 148:13

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

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

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

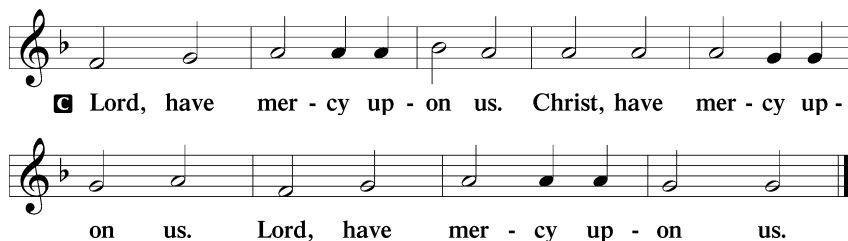
Entrance Hymn:

672 Jerusalem the Golden

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 11:1–18

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13



P Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is ex- | alted;*
his majesty is above earth and | heaven.
Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the | heavens;*
praise him | in the heights!

C Praise him, all his | angels;*

praise him, | all his hosts!

P Praise him, | sun and moon,*

praise him, all you | shining stars!

C Praise him, you highest | heavens,*

and you waters above the | heavens!

P Let them praise the name | of the LORD!*

For he commanded and they were cre- | ated.

C And he established them forever and | ever;*

he gave a decree, and it shall not | pass away.

P Praise the LORD | from the earth,*

you great sea creatures and | all deeps,

C fire and hail, | snow and mist,*

stormy wind fulfill- | ing his word!

P Mountains and | all hills,*

fruit trees and all | cedars!

C Beasts and all | livestock,*

creeping things and | flying birds!

P Kings of the earth and all | peoples,*

princes and all rulers | of the earth!

C Young men and maidens to- | gether,*

old men and | children!

P Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is ex- | alted;*

his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

C He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for | all his saints,*

for the people of Israel who are near to him. | Praise the LORD!

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 Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is ex- | alted;*

his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

Epistle

Revelation 21:1–7

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

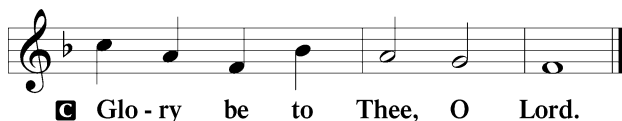
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.



¹²[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little

while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"A New Heaven and A New Earth"
(Revelation 21:1-5)
Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: The malady of short-sightedness (our sin)

- A. Life is reduced and truncated.
- B. Hope is lost.
- C. Pessimism and frustration reign.

Part I: The veil of tears comes to an end

- A. 2nd Peter 3:

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

B. But this is qualified by Hebrews 1:10-12a:

10 And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

12 like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment ***they will be changed.***

C. Think of the resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ to understand.

Part II: The Glorious and Exciting New (LIFE NOT reduced nor truncated)

- A. A New Heaven and A New Earth (Rev 21:1)
- B. "Sea" = Tumult, Tribulation, Waves, Trouble, Evil...these will be no more (vs 1)
- C. We are inheriting a "city," "new Jerusalem" = Significance of "Jerusalem" = where God dwells with His people!

Hebrews 13:14: "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."

Luther: "God permits him [a Christian] to remain alive in the flesh and lets his body walk the earth in order that he may help others and bring them to heaven too. Therefore we must use everything on earth in no other way than as a guest who travels across country...Thus we must also deal with temporal goods as if they did not belong to us. We must limit our enjoyment of them to what is necessary for the preservation of the body. With the rest we must help our neighbor" (AE 30:35).

- H. Verse 3: "dwelling place" = TENT (from O.T. Tent to Christ when He first came to a New Heaven and a New Earth)

Part III: Real Life and Full Life

- A. Lewis: "Christianity is almost the only one of the great religions which thoroughly approves of the body — which believes that matter is good, that God Himself once took on a human body, that some kind of body is going to be given to us even in

Heaven and is going to be an essential part of our happiness, our beauty, and our energy." (*Mere Christianity*)

B. Lewis: "...the resurrection of the body means also the resurrection of what may be called our 'greater body'; the general fabric of our earthly life with its affections and relationships." (*The Four Loves*)

C. Revelation draws from Isaiah 65:17-18, 21:

New Heavens and a New Earth

17 "For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Dr. Lessing: "On the Last Day, God is not going to annihilate everything he has made. He will raise our present earthly bodies and transform them (1 Cor 15:35-53). 'The inheritance promised to those who enter the kingdom of God inaugurated by Jesus Christ includes a renewed earth.' [Holwerda, *Jesus and Israel*, 85] God won't start from scratch as in the first creation, which began with no life and contained no people during the first five days (Gen 1:1-23). Instead, those God has claimed in the old creation will be reclaimed and restored. Yahweh will remake us and his world. Commenting on Is 65:17-25, Luther writes: 'He [God] is not speaking only of the spiritual heaven, but He makes all things new, spiritual and physical.'" (*Concordia Commentary*, 435)

But what about verse 21?! One commentator offering no exegetical reason, simply dismisses the possibility that it applies to the new heaven and new earth. Dr. Lessing doesn't do that.

The building of house, habitation, planting vineyards and eating are words that describe a glory beyond our limitations here, but have behind them:

Dr. Lessing: "Is 65:21-25 employs ideas from this life to describe the perfection of the life to come. Yahweh will grant security (65:21-22), fulfillment (65:23), and intimate relationship with himself (65:24), and peace on every level throughout the new creation (65:25). The promise of harmonious family life is inserted in 65:21, 23." (*Concordia Commentary*, 439)

Conclusion: Yes, the descriptions of our real life and full life to come are glorious and yes, hard for us to put into words, but we will simply allow Revelation to speak for itself:

God teaches through the apostle that heaven at Christ's second advent will be a new heaven combined with a new earth (Rev 21:1). It is described as follows in the apocalypse:

1. It is a dwelling place for God and people together (Rev 21:3).
2. It is place where all sorrow, mourning, and death are gone (Rev 21:4), and nothing unclean will be there (Rev 21:27).
3. It will have the glory of God filling it and it will be a radiant place (Rev 21:11).
4. It has walls, foundations, and gates (Rev 21:12–15).
5. It is a city of pure gold like clear glass (Rev 21:18).
6. It has a street of pure gold like transparent glass (Rev 21:21).
7. It is filled with the light of God (Rev 21:23).
8. It will have the nations represented with their glory and honor (Rev 21:26).
9. It has the river of the water of life (Rev 22:1).
10. It has the tree of life, fruit, and healing leaves (Rev 22:2).

In the vision we learn that there is a kind of resemblance and correspondence between earthly things and heavenly things. Not only is this consistent with the original "very good" creation before sin entered creation (Gen 1:31), but it is even more significantly consistent with the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

His body that died was the same body raised, but it was raised in glory as opposed to a tattered or wounded state. This, too, gives indication that the new eternal heaven will have the most beautiful things of the first creation but be infinitely greater in splendor and magnificence. In the new eternal heaven, our bodies will be our bodies but in a form that is beyond what we can imagine.

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

G Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



G Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering:

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful -- Nelson/Cherwien

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord, have mercy.

P For calm hearts and strong faith in the midst of our sorrows, that we who celebrate the resurrection of our Lord would trust in the promise of our own resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord, have mercy.

P For faithful pastors who will teach us God's Word, devoted church workers who will serve us in His name, and those now preparing for church work vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord, have mercy.

P For all mothers with child and those with young children, that God would bless them in their trials; and that He would bless His Holy Church, the mother of all the children of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our president, our governor, the Congress and legislature, judges and magistrates, and those in the armed forces, that the Lord would guide them to serve according to His will and for the common good of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [_____ and all] those now in tribulation, that God, who will at last banish all sorrow, sin and death, would increase their faith and see them through their trials, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who prepare to receive with faith and thanksgiving Christ's flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from sin, that He would unite us to believe and confess one faith and bring us to that day when we shall be one people together at His table, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+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 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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

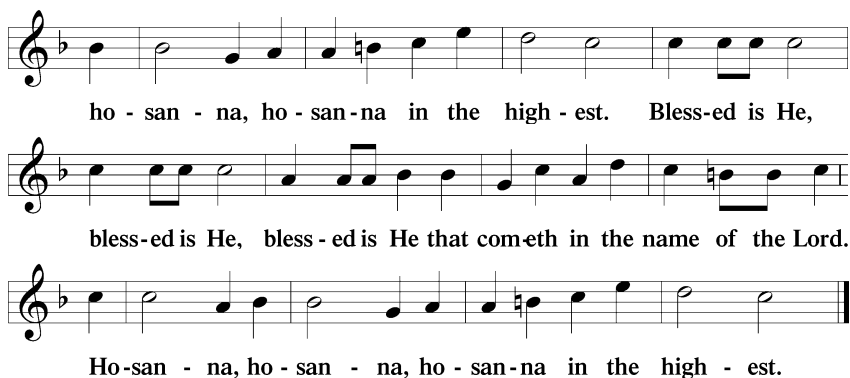
LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



Lord's Prayer

LSB 241

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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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

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

Pax Domini

LSB 197



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

(all stanzas)

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

(all stanzas)

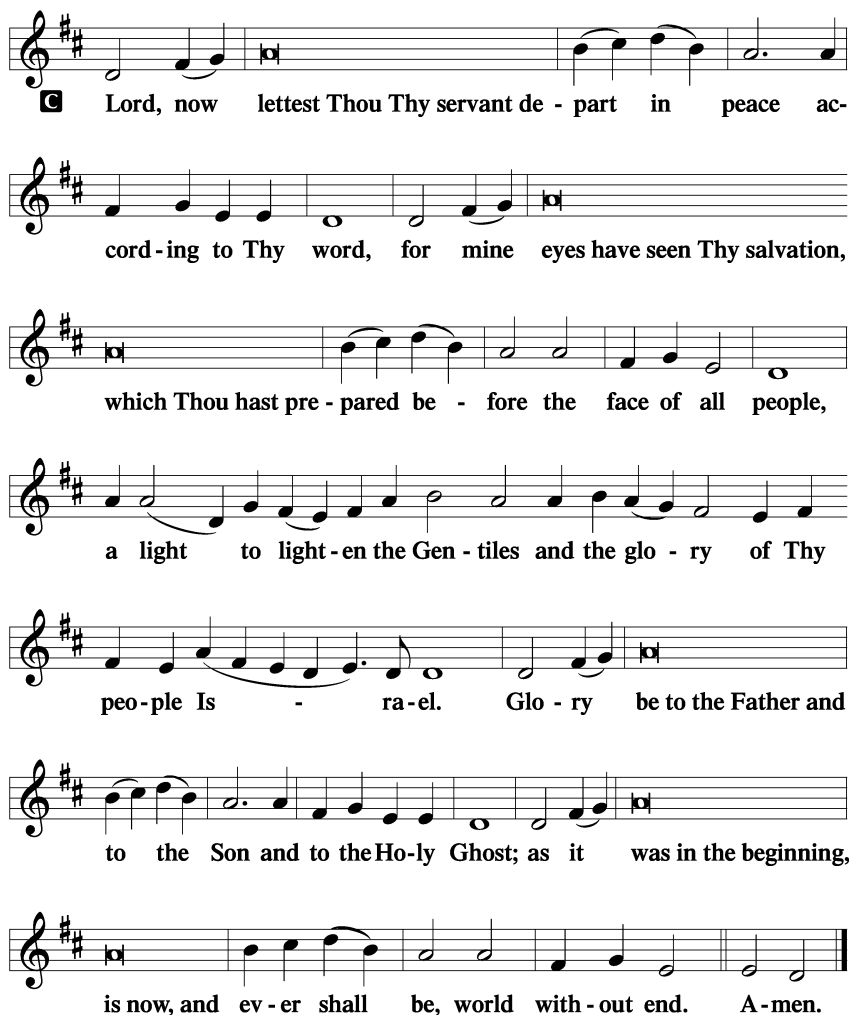
622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

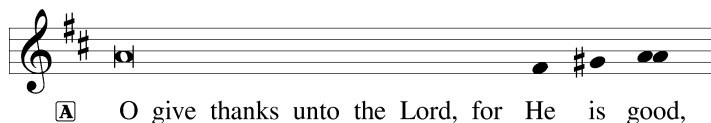
LSB 199



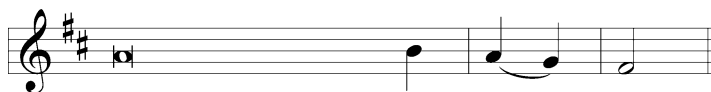
C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



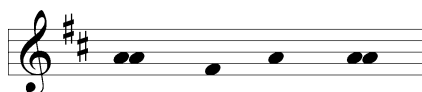
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

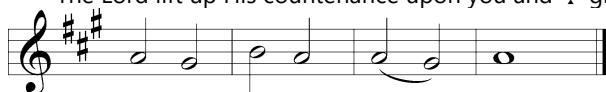
Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

“Journey Through the Parables” Will Meet Today

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to study Parable #21, “The Rich Fool” Please join us after the service and a brief fellowship (around 11 a.m.) for Bible study and an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the Scriptures.

This week:

Wednesday Bible Studies are Back!!

We’re excited to announce that our **Wednesday Bible Studies** have returned and will be continuing with **Hebrews Chapter 12**. Join us as we explore the powerful testimonies of faith that continue to inspire and encourage believers today.

Study times: 10:00 AM & 7:15 PM (In Person & on Microsoft Teams)

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!

General Announcements

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your gift of the beautiful Adoration of the Magi by Edward Burne-Jones that you gave me last Sunday. It is greatly appreciated! Thanks for your support these past ten years!

Blessings,

Jerry

WE WANT YOU!

We're looking for a few good men to sing in a men's chorus.

We'd like to sing in a Sunday service this summer when the most men are available.

Every man of the congregation is invited! No choir singing experience is required. If you sing hymns in church, sing in the shower, sing along with the radio in the car, we invite you to sing with us.

Please let me know if you are interested and what your schedule is like for this summer. There will be rehearsals before we sing.

Blessings,

Mark Howard, Choir Director (markahoward@sbcglobal.net)



Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Offerings Report Month and Year-to-Date April 2025

	Actual	Budgeted	YTD	Budgeted
General Offerings	\$22,963	\$22,300	\$78,812	\$94,800
Other Offerings	\$222	\$137	\$431	\$549
Total Reg Offerings	<u>\$23,185</u>	<u>\$22,437</u>	<u>\$79,243</u>	<u>\$95,349</u>
Other <u>Offerings</u> (not budgeted)				
Building Fund	\$584		\$684	
Classical Study	\$-		\$8,650	

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: May 18

"Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong."

Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Weekly Stewardship Message: May 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Revelation 21:1 – “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.” The things of this world are passing away. We are waiting for a new heaven and a new earth, which have been promised to us in Christ. This knowledge is foundational for our stewardship of what God has put into our hands. What is truly important? What is worthy of our support? How has God called us to use “unrighteous mammon” for the good of our neighbor and His kingdom?

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the Kuntz family's home on **Saturday, June 28th** at 6pm. 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.

Mercy Team Needs Your Help!

A Concordia/OLu family is looking to rent a home starting Aug 1 as they have been informed that their rental property is being sold from under them. They are seeking a home that would have a minimum of 3 bed/2 bath and would be willing to have tenants with dogs.

If you are aware of anyone that can assist them in looking or has a place for rent, please feel free to email Bret Taylor at bret.taylor@cui.edu or speak to Pastor Espinosa.

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!

Calling All Thrivent Members!

Please consider making a difference as a Thrivent member by leading a fundraiser, education event, or service event. **If one of these events is approved by Thrivent, they will grant \$250 in seed money.** This is especially helpful for church events like VBS, quilting team, etc.

Learn more by visiting

<https://www.thrivent.com/aboutus/membership/thrivent-action-teams>

If you are a Thrivent member and would like more information or have an idea you'd like to share, please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com **Thank you!**

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 21st –25th

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 29th –August 1st

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.

• **Women's Retreat:** August 9th

Saint Paul's first women's retreat will be held as a daytime event in Dana Point. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, "The Power of Confession" Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa or Laura Miller if you would like to attend or get more information.

• **Men's Retreat:** September 26th - 28th

Saint Paul's men's retreat will be held at the same "Campus by the Sea" on Catalina Island that it was last year. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, "The Power of Confession" Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa if you would like to attend or get more information.

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/Hsgm6zAup>. 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/G reeter</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>
3 rd Sunday 5/18/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 6/1/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 6/8/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

3rd Sunday 5/18/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
1st Sunday 6/1/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2nd Sunday 5/11/2025	Espinosa's, Ann Marie Hines

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.

