

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

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 21, 2025 – 9:30 am

Divine Service

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

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

Vicar: Miles Johnson

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 at 11:00 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 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 From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

- *Psalm 113:3*

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

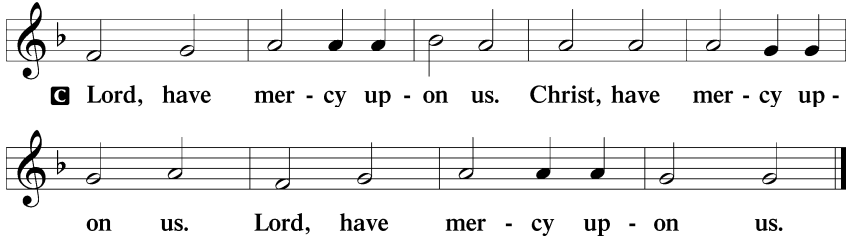
Entrance Hymn:

966 Before You, Lord, We Bow

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

LSB 186



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

Gloria in Excelsis

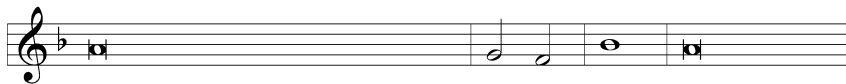
LSB 187



☐ Glory be to God on high: **☐** 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.



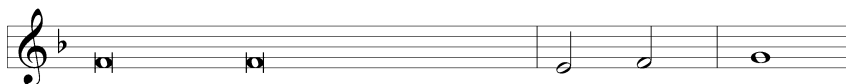
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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 Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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.

with the princes of his | people.

P He gives the barren wom- | an a home,*
making her the joyous mother
of children. | Praise the LORD!

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 From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

Epistle

1 Timothy 2:1–15

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Luke 16:1-15

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Sermon

“Making A Killing or Killing Oneself?”

Proper 20: False Trust vs. True Faith

Amos 8:4-6

Rev. Dr. Espinosa

The Text, Amos 8:4-6:

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
5 saying, “When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,
6 that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

In the Name of Jesus. Amen. On your mark get set go! We may have started on time today, 9:30 on the dot, or not. Did the organist make his prelude a minute longer? Was the pastor greeting without delay? But the most important evaluation: how long will this sermon be? We need to hurry up, because we have got bigger and better things to do with our precious time.

We have two natures, the old man aka the sinful nature aka the flesh; and the born-again spirit, the new creation, the baptized with a living faith. They are in conflict with each other so that we do not do as we want. Technically that can go either way. The way we want to go while we live in Christ is that when we want to sin, the Holy Spirit will guide us to rip out our eye or cut off our hand. But sometimes we go the other way, and say with St. Paul, “the good that I would, I do not do,

but I do what I hate to do." We sin, and then look back with grief and shame, "Why did I do that?!"

This dynamic leads us to be tempted to compartmentalize our lives. We have two spheres, not in the proper sense of the two kingdoms, but the foolish and unspiritual way of thinking: 1) I have my religion (especially on Sunday mornings), and 2) I have the rest of my life. Amos the prophet who was before that a businessman (you've got to love how God called the prophets, evangelists, and apostles from the full spectrum of the civil realm, yes, Amos knew economics), saw the unholy division: "[There was] the propensity [in Judah and Israel] to fulfill outward religious obligations while neglecting justice and righteousness...(Lessing, Concordia Commentary, p 510)." "Limburg observes that Israel's businessmen divided their lives into watertight compartments, one marked 'religion' and the other labeled 'marketplace.' 'Religion, after all, is religion and as for the rest – well, business is business!'" (so far Limburg) Behind this façade of religious activity, their attitude revealed that they honored Yahweh with their lips, but their hearts were far from him (cf. Is. 29:13, Mt 15:8)." (Lessing, p 510)

There is a destructive irony here, when we compartmentalize our lives and forget that all the realms God has placed us in are not only secular (even right now sitting in Divine Service, there is a secular reality), but also sacred, even in the world doing your work and sweating at the brow, frustrated with your client or co-worker, wanting to curse at the work, even then you are in a sacred and holy sphere, even there, you and I may serve to glorify God and serve to love our neighbor. Even there, we worship God.

But if we are a knucklehead (my dad's choice expression as a Marine, and I was often a knucklehead and still know knuckle-headedness), then we miss the bigger picture and we do not see that it is not about compartmentalization. The destructive irony is that we are here to rest. It is in the rest that Jesus gives you by coming to you in Divine Service that gives you rest so that you are given strength for life. Jesus has not departed but is closer to His people than ever before. He is still wrapping the towel around his waist and washing His disciples' feet but doing it now in a more powerful and intimate way. He is entering into you to wash your souls, to cleanse your minds and to make your body more able. Word and Sacrament is truly a medicine to counter our disease called "sin."

That is, the true rest here positions you for the optimal work for the other six days. But to miss this rest and race through it as a religious chore is to feed the mantra: "more, more, more." More work, more money; more work, more success; more work, more self-aggrandizement; more work, more recognition; more work, more time to neglect my health because I don't want to look into the mirror to see what I have become. Working like a hamster on a wheel and getting nowhere but feeding my covetous heart. Not living for God, not living for my neighbor, but working so that I keep it about #1 first. Working to make a killing in this world, while never learning how to kill the insanity of our insatiable desire for more, more, more.

The businessmen were object lessons in coveting, a word that we know is in Holy Scripture, but its easy to feel that we might be a little unclear about it. It is a word that requires extra attention and teaching whenever it is time to teach the young confirmands especially. The verb "covet" "covers the entire sequence from seeing to desiring to possessing." (Lessing, 513) See the progression clearly:

1. Seeing
2. Desiring
3. Possessing

The process is a sinful hypnosis. Our sin, the world, and Satan lead us to become fixated on something we should not become fixated upon or someone we should not become fixated upon. And then desire comes and when we continue to fixate, then all we care about is possessing. Thus, St. James warns, "After desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death." (James 1:15) And now we can understand why our Lord got to the heart, the first step, the seeing. If we know there is an issue to threaten our faith, then don't stare, don't specialize in seeing, because the more you cast your eyes on something, the more that thing can take over your soul. Easier said than done, because sinners fixate. I've confessed to you some of my own potential fixations as way of illustration. It is decidedly unwise for me to sit around where I can see chocolate covered chocolate donuts or maple bars.

That was happening in among the people of God when Amos the prophet was called. His name means "a burden." He had to take a deep breath as he knew what was going on even in Judah, the holiest region

with the holiest city, Jerusalem. God's people called to be holy were turning from God in their hearts and it was known precisely in the way they treated their neighbor. And that my dear Christians is the acid test is it not? Say you love God all you want, but the proof is in the pudding. Do you love your neighbor? The first table of the Law about our relationship to God is inherently more important than the second table of the Law about our relationship with our neighbor, but our relationship with our neighbor tells us about how we are doing with our relationship with God.

In faith, we love and serve. In sin, we manipulate and use. In faith, it is about Jesus and our neighbor. In sin, it is about me, me, me, for more, more, more.

In faith it is about sacrifice. In sin, it is about consumerism. In love it is about giving. In sin, it is about taking.

In faith, it is about resting. In sin, it is about always working. Work is good and God provides the holy proportion of a 6:1 ratio but guard your heart because work can become an idol (even the work of the holy ministry can become an idol), so that you love your work more than you love God and your neighbor. The remedy? Rest, do not be in a hurry to get out of church; do not be in a hurry to skip prayer; do not be in a hurry to avoid Scripture; do not be in a hurry to only talk and not to listen to your neighbor (God gave you one mouth, but TWO – count them – ears!); do not be in a hurry to put your schedule above the needs of your neighbor.

So, Amos observed. The businessmen who were fellow-Israelites secretly despised the Sabbath and the festivals. These were inconvenient interruptions for what was really important: more, more, more; to make a killing while ignoring their need to kill their thirst for more.

Amos saw three things recorded in our short pericope:

1. They made their measures for delivering what was purchased **SMALLER**, so that they deceptively gave **LESS** to the consumer.
2. They made their weights of stone or metal on the scales **HEAVIER** to make their consumers pay **MORE**.
3. They tampered with the scales themselves (Laetsch, *The Minor Prophets*, 181), so this connotes "not merely 'falsifying' in general (e.g.,

by over-weighing the norm-bowl), but quite specifically 'bending' out of shape the cross-beam of the balances." (Lessing, 506)

Lessing teaches, "'The love of money,' Paul warns, 'is a root of all kinds of evil' (1 Tim 6:10). It was this misplaced love that once kept a young rich ruler out of the kingdom of God (Mt 19:16-22). Jesus warns of the addictive power of 'mammon'...a word appearing four times in the NT (Mt 6:24; Lk 16:9, 11, 13). 'Mammon' is the transliteration of the Aramaic word for money or wealth (BDAG). Jesus employs the word to indicate that money has an egocentric force, a power that enslaves hearts and minds. Mammon is money *deified*." (Lessing, 511) So, when you are fixated on making a killing, you are slowly but surely killed, you are then losing your soul, but to kill this fixation, this coveting before it kills you is to return to Christ and that is to really live.

But everything changes when we begin with our own sin, so that we can get back to how Jesus handles His weights and measures towards us. No one is as holy, or weighty and truly valuable as Jesus, the King of the universe, but He did something uncanny. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

That is, Christ is your antidote for your obsession, fixation, and your eyes on the wrong things. He reveals His heart for the poor and reminds us about why we are really here, not just "to be saved," but to learn the great gift of love – not just a passing feeling of affection – but the commitment and action to serve someone else in need. When we live this way, we get out of ourselves, and we defy sin marked by being curved in on me, myself, and I.

God reveals His heart for His people: "For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' **12** "If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. **13** And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. **14** You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the LORD your God has blessed you, you shall give to him." (Deuteronomy 15:11-14)

Think about this: our country is inundated with problems, but it is easy to forget what that means among other things: it means – not in a negative way, but in a positive way – God presents more people to serve, more people to love. It is a hard thing to share the Gospel with someone who is fat and content; it is another thing to share the Gospel with something who feels their great need. God opens doors when we can share burdens, and show real love, then people want to know where you're coming from and then you can tell them: "Jesus Christ" is His name for even the Son of God did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28) The Holy Spirit permits the land to become thirsty so that the Gospel may be poured out.

"There is a sickness and madness in Western society called consumerism – the notion that life consists in having and getting and spending and controlling and using and eating. This system places stress on accumulation and believes that meaning and security come by 'more.' How shall those baptized into Christ live in a world with its titanic desire to acquire?...And just how do people live in a society that screams at them daily to buy things they don't need with money they don't have to impress people they may not even like?" (Lessing, 314)

But take a deep breath people of God for the Father has given you the kingdom. You are already rich in Christ beyond measure. You already have an inheritance that will never perish, spoil, or fade. You already have God's promise to cover all you need (and not necessarily at all the things your flesh madly desires). You already have every reason to rest so that your work can be a mission for others, instead of a idol for self. God has come to the scales of life and death, and they are fair and untampered with and He has piled all your sins and all the sins of the world on one side, and on the other side He has placed the cross of His Son and His poured out the blood. The scales don't lie. Jesus has paid the price for all your sin, so rest now, so that you can work to the glory of God and make an impact in the lives of people around you for their good. And begin to rest here with a new perspective on what is really important as you say with the Psalmist:

"Who [but you] have I in heaven? Besides you, I desire nothing on earth." (Ps 73:25)

This is an old story, and I've shared it before: I was holding my little girl's hand, and our family was walking around San Francisco in the mid

90's. My daughter was about the age of her daughter now, my granddaughter today. We were headed into a great little stand selling fish and chips, including some New England clam chowder. But while I was busy ordering, my little girl was completely distracted and preoccupied. She couldn't help but notice the homeless man across the street. She was gravely concerned. Was he hungry? How would he get food? She insisted we intervene and had already worked out a plan: we could request extra oyster crackers and share them with the man. I heart melted, and my daughter reminded me of the care that should permeate the heart of every Christian.

Jesus is at his stand right here with the finest food and drink in the universe and He sees you Christian and He is making sure that you will be fed and nourished. He is doing it, because He loves you. He's doing it because He would not make a killing for Himself as King of the Universe, but because He permitted being killed so that you would live.

And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus until He comes again in glory. Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C 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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the baptized children of God, that we would be freed from obsession with the goods of this world and set our hearts on the joys of the kingdom and the inheritance that never fades, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's Holy Church here and everywhere, for those who have been called to serve as her pastors and church workers, for those preparing for church-work vocations, and for those considering full-time church work, that they may be guarded against the assaults of the evil one, encouraged in their callings, and prepared to serve faithfully for the sake of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For men and women, that they would rejoice in the callings and responsibilities that God has given to them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Donald, our president; _____, our governor; and all whom God has placed in high positions, that they may act with wisdom and mercy, and we may lead peaceable and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and those who suffer, for those troubled in mind, for the grieving in their sorrows, and for the dying in their last hours, *[especially _____]* that the Lord would grant them the comfort of His presence, relief according to His will and peace in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our communion this day upon the body and blood of our Lord, for hearts moved to repentance and faith, and for the fruits of this Sacrament to be borne in lives of holiness and righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For grateful hearts, that the Lord would free us from greed and covetousness so that we might be content and glad to share with those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord, our God, whose mercies are new every morning, we give You thanks and praise for all Your kindness toward us, and we pray You to grant us the will and desire to worship You joyfully, to serve You faithfully and to proclaim boldly Your mighty acts of deliverance through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we offer to You these prayers, and in whom we trust for all things; to You alone be glory, honor, worship and praise, O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G 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.



G And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



G 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 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,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

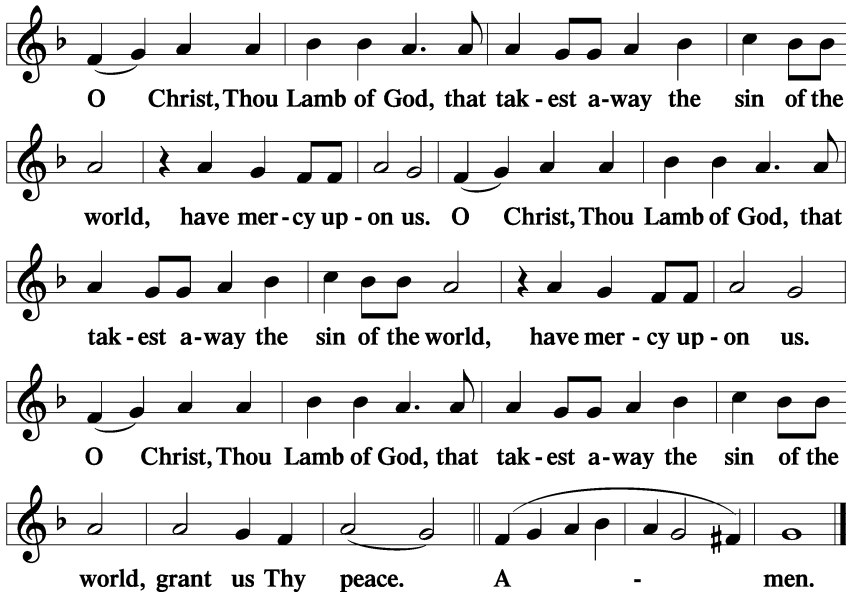
LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

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

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

G **Amen.**

Distribution Hymns:

642 O Living Bread from Heaven

(all stanzas)

557 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

(all stanzas)

732 All Depends on Our Possessing

(all stanzas)

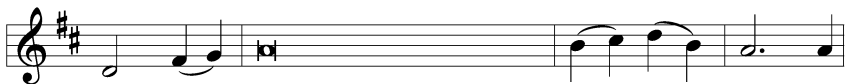
825 Rise, Shine, You People

(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



G 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



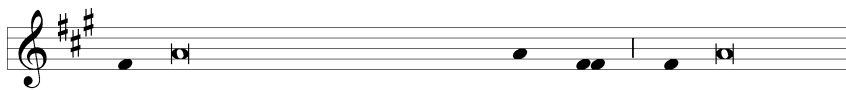
A Bless we the Lord.



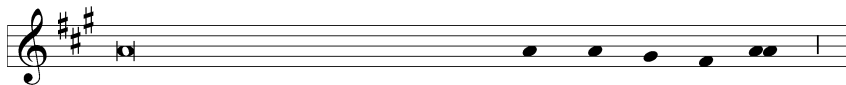
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

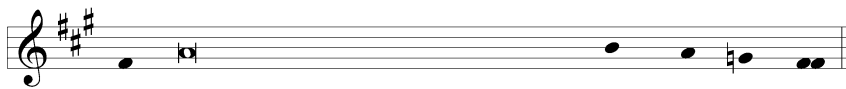
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



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

Postlude

Allegro Maestoso from *Water Music* -- GF Handel

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

Bible Study is Back!

Join us this Sunday at 11:00 AM, following Divine Service and a brief time of fellowship, as Pastor Espinosa leads us back into Bible study. We'll begin with **Chapter 3** of his new book, *Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith*.

Come be encouraged and equipped as we grow together in God's Word!

This Week:

☀️ Join the Journey—Daily Bible Devotionals with Pastor Al! ☀️

It's 2025, and **Pastor Espinosa hasn't missed a single day** of walking through Scripture with us!

Whether you've been following along or just jumping in, you're invited to be part of this powerful, daily connection to God's Word.

📖 Need a boost of faith each day?

👉 Catch daily devotionals on:

- **Facebook** – @AlfonsoEspinosa
- **TikTok** – @alfonsoespinosa356
- **Instagram** – @alfonsoespinosa88

📧 Prefer devotionals by email?

Just send a quick note to **office@saintpaulsirvine.com** and we'll get you added to the list!

Let's keep growing—together in Christ—one day, one verse at a time.

General Announcements

Walk for Hope – Join the Saint Paul’s Team!

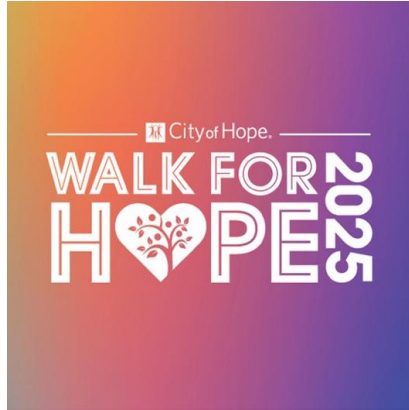
Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine is walking in the **City of Hope Walk for Hope on Sunday, November 2, 2025.** 🕒 Site Opens: 7:00 AM |

🚶 Walk Begins: 9:30 AM

**City of Hope Orange County
| 1000 Fivepoint,
Irvine, CA 92618**

Our team goal is **\$10,000**,
and as of September 19
we’ve already raised **\$4,680**
with **4** walkers signed up!

We walk because cancer has touched our congregation — with three members currently receiving care at City of Hope and many others impacted in the past. Every step and every gift fuels research, compassionate care, and hope for the future.



Scan here to donate or join our team!



How you can help:

🙏 **Pray** – Keep our team, loved ones, and City of Hope in your prayers.

💰 **Donate** – Give online, by check using the donation form, or through Thrivent Charitable!

👟 **Join the Walk** – Lace up and walk with us in Irvine.

Donate Online or Join the Team:

<https://ourhope.cityofhope.org/team/766721>

Thrivent Charitable Instructions:

- **Login** to your Thrivent Charitable account.
- **Select** Recommend Grant.
- **Search Available Grantees:** City of Hope in California
- **Select:** City of Hope, 1500 Duarte Rd Duarte, CA 91010; Tax ID: 95-3435919
- **Change Grant Purpose** to “Run/Walk or similar fundraiser”

- **Type in Give fundraising credit to:** “Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine team” (Optional: You can also add the name of an individual you want to give to who is one the team)

*“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.
The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to
man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.”*

– Martin Luther

Upcoming Special Music at St. Paul’s

Date: **Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 – 9:30 am**

Featuring: St. Paul’s Choir, Directed by Mark Howard
Music by John Eggert, Walter Pelz, John Rutter
Jerry Dahlin, Organ
Rachel Okonski, Flute
Jacob Thornblad, Violin

Date: **Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 – 9:30 am** (Reformation Sunday)

Featuring: St. Paul’s Choir, Directed by Mark Howard
*Music by Michael Burkhardt, Paul Christiansen,
Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Jerry Dahlin, Organ
Bruce Benne, Handbells

Date: **Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 7:00 pm** (Christmas Eve)

Featuring: St. Paul’s Choir, Directed by Mark Howard
*Music by Jeffrey Van, Alfred Fedak, Gustav Holst,
John Rutter*
Jerry Dahlin, Organ
Rachel Okonski, Flute

Don’t miss these special worship services!

Interested in singing in the choir?
Contact Mark Howard 714.423.6460
markahoward@sbcglobal.net

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: September 21 “Good things take time. Your smiles, your encouraging words, your time and talents donated for pro-life work done in Christ are sure to be effective, even if you can’t immediately see the effects.” *Marie MacPherson, author – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: September 21 – Proper 20

Luke 16:8b – “**For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.**” The sons of this world know that they should use their wealth wisely to provide for their future. Shouldn’t we, as “sons of light,” know that the wealth God has allowed us to manage should be managed for God’s purposes in roles He has given us to play in church, home and society?

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!



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.

Upcoming Choir Schedule

- for the rest of 2025

- **Sunday, Sept. 14:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Sept. 21:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Sept. 28:** rehearsal at **8:30am**, sing for service at **9:30**.
- **Sunday, Oct. 12:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Oct. 19:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Oct. 26:** rehearsal at **8:30am**, sing for service at **9:30**.
- **Sunday, Dec. 14:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Dec. 21:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24:** rehearsal at **6:00pm**, sing for service at **7:00pm**.



The sheet music and rehearsal recordings will be accessible on the church website (*Ministries-Choir*) so you can get familiar with the music.

Please plan your schedule to make yourself available to rehearse and sing.

All are invited to sing in the choir! We need everyone!

Contact Mark Howard, Choir Director, if you have any questions.
(714) 423-6460 / markahoward@sbcglobal.net

Opportunities to Volunteer & Serve

We're always looking for ways to share our gifts and serve both our congregation and the wider community. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved—and for students, it can also be a great way to fulfill required service hours.

If you are interested in volunteering with any of our current opportunities—or if you have new ideas for how we can serve together—please contact the church office at **office@saintpaulsirvine.com**.

Please Pray for our Missionaries, Council Members & Elders

Missionaries Supported by Saint 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 – Saint Paul’s supports our local evangelist.

Saint 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

Mike Padilla – Presiding Elder ~ **Renee Mott** – Fellowship Director ~ **Bradley Hustad** – Evangelism Director

Jacob Thornblad – Education Director ~ **Miles & Jackie Johnson** – Youth Directors

Saint Paul’s Elders

Mike Padilla (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~

John Church ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke** ~ **Mark Kuntz**

Steve Fischer ~ **Ricky Cuenca** ~ **Alex Padilla** ~ **Michael Lange**

SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

Date	Altar Team	Ushers/Greeter	Elders on Duty	Welcome Table	Livestream
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Shared Role</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
3rd Sunday 9/21/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff, Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 9/28/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 10/5/2025	Nina Mueller	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 10/12/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Lange	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

3rd Sunday 9/21/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 9/28/2025	Hines Family, Daisy Minter
1st Sunday 10/5/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2nd Sunday 10/12/2025	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon