

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

***Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost***

**Sunday, September 28, 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**

**Guest Musicians:** Rachel Okonski, *Flute*

Jacob Thornblad, *Violin*; Melody Sparks, *Soprano*

Anna O'Hare, *Alto*; Sam Garcia, *Bass*; Ian Holmquist, *Bass*

**Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson**

**Office: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm T-F; 949-599-4760**

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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 +

## Prelude

*Duet for Flute and Violin  
Be Thou My Vision*

## Greeting

**P** I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

**C** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

- Psalm 146:2

## 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** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

# Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn:

**663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray**

*(all stanzas)*

**Kyrie**

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Gloria in Excelsis**

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may

please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Amos 6:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,  
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,  
the notable men of the first of the nations,  
to whom the house of Israel comes!

<sup>2</sup>Pass over to Calneh, and see,  
and from there go to Hamath the great;  
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.

Are you better than these kingdoms?  
Or is their territory greater than your territory,

<sup>3</sup>O you who put far away the day of disaster  
and bring near the seat of violence?

<sup>4</sup>“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory  
and stretch themselves out on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock  
and calves from the midst of the stall,

<sup>5</sup>who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp  
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup>who drink wine in bowls  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,  
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



## Epistle

1 Timothy 3:1–13

<sup>1</sup>The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. <sup>11</sup>Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup>Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. <sup>13</sup>For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Choir Anthem

*Holy Spirit, Gift of God*

by John Eggert

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



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



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 16:19–31*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup>and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup>And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup>And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers— so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup>And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup>He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

## **Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day:**

**730 What Is the World to Me**

*(all stanzas)*

## **Sermon**

“At Ease and Not Grieved”

(Amos 6:1a & 6)

Proper 21: Spiritual Life vs. Carnal Desires

Amos 6:1a & 6: “Woe to **those who are at ease** in Zion,  
and to **those who feel secure** on the mountain of Samaria...who drink  
wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
**but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!**”

In the Name of Jesus. Amen. Carl Jung, one of the greatest in the field of psychotherapy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, postulated the *persona* and the masks we wear in our lives. Do you want to get underneath the mask? Do you want to see the real person? Then observe a person under two circumstances: 1) when they express judgment towards others; and 2) in the way they treat others who might be considered beneath them from a sociological perspective. For example – and while being a waiter or waitress is a wonderful mask of God [using the word “mask” now in the God-given *vocational* sense, as in a mask of God through which God serves people through other people] – they are people who serve you when you go to a restaurant. How do you treat them? To answer these questions will according to Jung permit you to have a better idea of who and what a person really is. Jesus said at Matthew 7:2: “For with the judgement you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

I was just a little boy sitting in the back seat of my parents’ car. My dad was taking us on a trip “down south” from Delano in the San Joaquin Valley where I grew up to Los Angeles. This was a big deal back then. It was like traveling to another world.

“It was also exciting, because I got to spend quality time with my parents. We pulled off the road not far from Nick Sanchez’ house [my dad’s *compadre*...in Spanish slang, that’s a close friend] to gas up. I was out of the car hangin’ with my dad – still a little runt – and there I was again, right in the middle of a new event...there was never a dull moment with dad! Along side of us, a foreign model car pulled up, and out popped a slick Hollywood type. He was dressed quite nicely and written on his face and demeanor was ‘I own the world.’ ***The man quickly began to dictate to the service station attendant – who was a small-in-stature Chicano – as if he was his slave.*** Big mistake.”

“I was absolutely spell-bound as my dad walked up to the Hollywood man and leaned back along his front fender, cool as a cucumber, side-by-side the city-slicker and began to chat with him about the weather and then the socio-cultural reality of [some choice words have been edited out here] that think they own everything, and how my dad had come to the conclusion that every one of them deserved to have the [choice words edited out here] kicked out of them. The man did not budge, he was literally glued to his fender, because he realized that a lion had just crouched beside him...even at that young age, I almost felt sorry for him. After scaring the man sufficiently, my dad allowed him to go and we observed a most polite departure given to us and of course, the gas attendant, who after Hollywood’s departure came up to my dad and thanked him.” (Espinosa, *Rich Family*, 2004, pgs 69-70)

Now I don’t know what this scene said about my dad’s psyche, but I do know that I had witnessed as a little boy a strong sense of righteous anger – though there is only one who ever had or will ever have pure righteous anger, and His Name is Jesus; any form of *our* “righteous anger” is always tainted by sin, thus God says to us, “Be angry and do not sin,” (Ephesians 4:26) – [but I caught a glimpse of it] because of how one person was looking down upon and mistreating another.

In Amos, those who are treating others badly were the social and political leaders, the upper-class, the aristocrats, or you could say *the crème de la crème*. But our Scripture readings today include the Epistle from 1 Timothy 3:1-13: Pastors are not to be drunkards (vs. 3) nor lovers of money (vs. 3). They are not to be “puffed up with conceit (vs. 6).” That is, pastors can be like the folks in Amos and furthermore, Paul gives similar warnings to deacons (other leaders in the Church besides the pastors). And then we have our Holy Gospel about the “rich man.” This man was so presumptuous that even after he died, seeing poor Lazarus by Abraham’s side in heaven while he – the rich man – was in hell, felt he could direct what should happen. This “rich man” could be any of us here today. That is, this Word is applicable to us all.

Universal application becomes especially evident when we consider the attitude and outlook of those Amos expressed judgment towards. Note the key words of their condition both in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and the Northern Kingdom of Samaria, all the lands of God’s people Israel:

Amos 6:1a & 6: “Woe to **those who are at ease** in Zion,  
and to **those who feel secure** on the mountain of Samaria...who drink  
wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
**but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!**”

These people were being judged by God through His prophet because they:

1. Felt at ease. There is of course a positive and good sense of this word. It can be used in describing those who are at peace with God and know their salvation in the LORD, that is, “ease” as in having burdens lifted. **But that’s not how Amos is using the term here.** These people were “at ease” as in being complacent and self-confident. You know when a person might brag, “I don’t need anyone.” Well, that’s a bald-faced lie or a serious self-deception. But these people were convinced that they were all that and a bag of chips. This condition connotes “illusory security, perhaps going as far as proud arrogance and hubris [excessive pride and self-confidence].” (Lessing, *Concordia Commentary*, 389) They were complacent because they were arrogant and when one is arrogant, they are too busy with being self-absorbed to really care about anyone else.
2. Felt secure. They trusted in the wrong things. They felt secure but headed towards disaster. These were unconcerned and careless. It’s like that song, “Don’t Worry Be Happy” when the people around you are suffering. Proverbs 14:6 teaches God’s wisdom: “The wise person fears [The LORD] and turns away from evil, but a fool is hotheaded and overconfident/reckless.” Their security betrayed overconfidence. They were therefore reckless, especially in ignoring the needs of others.
3. And as a result: they did not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. To grieve here is “to be sick about, grieved over, worried and concerned about.” Interesting right? God wants us to be sick about some things. It indicates that you really care about those who suffer. Sick about what? Sick about the breaking of Joseph, the fracturing of Joseph and crushing of Joseph. They were not grieved or sick about the real condition of God’s people all around them. They had no compassion, no concern for the very serious situation.

Lessing describes these people in Amos: “Yet those most responsible – the apostate aristocrats – were apathetic. They acted as though nothing had happened. Their worldview was an illusion; it denied the true state of the nation’s spiritual peril. They were conducting business and religion as usual. They refused to repent (4:6-11).” (Lessing, p. 407)

But why does Amos refer to God’s people of Israel as “Josph” here? It is because of what is recorded in Genesis 37. The sons of Jacob didn’t like their

little brother Joseph who was especially gifted, and one whom their father Jacob favored. Their jealousy spilled over. They were too self-absorbed to love their brother. Instead, they plotted:

“They saw [Joseph] from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, ‘Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.’” (Genesis 37:18-20) So, his brothers betrayed Joseph and were willing to ruin him, break him, fracture him, and crush him. And that is what they did. God of course had other plans for Joseph. God rescued Him in a way unexpected and would eventually work through Joseph to save the nation of Israel. What his brothers intended for evil, God intended for good. (Genesis 50:20)

But this is why Amos uses the wording, “but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph?” This of course is the terrible problem of being sinfully at ease and sinfully secure. When we are these, then we don’t grieve over other people being ruined. For us Christians, when we become aware of someone else suffering, then we should feel sick about it. It should cause us to mourn. It should deeply disturb us.

There are many reasons for this: one is that God uses our being sick about it, to move us to repent. We realize that what has befallen our neighbor could have just as easily befallen us. We must repent of our false ease and security. We are incredibly vulnerable, and incredibly susceptible to suffer in the ways our fellow human beings suffer. Two, God wants us to be sick about it, so that we do something about it. When you know others are suffering, we know we have to get out of ourselves, our own self-centered ease and comfort so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ this world.

But my dear Christians, we must know that the demons know these things, so Satan has a plan, and the world is his realm. You and I are bombarded by the suffering. World news is a blessing so that it informs us, especially in terms of how we might pray for our world, but it is also a curse and a bane. It threatens to desensitize us. When all you hear is about people being murdered, people being mistreated, people being misplaced, people suffering injustice, and people being deceived, after a while we become numb to it. The devil likes this: he wants us to be numb. He wants us to feel overwhelmed. He wants you think, “It’s a tsunami, pandemic, and a raging fire combined. What is left for me, but to pray the mountains to fall on me? But of course, I don’t want that either, so I know what I will do, I will be at ease, I will be secure, I will drink wine, and I will forget about the suffering of those around me.” Don’t worry be happy! When one is numb and desensitized, then it is easy to slip. Drink the wine. Forget. Become blind.

Did you notice in our Amos reading? They were drinking wine in “bowels.” Not glasses or goblets, but bowels, and not just any bowels but bowels used for the sacred. The ease, complacency, security, and carelessness moved them to violate

the sacred. Because they cared less about their relationship with the Lord, they cared less about those in need. Per the drinking wine from bowels, a modern example, would like one of us sneaking into the altar guild cabinets to drink the bottles of wine. A very unwise proposition, as one might not only receive God's wrath, but perhaps more immediately the wrath of the altar guild. Don't do it.

But do you see the cycle here? It is a deadly one, especially for a living faith. The cycle can kill a living faith, so that our living faith turns into a cold religion. What did Jesus predict about the last days we are living in? Matthew 24:12: "And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold." Lord have mercy upon us. May this never happen to us, because to know Christ is to know a new life that doesn't have time for evil ease and evil security. To know Christ is to willingly "be sick about" the needs of people around us, so that God would use our being sick about it, to move us to serve and to love. I am personally convinced that if we are "sick about" the state of our culture, then we will be moved to do something about serving the next generation of leaders in this country through a classical school. There is too much suffering occurring because the Word, Godly morality and ethics, the lack of knowing truth and beauty is tearing people apart, that is, "ruining" them. But you don't have to wait for the school to start up, you and I can start today by taking notice of the real needs of people He puts before us. What will we be? At ease and secure, or sick about it?

Jesus came so that you and I would never be overwhelmed, so that our being sick about the suffering around us does not keep us from being strong in Him. I cannot get out of my mind the scene in John 11. Jesus saw those devastated by the death of their loved one, He saw the work of the enemy who wants all of us to be destroyed, He saw the sense of hopelessness that comes from being confronted by death. It deeply moved our Savior, so that He wept. Jesus cried and was sick about it with us. He was sick about what He saw, and He permitted Himself to feel it all. "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. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?'" And then He wept, but He wept with an overwhelming focus: He was off to the tomb to do something about the ruin of His friend.

This is our power and strength people of God. You are in Christ, and Christ is in you. And what did Jesus do? He took all that there is to be sick about. So, the tsunami plus pandemic plus raging fire has been absorbed by Him. All the rest is a deceptive show by the deceiver so that you might choose to be numb. But at the height of divine and almighty intervention, He demolished the strongholds that try to trap us in complacency. His blood killed the cancer of our hopelessness.

He took your sin. He took mine. He did not permit Himself to be at ease. He did not permit Himself to ever know any kind of false security. Rather, He saw our ruin. And He came with the greatest compassion the world has ever known to do something about it. To do what? To give Himself to us. To give Himself to

YOU. You have been given God's Son. The whole universe could be threatened, but the Creator of the Universe is yours, and you are His. He was sick about you, so He got moving. He wasn't blind to it, but He grieved. On the cross He was grieved, and that grief has been translated into our now belonging to God for whom nothing is too hard. We may therefore hold to a living faith. We can tell ease and security in the evil sense to take a hike. His compassion is yours, His empathy is yours, His sympathy is yours, and the victory of His cross is yours, so let the weak say I am strong, let the weak say I am a warrior, let the weak say I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, not to live for myself, but let my light – the reflection of Christ's light – to shine so that people would give glory to our Father who is in heaven who never forgets our ruin, but who has come to give us all a new life, His new creation which can never, ever be ruined.

## Installation of Servants of the Congregation

**P** Dear brother in Christ, you are to serve our Lord as *Presiding Elder*. Hear what Holy Scripture has to say about those who serve in the Church:

**A** <sup>4</sup>But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup>For each will have to bear his own load.

<sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**A** <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**A** <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*The pastor addresses the servants:*

**P** In the presence of God and of this congregation, I install you presiding elder in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty God our heavenly Father, through Your dear Son You have made us all Your witnesses. Enlighten by Your Holy Spirit all who speak to others the message of salvation through Jesus' blood and merit. Grant Your blessing upon Michae! so that Your Word may reach out and bear much fruit for the growth of Your Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For a proper stewardship of God's blessings, that God would preserve us from the worship of idleness and love of leisure and increase in us a desire to pursue contentment, righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For pastors and other laborers who make the Lord's Gospel known among the nations, that they may be preserved within the Church, and that more workers would be raised up to labor in the harvest, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our households, that God would preserve us from idols and sins of idleness; and that He would bless fathers and mothers as they catechize their children to guard their hearts and rejoice in His gifts, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who hold authority over us, especially Donald, our president; \_\_\_\_\_, our governor; all legislative bodies; all judges and magistrates; and all who serve the public trust, that they may act with integrity and honor in the fulfillment of all their duties and serve the causes of peace and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord:

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those in need of God's mercy, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they would be restored and delivered according to His good and gracious will; and that in the time of affliction that is given to them, their faith would be strengthened and they would cling to God's promises and praise His name, let us pray to the Lord:

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For we who commune on Christ's holy body and blood, that repenting of our sins and trusting Christ's full forgiveness, we may receive Him for the strengthening of our faith and for greater love to serve those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For faithful Christians here and scattered throughout the world, that God would embolden us to make the good confession, even in the midst of persecution, let us pray to the Lord:

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father, we praise Your name for Your faithfulness to Abraham, Lazarus and to all the saints who have gone before us. Enliven us by Your Word and Sacraments, that convinced of Jesus' death and resurrection, we may eagerly await the day of our resurrection for His sake; through Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering**

**God Be in My Head**

by John Rutter

**Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand*

**Preface**

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**G** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208*



**G** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised

salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## 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.

## 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  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

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*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  $\ddagger$  in peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**Distribution Hymns:**

**802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

*(all stanzas)*

**798 The God of Abraham Praise**

*(sts. 1-4)*

**686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

*(all stanzas)*

**687 Thine Forever, God of Love**

*(all stanzas)*

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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.

**G** Amen.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 212*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**G** Amen.

## Choral Blessing

***Stay With Us***  
by Walter L. Pelz

## Special Presentation

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## Today:

### Join us for Bible Study this Sunday at 11:00 AM!

Following Divine Service and a brief time of fellowship, Pastor Espinosa will lead us as we continue to grow together in God's Word.

This week we'll be covering **Chapter 4: "Contending for the Creator"** from Pastor's book *Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith*.

Pastor will teach how creation's design and morality demonstrate the existence of God.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, if you have not yet received a free copy of Pastor's book (which we are using in this study), please email Jackie at [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com), and she will be happy to get one to you.

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

## 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](mailto: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!

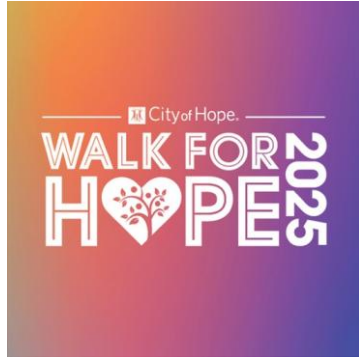
Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine is walking in the **City of Hope Walk for Hope on Sunday, November 2, 2025.** 🕒 Site Opens: 7:00 AM |

🚶 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 **\$4,840** 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 on 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 28** Being a child is a calling. Being a parent is a calling. Being a student is a calling. Being a citizen is a calling. Each so-called occupation is a calling. The role one fills in one's church is a calling. As God crafts each of us in our callings, He places us in the presence of neighbors whom we are to love on His behalf." *Rev. Adam Osier, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Weekly Stewardship Message:** September 28 – Proper 21

**Amos 6:1a – “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion.”** The Book of Amos is a warning to God's people who have been given great material wealth. As Jesus Himself mentions, material blessings can turn into temptations — chiefly the temptation to think of ourselves as self-sufficient and independent. What does Amos suggest as a way to combat this temptation? First, faith in the Lord and dependence upon Him! And if our faith is right, we will want to follow the rest of Amos' instructions — to bless the poor with our alms and to make sure the Lord's House is properly cared for. In other words, we are called to align our actions with God's priorities and put others ahead of ourselves.

### Pastor Appreciation Month Kick-Off – October 5

October is **Pastor Appreciation Month!** As some of you know, Pastor Al will be at City of Hope with his wife, Tracy, for part of October. We are grateful to Pastor Mueller for graciously leading our Sunday services during that time.

To begin this special month, we will hold a **Kick-Off Fellowship on Sunday, October 5.**

If you are willing to bring a dish or contribute toward the food, please let **Jackie or Renee** know.

We will also begin our **Appreciation Cards** on October 5. Cards will be available for:

- **Pastor Al and Tracy**
- **Pastor Mueller and Nina**

These cards are a wonderful way to share your encouragement and thanks for all they do for our congregation. Completed cards can be returned to the church office or placed in the collection box on the Welcome Table on Sundays.

Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for our pastors and their families throughout the month of October!

## Upcoming Service Dates to Know:

Join us for our upcoming special services as we give thanks and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ:

- **Thanksgiving Eve Service** – Wednesday, **November 27 at 7:00 PM**
- **Advent Midweek Series: *Our Advent God*** – Wednesdays at **7:00 PM**
  - December 3 – *Promise Keeper* (Jeremiah 33:14-16)
  - December 10 – *Immutable* (Malachi 3:1-7b)
  - December 17 – *Rejoicing* (Zephaniah 3:14-20)
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – Wednesday, **December 24 at 7:00 PM**
- **Christmas Day Festival Service** – Thursday, **December 25 at 9:30 AM**

Come and worship with us as we celebrate the faithfulness of our God and the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

## 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 – Fall & Christmas 2025

The choir will resume rehearsals this fall! Please join us on the following dates:

- **Sunday, Oct. 12** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Sunday, Oct. 19** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Sunday, Oct. 26** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am**, sing for service at **9:30 am**
- **Sunday, Dec. 14** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Sunday, Dec. 21** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24** – Rehearsal at **6:00 pm**, sing for the **7:00 pm** Christmas Eve service

Sheet music and rehearsal recordings will be available on the church website (*Ministries – Choir*) so you can review the music ahead of time. *Please plan your schedule to make yourself available to rehearse and sing.*

**All are invited to sing in the choir – we need everyone!**

For questions, please contact **Mark Howard, Choir Director** at (714) 423-6460 or [markahoward@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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</i>	Dominican Republic

<i>directly.</i>	
Erin Mackenzie Email: <a href="mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org">erin.mackenzie@lcms.org</a>	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: <a href="mailto:britt.odemba@lcms.org">britt.odemba@lcms.org</a>	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park Email: <a href="mailto:tom.park@lcms.org">tom.park@lcms.org</a>	Taiwan

**Missionary Friends (Non-Financial Support)**

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: <a href="mailto:tirzah.krey@lcms.org">tirzah.krey@lcms.org</a>	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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Altar Team</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeter</b>	<b>Elders on Duty</b>	<b>Welcome Table</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
<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>
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.
3rd Sunday 10/19/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele

## **FELLOWSHIP ROTATION**

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
3rd Sunday 10/19/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer