

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

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 – 7:00 pm

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

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

Vicar: Miles Johnson

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

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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
- **Midweek Services** – Wednesday's at 7:00 PM

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 on Sundays 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)

Prayer Before 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 +

The congregation assembles in silence.

Stand

L The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C Amen.

L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

L to herald Your love in the morning,

C Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

- L** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- C** **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**
- C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 67

- L** God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!
- May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
- C** **that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.**
- L** Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
- C** **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**
- L** Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
- C** **The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.**
- L** God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

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.

L God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Sit

Hymn:

895 Now Thank We All Our God

(all stanzas)

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 8:1–10

A The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter 8.

¹The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ²And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:6–20

A The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 4.

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11–19

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Responsory

LSB 255

L Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

G Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

L You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

G Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

G Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

Sermon Hymn:

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Thanksgiving Means Not Forgetting"

(Deuteronomy 8:2-6)

Eve of the Day of National Thanksgiving

Remember the LORD Your God

2 And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. **3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your**

fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. 5 Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. 6 So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

Introduction: Remember (verse 2)

Luther: God's nation was afflicted and tried by God "in order that what was in its heart should become known, namely, whether it loved God with a sincere mind or for the sake of the belly." (AE 9:92)

How we feel about afflictions and trials: We hate them, but they teach us and we remember them. God uses them to lead us to...

Part 1: Humility and the Word (verses 2-3)

God grants us to be humbled, so that we would learn that nothing else can save us, save the WORD of God.

- A. *God Humbled Judah after She Chose Egypt over Him***
- B. *A Fire and A Prayer Circle***
- C. *A Fire and An Affirmation of What's Truly Important***

READ what St. Paul said: Phil 4:12-13

READ what Jesus said: Matthew 4:1-4

Part 2: The Discipline of **Keeping** (verses 5-6)

This is not a one-time thing, but a constant pattern leading to the discipline of reliance upon the Word of God.

Thus, we learn to "KEEP" = 1) Walking in God's Ways; and 2) Fearing God.

And this leads to true thanksgiving. When this happens, thanksgiving fills us. We see that God is forming us.

Conclusion: The Gospel

1. Jesus REMEMBERS You
2. Jesus HUMBLED Himself for You
3. Jesus puts His WORD in You

4. Jesus KEEPS You so You have nothing to fear. There is FEAR and then then there is FEAR. We are delivered from the Bad One, and given the Good One. As a result, we are thankful.

Stand

Prayer

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C **listen to my cry.**

L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

C **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**

L In righteousness I shall see You;

C **when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.**

L Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 257

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.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 258

L Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.
Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Benediction

LSB 259

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: 782 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings
(all stanzas)

Acknowledgments

Compline from Lutheran Service Book

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Coming Up

Service Dates to Know

As we enter this joyful season of thanksgiving and anticipation, we invite you to join us for these special services as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ:

✨ **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

General Announcements

Wednesday Night Bible Study Returns!

January 7th @ 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study is returning on **Wednesday, January 7 at 7:15 p.m.** Due to our expanded ministries, we will be offering **one evening class only**. You are welcome to join **in person at the church office** or **online via TEAMS**. Pastor is currently gathering your votes for our next study topic! The options are: **Ecclesiastes, Ezekiel, or Galatians**. Please share your preference with him via email:

revdrespinosa@saintpaulsirvine.com

New Sunday Service Time — *In Addition to the 9:30 a.m. Service* **Abbreviated Divine Service**

Starting Sunday, **January 4 at 2:00 p.m.**, we will also be offering a weekly **abbreviated Divine Service**. This short afternoon service is another wonderful opportunity to gather around God's Word and receive His gifts.

We're excited to share that a new weekly service time will begin after the start of the new year! This service is **in addition to our 9:30 a.m. Divine Service, which will continue as usual**.

This new service will be led by Pastor Espinosa and will have a simple format. We'll sing one hymn acapella together and offer Communion. The service will last about **45 minutes** — a great option if you're looking for a quieter worship setting. All are warmly invited to join us.

Special Presentation – Sunday, December 7th

We are pleased to announce a special presentation by one of our members, **Catherine Velasquez**, titled “**Ketogenic Therapy and Christian Anthropology: A Story of God’s Deliverance.**”

This is **not a Bible study**, but rather an inspiring testimony and a sharing of health insights. The presentation will take place **after Divine Service and Fellowship, around 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7th.**

Mark your calendars—we hope to see you there!

☀️ 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.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul's



A FESTIVAL OF NINE

Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Choir, Directed by Mark Howard

Jerry Dahlin, Organ and Piano

Rachel Okonski, Flute

Special Musical Offerings:

An Advent Prelude for Flute and Organ

by Charles Callahan

Once in Royal David's City

Setting by Jeffrey Van

He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising

Quem Pastores, arr. Carl Heine

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Huron Carol

Setting by Robert A. Benson, edited by Mark Howard

Peace Came to Earth

Tune: Paul Manz, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

Arr: Nancy Raabe

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