

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

***The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)***

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

**Divine Services, Today: 9:30 am & 2:00 pm (*Acapella*)**

**Sermon: "Rise and Shine" (Isaiah 60:1-2) Pastor Espinosa**

**Wednesday, January 7, 9:00 am (*Acapella*)**

**Sermon: C.F.W. Walther: "The Epiphany of Our LORD"  
(Matthew 2:1-12)**

**Bible Studies This Week:**

**Sunday, January 4: "Contending for Our Same Bodies  
Raised" 11:00 am**

**Wednesday, January 7 at 10 am (Men and Women):  
Galatians 1:1-10 "Delivered from the Present Evil Age  
Through the One, True Gospel"**

**Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 pm Men's Only: Matthew  
5:31-48: "Integrity In and Through Jesus Christ"  
(Meeting in Mission Viejo, please contact pastor for  
location)**

**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.*

Scan the QR Code for Website, Contact Info, Church Events & more:



### **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.

**Saint Paul's Staff:**

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

+ In the Name of Jesus +

## Prelude

Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie – Maurice Duruflé

## Greeting

- P** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
**C** **who alone does wondrous things.**

- Psalm 72:18

## Confession and Absolution

### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

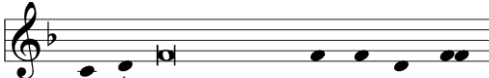
Entrance Hymn:

**367 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*(all stanzas)*

# Kyrie

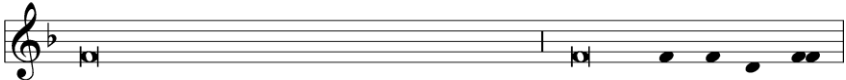
LSB 152



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.




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




**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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



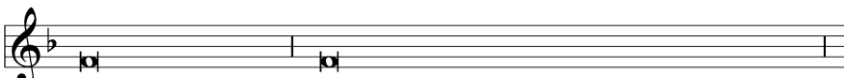
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



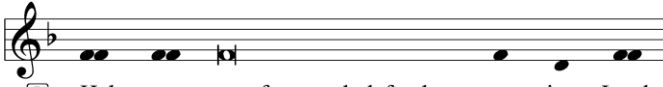
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**C** A - men.

### Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** A - men.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

- <sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.
- <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;



**☞ May he have dominion from | sea to sea,\*  
and from the River to the ends | of the earth!**

**☞** May desert tribes bow down be- | fore him\*  
and his enemies | lick the dust!

**☞ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands  
render him | tribute;\*  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!**

**☞** May all kings fall down be- | fore him,\*  
all nations | serve him!

**☞ 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.**

**☞** Blessed be the LORD, the God of | Israel, \*  
who alone does | wondrous things.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



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

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:1-12*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house

they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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



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

*Sit*

## Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

**396 Arise and Shine in Splendor**

*(all stanzas)*

## Sermon

**"Arise and Shine!"**

**(Isaiah 60:1-2)**

**Pastor Espinosa**

**Intro: The Difference Between Darkness and Light: At Birth, Through Life, and At Death.**

**August Pieper, 574: "Light is a symbol of truth, goodness, life, happiness, salvation; darkness is a symbol of ignorance, sin, grief, woe, damnation."**

**Part I: God is speaking to a "Woman" and utters two commands, "ARISE" and "SHINE"**

**A. Zion, Zion, Zion, and Zion (4 Zion's): We are #3, the WOMAN, which will inherit #4 The New Jerusalem!**

**B. ARISE = O.T. and NOW:**

**Ephesians 5:14: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."**

**C. SHINE = O.T. and NOW:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:6: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."**

## **Part II: How Does God Cause Us to Rise and Shine?**

**A. "For Your Light Has Come" (Isaiah 60:1): predictive prophecy that was already guaranteed = Jesus Christ!**

**B. At His Birth for Christmas:**

**Luke 1:79: "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death"**

**Luke 2:8: The Shepherds at night and then Luke 2:9: "and the glory of the LORD shone around them" & then Luke 2:13: "a multitude of the heavenly host" [with glorious light]**

**C. At the Epiphany:**

**Matthew 2: The Magi come from up to 900 miles away following the LIGHT of the Star of Bethlehem.**

**D. God is into Lightshows!**

## **Part III: Christ the Light of the World (John 8:12) Has Come to Us!**

**A. Christ the Light calls His Disciples Light**

**Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."**

**Ephesians 5:8: "for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the LORD, Walk as children of light."**

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."**

**B. This is a BATTLE for us to be Light:**

**Lessing, 241: "Yet too often we close our eyes to it! Why? "This is the verdict: light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness instead of the light because their works were evil" (Jn 3:19). Far too often we love the darkness of self-centered narcissism, prefer to live in the shadows of lies and half-truths, and long for more of the filth that feeds our flesh. The prince of darkness preys on our feeble discipleship, our failed relationships, and our fatal attractions."**

### **C. How We SHINE out of This Battle?**

- 1. In Your Holy Baptism God “called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”**
- 2. The Holy Spirit illuminates us by returning us DAILY to Jesus.**

**Psalm 27:1: “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”**

- 3. We are His lightshow today. Rise! Shine! YOUR LIGHT has come! You are a new creation (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 5:17); remember what happened at the first creation (Genesis 1:3)**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For a right knowledge of Christ, that we would abandon the darkness of this world and embrace the joy of His heavenly light, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all pastors, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they would fulfill their calling with boldness and provide us the riches of Christ's Word and Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For families, that our Father in heaven would bless our households with grace and protection; and that we might remember Him in both joy and trouble and worship before Him forever, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the wisdom of God to enlighten the rulers of this world; and for His blessed Gospel to have free course in our land, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who are afflicted and in need of deliverance, [*including* \_\_\_\_\_,] that their prayers would be heard by the almighty God who has made us fellow heirs of the unsearchable riches of Christ; and that they would be preserved in the faith until that day when their eternal healing is fully revealed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who, like the Magi of old, have come to worship Christ and offer Him gifts, that receiving His body and blood, we may return home according to His holy way, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For the Holy Christian Church, that God's Word would richly abide in her and that many would be led to Christ through her witness, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** All these needs, gracious Father, and whatever else You know that we need, grant for the sake of Him who shattered this world's darkness with everlasting light, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering**

Ave Verum – Mozart

*Stand*

**Offertory**

LSB 159

**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

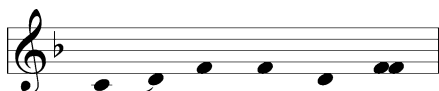
### +Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

*1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.*

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 160



**P** The Lord be with you.



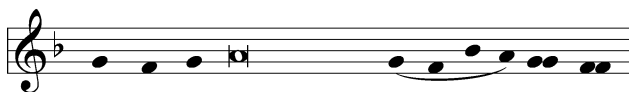
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



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



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



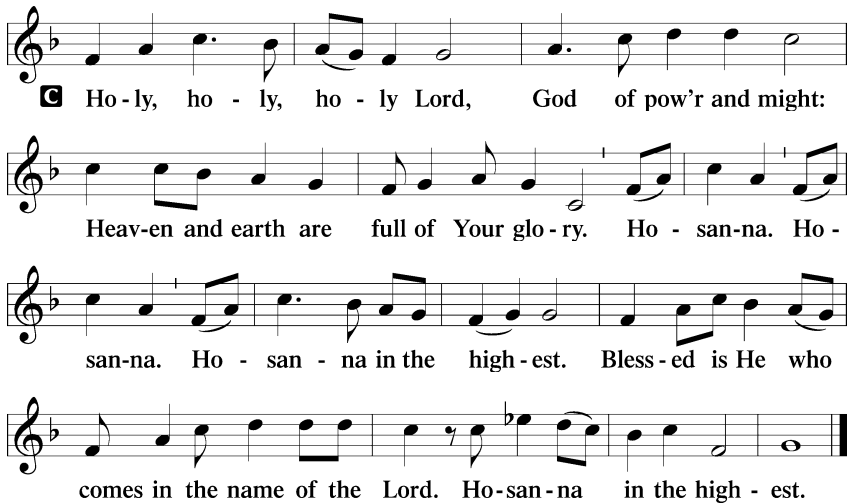
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father,

everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.**

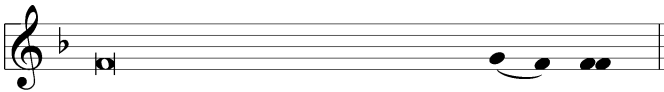
## The Words of Our Lord

**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

LSB 163



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



**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 163

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

*Sit*

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymns:

#### 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

*(all stanzas)*

#### 400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

*(all stanzas)*

#### 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

*(all stanzas- stand for last verse)*

*Stand*

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Collect**

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

**C** A - men.

**Benediction**

LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** A - men.

**Postlude** What Joy to Know, When Life is Past.... – Michael Burkhardt

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book  
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## Today:

### Bible Study

The Bible Study for today is *Chapter 10, "Contending for Our Same Bodies Raised"* from Pastor Espinosa's latest book, *"Contending for Christ Through the Creed"*. Pastor is happy to give you a copy if you have not yet received one.

### Abbreviated Divine Service — Begins Today!

Today at 2:00 p.m., we begin our weekly Abbreviated Divine Service, led by Pastor Espinosa. We will use the morning bulletin in acappella singing only the sermon hymn. The 2:00 p.m. service is a great option for those who miss the 9:30 a.m. service or for friends in the community who are unable to attend in the morning. We look forward to seeing you!

### Annual Report Available

Be sure to check your email or pick up a paper copy from the welcome table for Pastor Espinosa's Annual Report, offering a deeper look at Saint Paul's 2025 review and goals for the year ahead. Happy New Year!

## Coming Up:

### Special Congregational Meeting Notice- January 11

#### LCMS Presidential Election – Voting Representatives

In accordance with Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod procedures, each congregation is entitled to **two votes** in the upcoming **LCMS Election**:

- One pastoral representative
- One lay representative

A **brief Special Congregational Meeting (~5 minutes)** will be held immediately following worship on January 11<sup>th</sup> to approve the voting representatives for our congregation.

At this meeting:

- Any voting member of the congregation may nominate a qualified individual to serve as a representative.
- The current congregation president may be nominated by the congregation but may not nominate herself.

The following nominations have been submitted by Pastor Espinosa for congregational approval:

- **Pastoral Representative:** Rev. Dr. Mueller
- **Lay Representative:** Debbie Dannemeyer

These nominations require **congregational approval** to be valid. Thank you for your attention in this matter!

### Men's Bible Study is back!

Join us on **Thursday, January 8th at 6:30 PM** at **Tad Kaput's residence** as we resume our time of fellowship and study together.

All men are welcome. If you'd like to join or have any questions, please email [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com).

We hope to see you there!

## General Announcements

### Midweek Education Returns - January 7<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Midweek Education Survey. Your feedback has been valuable as we strengthen midweek Bible study for our congregation! Midweek Education will resume **January 7<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Wednesday Morning

- **9:00 am: Abbreviated Divine Service** (in office or sanctuary)
- **10:00 am: Bible Study** (in person or via Microsoft Teams)

The study will be on **Galatians**, led by Pastor Espinosa. For more information on location or Teams Meeting information email [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com).

### Lenten & Holy Week Sermon Series: The Ten Commandments

Join us for our Lenten and Holy Week sermon series centered on the Ten Commandments. Each service will focus on Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. **All services are held at 7:00 p.m.**

#### Service Schedule

- **February 18 (Ash Wednesday)** - 1st Commandment: *Fortitude* (*Imposition of Ashes will be offered at the 9:00 a.m. Divine Service and the 7:00 p.m. Service of the Word.*)
- **February 25** – 2nd Commandment: *Discipline*
- **March 4** – 3rd Commandment: *Allegiance*
- **March 11** – 4th Commandment: *Justice*
- **March 18** – 5th Commandment: *Sanctity*
- **March 25** – 6th Commandment: *Temperance*
- **April 2 (Maundy Thursday)** – 7th & 8th Commandments: *Concord*
- **April 3 (Good Friday)** – 9th & 10th Commandments: *Prudence*

### The Bulletin Board

**Life Quote: January 4** “Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther’s. It might not be as exciting as David’s or as tumultuous as Rahab’s or as terrifying as Mary’s. But you don’t have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.” *Grace MacPherson – A Life*

Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Weekly Stewardship Message:** January 4 – The Epiphany of Our Lord Matthew 2:11 – “And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” For the wise men and for us, worshiping and offering gifts go together. How could this not be since our God is the great Giver of gifts? We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to His image, we imitate His generosity.



**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.



**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!*



**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 & Elder Team**

**Missionaries** (Financially Supported by SPLC)

- Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad – *Dominican Republic*
- Erin Mackenzie – *Latin America & Caribbean*  
([erin.mackenzie@lcms.org](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org))
- Britt Odemba – *Kenya*  
([britt.odemba@lcms.org](mailto:britt.odemba@lcms.org))
- Rev. Dr. Tom Park – *Taiwan*  
([britt.odemba@lcms.org](mailto:britt.odemba@lcms.org))

**Missionary & Local Evangelism  
Support** (Non-Financial Support)

- Tirzah Krey – Regional Human Care Coordinator, Latin America & Caribbean
- Rev. Mark Jasa – Local

*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:*

**Mail gifts/letters via LCMS:**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ATTN: Missionary Name

P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166

**Elder Team**

- Mike Padilla – *Presiding Elder*
- Bruce Dannemeyer
- Bryan Kilduff
- John Church
- Jon Steele
- Karl Blanke
- Mark Kuntz
- Steve Fischer
- Ricky Cuenca
- Alex Padilla
- Michael Lange

**Parish Council**

**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

## Want to Give Online?

We've made it fast and easy to support the ministry at Saint Paul's through our new online giving system with Amplify. This secure platform allows you to set up one-time or recurring donations, all from your phone or computer. You can even choose to give directly to causes close to your heart—like our *Saint Paul's Classical Academy Project* or our *Mercy Team Ministries*. Questions? email: [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com)



Give today by scanning the QR code or visiting:

<https://giving.myamplify.io/app/giving/sain9267562>

Thank you for your continued generosity!

## SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/ Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Welcome Table</u>	<u>Livestream</u>
<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>
1st Sunday 1/4/2026	Nina Mueller	Al Ibrahim, Barney Wright	Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 1/11/2026	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don & Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 1/18/2026	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 1/25/2026	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul & Samuel Hines	John Church	Anne Wright	Jon Steele

## **FELLOWSHIP ROTATION**

1 <sup>st</sup> - 1/4/2026	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 1/11/2026	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 1/18/2026	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 <sup>th</sup> - 1/25/2026	Daisy Minter, Anne Marie Hines