

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

4th Commandment: "Justice"

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Midweek Service: 7:00 pm

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)

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.

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

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**Lenten & Holy Week Service Schedule:**

**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:**

- **March 18** – 5th Commandment: *Sanctity*
- **March 25** – 6th Commandment: *Temperance*
- **April 2 (Maundy Thursday)** – 7th & 8th Commandments: *Concord*
- **April 3 (Good Friday) – 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Services!**  
9th & 10th Commandments: *Prudence*

**Easter Sunday- Divine Services**

**1<sup>st</sup> Service – 8:00 AM**

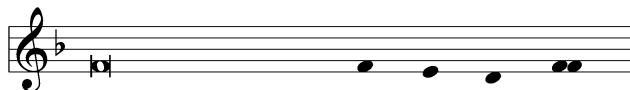
**2<sup>nd</sup> Service – 10:30 AM**

# + In the Name of Jesus +

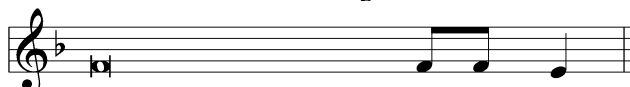
## Prelude

### Service of Light

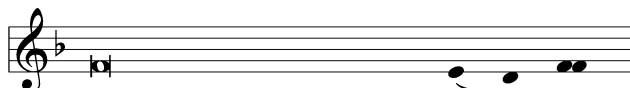
*Stand*



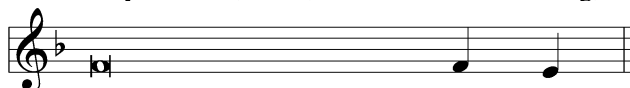
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



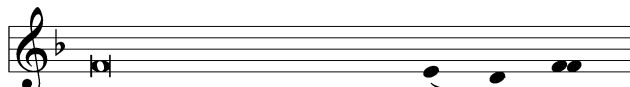
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.



**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.

## Phos Hilaron


*LSB 244*



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



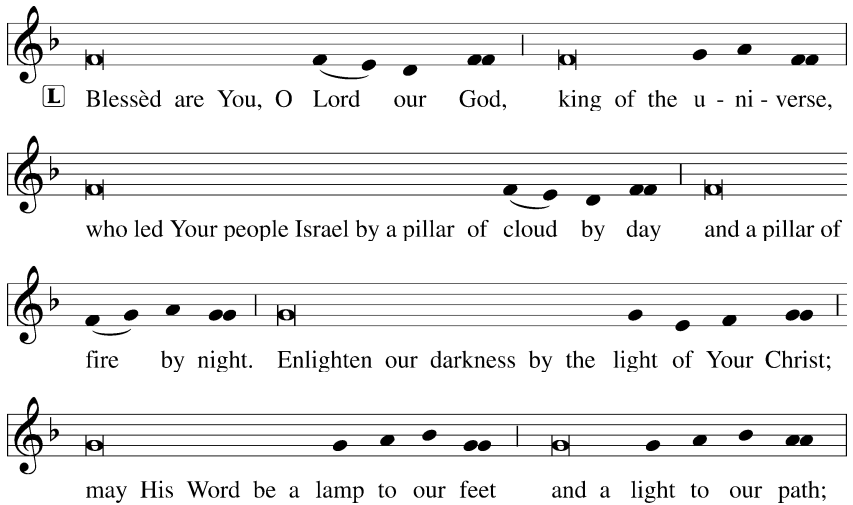
**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



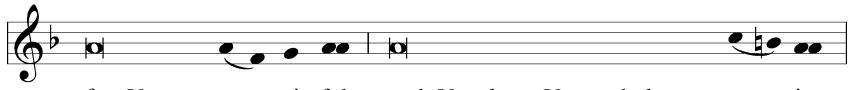
bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the  
 set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.  
 We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:  
 You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -  
 ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:  
 the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

**Thanksgiving for Light**

*LSB 245*



**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,  
 who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of  
 fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;  
 may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

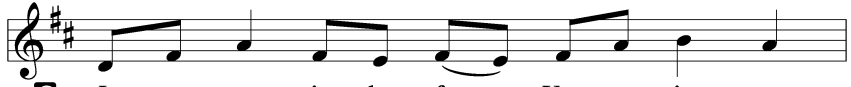


**C** A - men.

## Psalmody

### Psalm 141

LSB 245



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



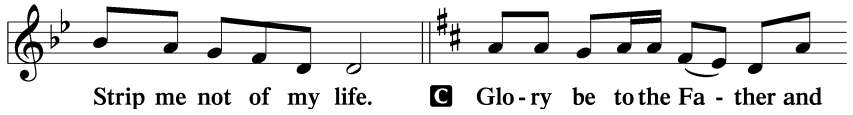
**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



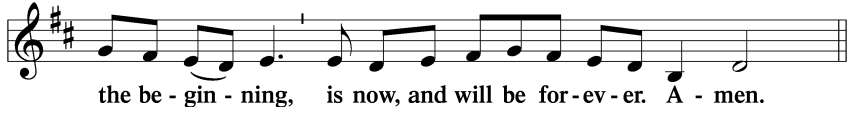
**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**L** Let us pray.  
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord,  
and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified  
minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the  
whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Office Hymn:** **966 Before You, Lord, We Bow**  
*(all stanzas)*

**Readings**

## First Reading

Romans 13:1–7

**L** A reading from Romans, chapter 13.

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Luke 2:41–52

**L** A reading from Luke, chapter 2.

<sup>41</sup>Now [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## Sermon

"Justice"

4th Commandment

Pastor Espinosa

## Canticle

*Stand*

### Magnificat

LSB 248

*Refrain*



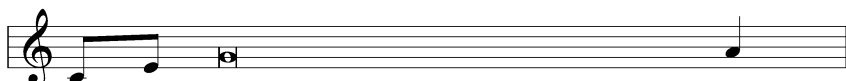
**C** My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -



joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the



Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



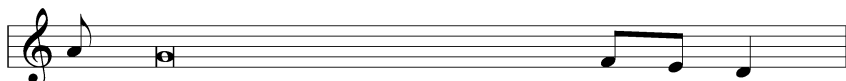
1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - - - - - garded

2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,

3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;

4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,

5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



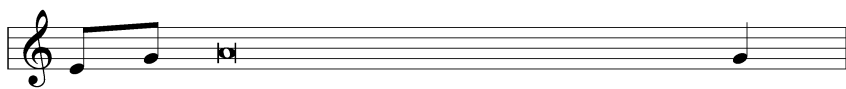
1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand - maiden.

2 and holy . . . . . is His name;

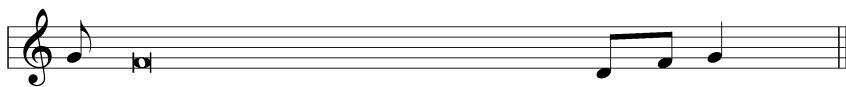
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.

5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessed.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - men. *Refrain*

*Sit*

**Offering**

**Prayer**

*Stand*

**Litany (Lent)**

LSB 249

*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



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

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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 mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

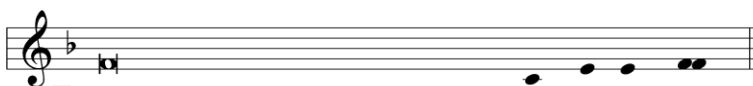
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

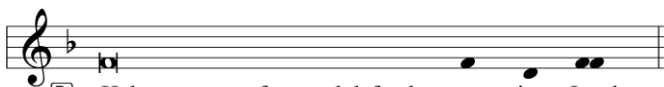
*The prayers then continue:*



**L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

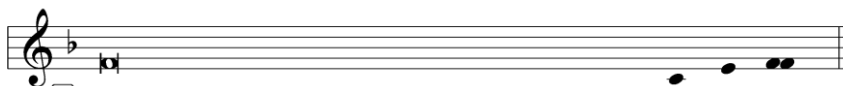


**C Thanks be to God.**

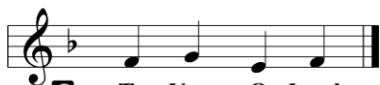


**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



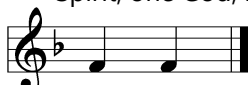
**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



**C** To You, O Lord.

### Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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.

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

**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.**

*Stand*

## Benedicamus

LSB 252



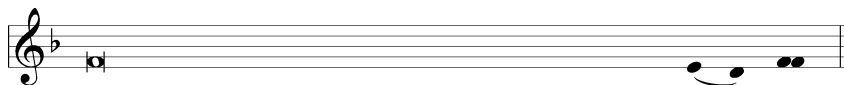
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 252



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn:

## 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

*(all stanzas)*

### Acknowledgments Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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## Announcements:

### Easter Fellowship Breakfast- Help wanted!!

Easter Sunday is just around the corner, and we are excited to celebrate together with a special Easter Breakfast Potluck on Sunday, April 5, 2026, in between services around 9:30 am. We invite you to bring a dish to share—whether it's a casserole, fresh fruit, pastries, or a special family recipe. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal before our Easter service.

**To help us plan, please sign up to bring a dish using the sign-up sheet during fellowship on Sunday.** Thank you for being part of this special time of community and celebration!

We look forward to rejoicing with you on Easter morning! If you have any questions, please contact **Renee Mott at 650-438-4791.**



## Easter Egg Hunt Update – Candy Donations Needed!



We're getting ready for a joyful Easter celebration, and we'd love your help! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming soon, and we are collecting **individually wrapped candy donations** to fill eggs for

our children's event. 🐣 **Candy donations may be dropped off at the church by March 27, 2026.** Would you rather give online? You can make a donation through our Amplify Giving Portal by scanning the QR code or visiting the link provided.

Your generosity helps make this Easter a fun and memorable experience for our church family — thank you for supporting our children's ministry!

Questions? Please contact **Traci Espinosa** directly at 281-627-2646.

## Save the Date – Saint Paul's VBS is Back!

**Saint Paul's Vacation Bible School (VBS) is returning this summer!** Mark your calendars for **June 29 – July 3** at **Irvine Regional Park**, just as we've joyfully done in past years.

VBS is a fun, Christ-centered week designed for children to grow in faith through songs, lessons, crafts, games, and fellowship. We're excited to bring this ministry back—and to begin forming our **VBS Leadership Team**.

As we begin planning in the coming months, **we need volunteers!** If you feel called to share your time and talents, please reach out to our Head Elder, **Mike Padilla** [head.elder@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:head.elder@saintpaulsirvine.com), who will be helping coordinate the effort. Thank you for considering how you might support this wonderful ministry!

## Volunteer Opportunities at Saint Paul's

Saint Paul's has several meaningful opportunities for members to serve and get involved. If you've been looking for a way to use your gifts, **now is the perfect time!**

We currently have openings for:

- **Evangelism Director**

*This role focuses on organization and communication—no direct evangelism required. The goal is simply to help coordinate our “Circle of Friends” outreach and keep records for follow-up.*

- **Youth Director**
- **Altar Guild Members**
- **Vacation Bible School Volunteers**

If you are interested in finding your place to serve at Saint Paul’s, please contact: **Jackie Johnson (Admin):**

[office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com) or **Mike Padilla (Presiding Elder):**

[head.elder@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:head.elder@saintpaulsirvine.com)

We would love to help you connect with a role where your gifts can bless our community!