

*Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!*  
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)  
**Lenten Midweek- 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment:**  
**"Discipline"**

**Wednesday, February 25, 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 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*

**Easter Sunday- Divine Services \***

**1st Service – 8:00 AM**

**2nd Service – 10:30 AM**

\* fellowship & egg hunt in between services, more information to come! 😊

+ In the Name of Jesus +

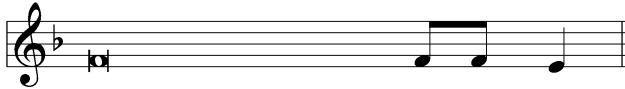
**Prelude**

**Service of Light**

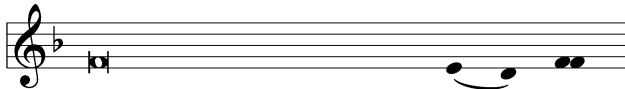
*Stand*



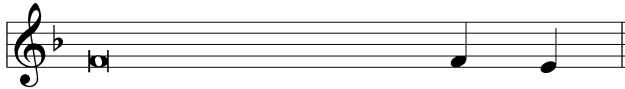
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



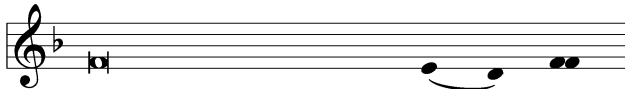
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**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.





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.

**G Amen.**

**Office Hymn:**

**768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray**

*(all stanzas)*

## Readings

### Reading

*Exodus 20:7*

**L** A reading from Exodus, chapter 20.

<sup>7</sup>"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

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

**G Thanks be to God.**

### Reading

*Daniel 6*

**L** A reading from Daniel, chapter 6.

<sup>1</sup>It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup>and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup>Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup>Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. <sup>5</sup>Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup>Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! <sup>7</sup>All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

<sup>8</sup>Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it

cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.”<sup>9</sup>Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

<sup>10</sup>When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. <sup>11</sup>Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. <sup>12</sup>Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>13</sup>Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”

<sup>14</sup>Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. <sup>15</sup>Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” <sup>17</sup>And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. <sup>18</sup>Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

<sup>19</sup>Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup>As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” <sup>21</sup>Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” <sup>23</sup>Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the

den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup>And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>26</sup>I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

for he is the living God,  
enduring forever;  
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,  
and his dominion shall be to the end.

<sup>27</sup>He delivers and rescues;  
he works signs and wonders  
in heaven and on earth,  
he who has saved Daniel  
from the power of the lions."

<sup>28</sup>So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

**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

## 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*

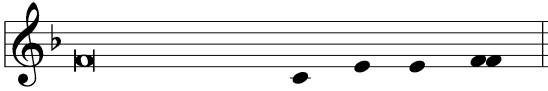
Sit

## Offering

## Prayer

## Litany (Lent)

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.**

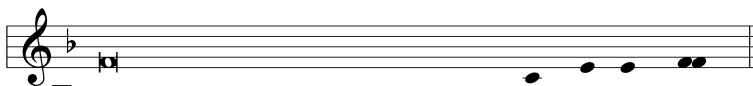
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

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

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

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

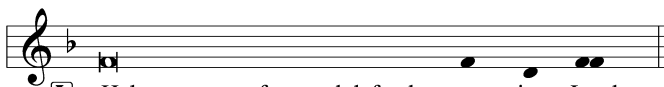
*The prayers then continue:*



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

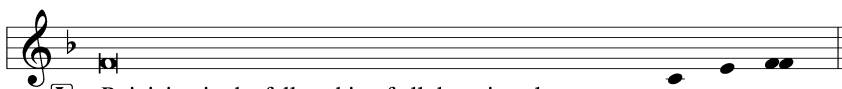


**C** **Thanks be to God.**



**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



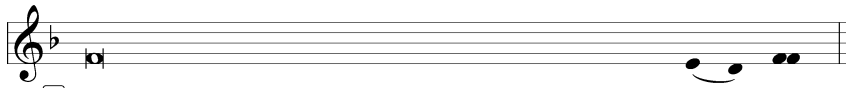
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 252



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



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn:

## 779 Come, My Soul, with Every Care

*(all stanzas)*

### Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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### Announcements:

#### **Pastoral Emergency Contact – This Week**

Please note that Pastor Espinosa will be away Monday through Saturday of this coming week. During this time, we are implementing a new process for handling pastoral emergencies. **Vicar Miles Johnson** will serve as the primary point of contact for any pastoral emergencies and will be available 24/7. If a need can be addressed in coordination with our elders, he will do so. If pastoral coverage is required, he will contact Pastor Mueller and, if needed, other area pastors.

For pastoral emergencies this week, please contact:

**Vicar Miles Johnson**

 913-401-9223

Thank you for your understanding and prayers during this time.

#### **FEASIBILITY STUDY RESULTS AND FAQ NOW AVAILABLE**

#### **Saint Paul's Lutheran Classical Academy**

As promised during our January meeting, these two documents will inform you of the work and conclusions found by our Exploratory Committee in partnership with LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund).

- Document #1 is a set of slides that were presented by LCEF to the Exploratory Team at the conclusion of their study. This content includes research conducted by LCEF on demographics in the City of Irvine and surrounding communities, local school competition and comparisons, and financial considerations.
- Document #2 is an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). Our committee developed the questions and answers of the FAQ in anticipation of the questions that supporters and donors may have.

**MARCH 8 is an important date in the life of our congregation!**

On this date, after worship, we will present the LCEF and exploratory team findings and ask for your approval to move to the next phase of our work. *This next phase is to form an Advisory Committee of business, education and administrative leaders.*

### OUR REQUEST OF YOU

To prayerfully review the two documents, note any unanswered questions and send these questions in advance of March 8 to Pastor Espinosa, Debbie Dannemeyer (President) and Mike Padilla (Head Elder).

*Copies were sent via email to the congregation this past week.*

*2 sets of paper copies are available in the office for your review.*

*You may also access a QR code here:*




*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." — Jeremiah 29:11*



### **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.

