

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

**Wednesday, December 3, 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

**Choir Director:** Mark Howard

**Administrative Coordinator:** Jackie Johnson

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

**Mission:** *To foster the freedom and love we share in Christ to the community by nurturing faith in Him through tangible expressions of God's grace.*

**Vision:** *To share the Truth and Love of Christ to all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.*

**Service Offerings**

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
  - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am
  - Adult Bible Study at 11:00 am
- **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

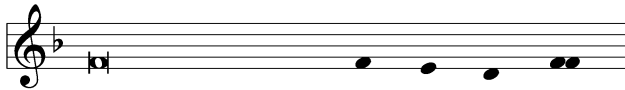
O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

## + In the Name of Jesus +

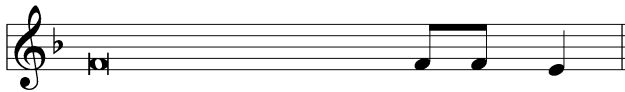
### Prelude

## Service of Light

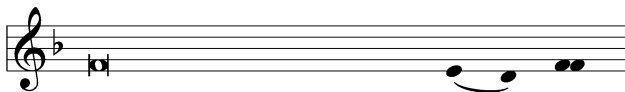
*Stand*



**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,



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.

Sit

## 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.



## Sermon

### Day 4 in Advent

#### Series: "Our Advent God"

#### Part 1: "Promise Keeper" (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

#### Pastor Espinosa

The LORD's Eternal Covenant with David

14 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

Introduction: The Need for Promise Keepers

Jesus' warning: Matthew 6:33-37\*

\*exception are God-given institutions

Easy to cross the line: "Personal Vows" I once witnessed.

Remember the Israelites: See Exodus 19:1-8a

**Part I:** God Keeps His Promises/Covenants for us!

**Part II:** The astounding grace-orientation of God's covenants. 1) God promises; 2) God acts apart from our contribution; 3) God gives a sign that He remembers His promise (all grace)

**Part III:** Jeremiah teaches us that God's promise in Christ comes with His righteousness for us.

**Part IV:** When in Christ, how do we respond? Answer: righteousness.

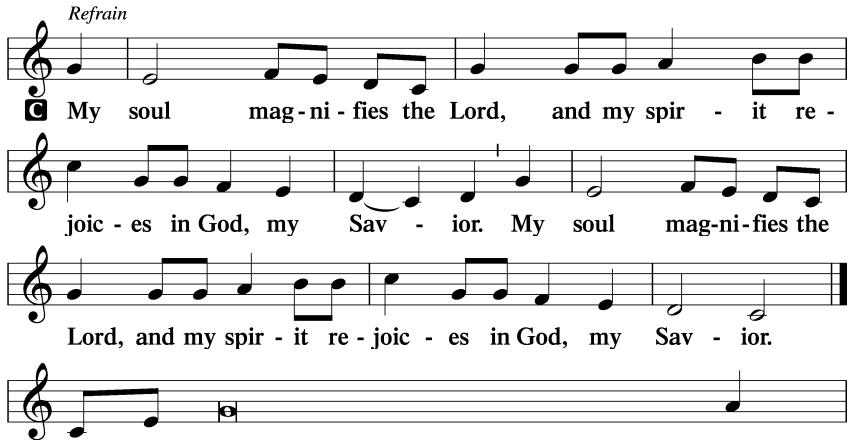
# Canticle

Stand

## Magnificat

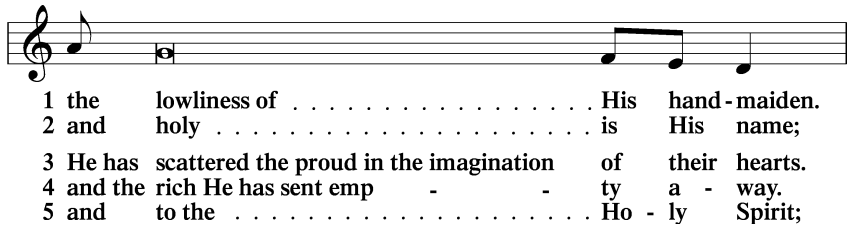
LSB 248

*Refrain*

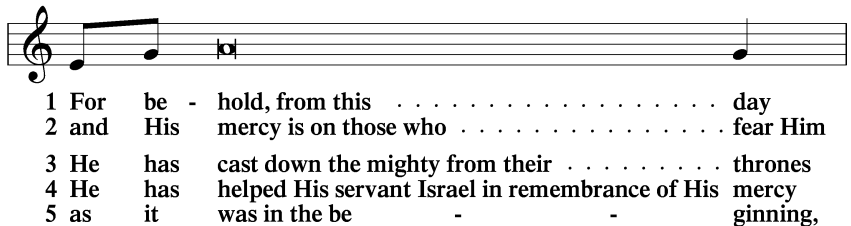


My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -  
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the  
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

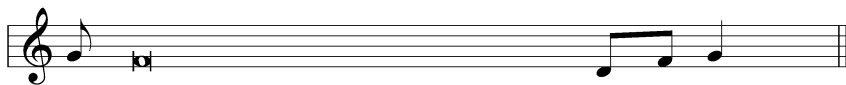
- 1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - - - - - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



- 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 blessèd.  
 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

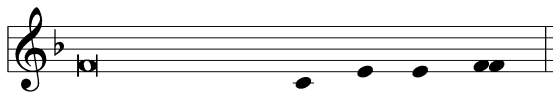
## Prayer

*Stand*

## Litany

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.**

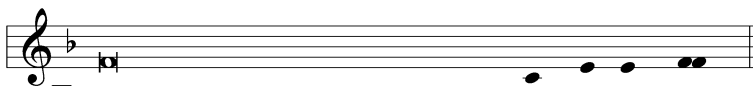
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

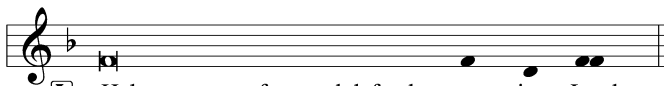
*The prayers then continue:*



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

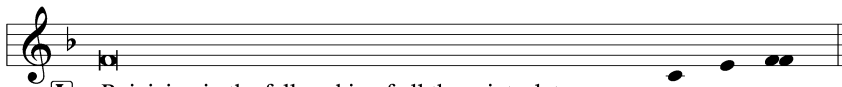


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**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:



## 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.



## Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

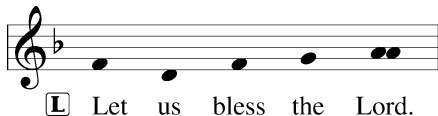
- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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

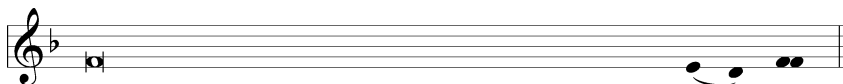




**C** Thanks be to God.

## 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: 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

(all stanzas)

### Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer 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 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 7<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto: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 – **THIS 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](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com) and we'll get you added to the list! Let's keep growing—together in Christ—one day, one verse at a time.

## *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](mailto:markahoward@sbcglobal.net)