

***Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!***  
**Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)**  
***Last Sunday of the Church Year/Christ the King***  
**Sunday, November 23, 2025 – 9:30 am**  
**Divine Service**

***Confirmation Service***

**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

**Confirmands:** Kim Cuenca Gonzalez ; Samuel Berndt; Erick McDougall; Michael McDougall; Noah Levering

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

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

**Service Offerings**

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
  - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am
  - Adult Bible Study at 11:00 am
- **Midweek Services** - Beginning this Wednesday, Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

# + In the Name of Jesus +

**Prelude**

Reflection -- Frank Asper

**Processional Order:**

**Confirmands:**

*Noah Levering..... Crucifer*

*Samuel Berndt.....Book Bearer*

*Kim Cuenca Gonzalez.....Baptismal Shell Bearer*

*Michael McDougall.....Crook Bearer*

*Erick McDougall.....Holy Communion Chalice Bearer*

(Explanation on symbolism: **the holy crucifix** is indeed the crux of the saving Gospel that through the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, our sins are atoned for, and the forgiveness of sins has been won for us. Thus, we are led by it. **The book** symbolizing the four Gospels on its cover represents the Word of God that is preached so that faith in Christ would be received by the power of the Holy Spirit. **The baptismal shell** represents how we are joined to Christ; it is the Sacrament of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. **The crook** represents the pastoral office through which the under shepherds of Jesus lead God's people keeping Christ before their eyes of faith. **The chalice** used for the Holy Sacrament of the altar represents the blood of Christ keeping us in the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Through it, Christ comes to us and leads us through life.)

**Processional Hymn: 336 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"**

*(all stanzas)*

**Greeting**

**P** God is our refuge and strength,

**G** a very present help in trouble.

*-Psalm 46:1*

## 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** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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

### Kyrie

LSB 204



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

### Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Malachi 3:13–18*

<sup>13</sup>"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' <sup>14</sup>You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? <sup>15</sup>And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"

<sup>16</sup>Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. <sup>17</sup>"They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup>Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

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

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

## Psalm

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7



**P** The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*

the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

God is our ref- | uge and strength,\*

a very present help in | trouble.

**C** **Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,\***  
**though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,**

**P** though its waters | roar and foam,\*

though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.

**C** **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,\***  
**the holy habitation of the | Most High.**

**P** God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved,\*

God will help her when | morning dawns.

**C** **The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;\***  
**he utters his voice, the | earth melts.**

**P** The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*

the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

**C** **Come, behold the works | of the LORD,\***  
**how he has brought desolations | on the earth.**

**P** He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;\*

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

he burns the chariots | with fire.

**C** **“Be still, and know that | I am God.\***  
**I will be exalted among the nations,**  
**I will be exalted | in the earth!”**

**P** The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*

the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

**C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son, \***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**P** The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

**Epistle**

*Colossians 1:13–20*

<sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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

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

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**



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



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

## Holy Gospel

Luke 23:32-43

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

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

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:**

**763 When Peace, like a River**

*(all stanzas)*

**Sermon**

### **Division and the Healing Thereof Last Sunday of the Church Year/Christ the King**

Pastor Espinosa

**Introduction:** "a book" (Malachi 3:16). A symbol of Judgment.

Revelation 20:12: "books"

There is division. **Read Malachi 3:18**

**Part I:** Our Divided Lives

A. In the family

- B. In the church
- C. In the state
- D. Genesis 3: Division within, towards God, and others!

**Part II:** The World Loves It! Malachi 3:15 & Psalm 73

**Part III:** Christ Has Come!

- A. Jesus the Creator (Colossians 1:16)
- B. Jesus the Redeemer (Colossians 1:13-14 & the end of 20)
- C. So why did He come? To \_\_\_\_\_ the Division.

**Part IV:** But Sinners Reject Him! Luke 12:51-53.

**Part IV:** But He Went to the Cross for Those Who Cause Division!

- A. Jesus in the MIDDLE: Luke 23:32-33
- B. Luke 23:34 Jesus' Prayer (A Prayer for \_\_\_\_\_)
- C. YOUR healing: Luke 23:42-43

**Conclusion:** How do we live in the face of division? We run to the Cross of Christ!

*Remain seated.*

## Confirmation

*The pastor addresses the catechumens.*

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.
- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** Do you renounce the devil?
- R** *Yes, I renounce him.*
- P** Do you renounce all his works?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**R** *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

**R** *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**R** *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

**P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:*

**P** *[Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

*Stand*

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Peace † be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

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

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

**P** That we may rejoice in Christ, who displays His kingly reign first from the cross and on whom we wait for the revelation of all that is to come; and that we may enter into our eternal rest by the merits of Christ alone, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** That the Lord may bless this congregation and His whole Church with faithful pastors and church workers who speak without embarrassment or apology the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen; and that we, as hearers of this Gospel, may respond with faith and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For all Christian homes, that the Father's treasured possessions spared through the death of His beloved Son would grow in the fear of the Lord, serve Him faithfully and walk undismayed by the prosperity of the wicked until all is revealed, let us pray to the Lord:

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

- P** For the inhabitants of the world, that they may stand in awe of Christ, who alone is King of kings and Lord of lords, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For good government and preservation of life in this fallen world, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That our true King would return soon for His judgment, which alone can reveal His kingdom and our citizenship, which are not of this world, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That the Lord would grant healing and peace to all those afflicted in body or mind; and that He would relieve the suffering, give peace to the dying and comfort those who grieve, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] so that in their need He may be their strength and peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That the Lord would bring us in repentance and faith to receive rightly His Son's body and blood; that we may manifest the unity of faith and a strong witness before the world; and that our lives may bear the good fruits of His Spirit in holy words and works, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That the Lord would preserve His people from all temptation and amid all trial, lest they give into the power of evil or despair; and that His people may be bold and faithful witnesses to all those around them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** O Christ, our King, in Your blood the saints of all ages wash their robes and find entrance to paradise with You. Bring us also with them out of death and the grave and into resurrection and eternal life at the Last Day, when we will see You crowned with glory; for You are the Lamb who was slain and now lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering**

Basse de Cromorne -- Clérambault

**+ 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.*

# Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

## Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

- 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

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.


**G** Amen.

## Agnus Dei


LSB 210



**G** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymns:

**689 Let Me Be Thine Forever**

*(all stanzas)*

**750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee**

*(all stanzas)*

**767 Jesus, Remember Me**

*(Repeat 3 times)*

*Stand*

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**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 ☩ give you peace.

**G** Amen.

## Postlude

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## Confirmation Verses:

**Kim Cuenca Gonzalez:** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:28***

**Samuel Berndt:** *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” **Joshua 1:9***

**Erick McDougall:** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **Matthew 6:33***

**Michael McDougall:** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **Ephesians 6:10-11***

**Noah Levering:** *I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:13***

## Today:

### Bible Study at 11:00 AM

This Sunday Bible Study will continue on *Contending for Christ Through the Creed*: “**Contending for the Faith According to the Second Article of the Creed.**” This week, we will explore **Chapter 7 "Contending for Jesus, the Death of Death."**

Come one, come all! If you have not yet received your free copy, please join us — I'll be happy to provide you with a signed one.

— *Pastor Espinosa*

## Coming Up

### Thanksgiving Eve 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:



#### Thanksgiving Eve Service

**Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 PM**

#### ✦ Advent Midweek Series: *Our Advent God*

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

- **December 3 – *Promise Keeper*** (Jeremiah 33:14–16)
- **December 10 – *Immutable*** (Malachi 3:1–7b)
- **December 17 – *Rejoicing*** (Zephaniah 3:14–20)



#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM**



#### Christmas Day Festival Service

**Thursday, December 25 at 9:30 AM**

## General Announcements

### Wednesday Night Bible Study Returns!

**January 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, warm format. We’ll sing one hymn acappella together, and Pastor will offer communion. The service will last about 45 minutes — a great option if you’re looking for a quieter worship setting. All are warmly invited to join us.

## **Special Presentation – Sunday, December 7th**

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

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

Mark your calendars—we hope to see you there!

## **The Bulletin Board**

**Life Quote: November 23** “Thankful hearts and people produce a grateful culture, a society that is set free to live freely, set free from the mere whims of others, allowing all to live, everyone from the smallest to the perceived greatest. Whether you trust in God or not, freedom exudes gratitude. Gratitude is the grace that blesses all in this life. It gives others some semblance of hope.” *Rev. Mark Frith, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Weekly Stewardship Message:** November 23 – Proper 29 **Colossians 1:18a** – **“And he is the head of the body, the church.”** We are part of the Body of Christ; He is our Head. Where He goes, we follow. His thoughts direct our actions. This is how the people of God learn how to give and why they give. Because Jesus gives, indeed He gives all He has.

# *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)

☀️ **Join the Journey—Daily Bible Devotionals with Pastor Al!** ☀️

It's 2025, and Pastor Espinosa hasn't missed a single day of walking through Scripture with us!


Whether you've been following along or just jumping in, you're invited to be part of this powerful, daily connection to God's Word.

📖 **Need a boost of faith each day?**

👉 Catch daily devotionals on:

• **Facebook** – @AlfonsoEspinosa

- **TikTok** – @alfonsoespinosa356
- **Instagram** – @alfonsoespinosa88

 Prefer devotionals by email?

Just send a quick note to **office@saintpaulsirvine.com** and we'll get you added to the list! Let's keep growing—together in Christ—one day, one verse at a time.

### 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!*



#### **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.

### 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 & Elders**

**Missionaries Supported by Saint Paul’s**

*(Financial gifts given annually to the national synod)*

Missionary	Location
Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad <i>Please send mail through the LCMS directly.</i>	Dominican Republic
Erin Mackenzie Email: <a href="mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org">erin.mackenzie@lcms.org</a>	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: <a href="mailto:britt.odemba@lcms.org">britt.odemba@lcms.org</a>	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park Email: <a href="mailto:tom.park@lcms.org">tom.park@lcms.org</a>	Taiwan

**Missionary Friends (Non-Financial Support)**

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: <a href="mailto:tirzah.krey@lcms.org">tirzah.krey@lcms.org</a>	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

*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:*

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

*ATTN: (enter missionaries name here)*

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

**Local Evangelism Support:** Rev. Mark Jasa

**Saint Paul’s Parish Council Members**

**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

**Jacob Thornblad** – Education Director ~ *vacant* – Youth Director

**Saint Paul’s Elders**

**Mike Padilla** (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~

**John Church** ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke** ~ **Mark Kuntz** ~ **Steve Fischer**

~ **Ricky Cuenca** ~ **Alex Padilla** ~ **Michael Lange**

### **SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Altar Team</b>	<b>Ushers/ Greeter</b>	<b>Elders on Duty</b>	<b>Welcome Table</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
<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>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 11/23/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 11/30/2025	<i>Help needed</i>	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Mike Padilla	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 12/7/2025	Nina Mueller	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla	Anne Wright	Jim J.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 12/14/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 12/21/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele

### **FELLOWSHIP ROTATION**

4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 11/23/2025	Daisy Minter, Anne Marie Hines
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 11/30/2025	Jackie Johnson, Julie Stiegemeyer
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 12/7/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 12/14/2025	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 12/21/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer