

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

Sunday, December 7, 2025 – 9:30 am

Divine 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

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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 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

Variations on: *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cries*
-- M Burkhardt

Greeting

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

- Psalm 72:18

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

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

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

Service of the Word

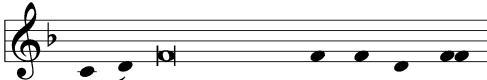
Entrance Hymn:

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

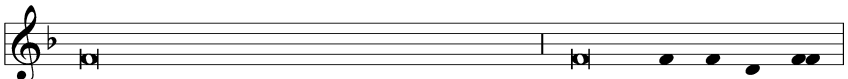
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



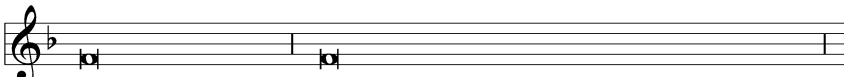
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



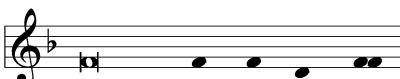
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



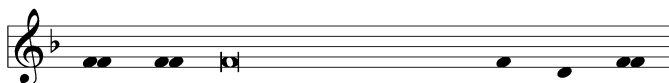
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



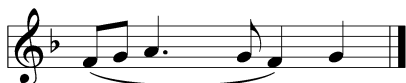
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
 and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
 and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
 and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
 and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain;
 for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the
 peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be
 glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.



C **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.***
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you,*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music is simple and suitable for congregational singing.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Reception of Members by Transfer or Profession of Faith

New Members: Steve and Kathleen Amort

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “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 and all his works and all his ways?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
- R** *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in 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** Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
- R** *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: **344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**
(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Gifts and Peace"
(Isaiah 11:1-5)
Pastor Espinosa

The Text: (Isaiah 11)

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Introduction: When it comes to gift-giving, have you ever met that theoretical person who has everything?

Apart from Christ — and on this earth — that person doesn't exist.

Part I: God's Gifts (Eternal) VERSUS Man's Gifts (Temporal)

Part II: THE Gift: "a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots"

- A. A Shoot OR A Twig AND A Branch OR A Sprout = Peace for Sinners, Jesus Christ
- B. Stump = God's People

Isaiah 6:

Isaiah's Commission from the Lord

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." 9 And he said, "Go, and say to this people:

"Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
keep on seeing, but do not perceive."

10 Make the heart of this people dull,
and their ears heavy,
and blind their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

11 Then I said, "How long, O Lord?"
And he said:

"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is a desolate waste,

12 and the LORD removes people far away,
and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

13 And though a tenth remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak,
whose stump remains
when it is felled."

The holy seed is its stump.

We Can Relate To "Stump"

C. Jesse: A way of referring to the House of David according to God's Promise, not the illusion of Man's Power.

Part III: The TWIG and SPOUT (Jesus) Has These Gifts:

The so-called "Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit"

2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

St. Augustine, Cassiodorus, and Paulus Orosius, and Gregory the Great all follow the Septuagint in using this list from Isaiah 11:2-3:

The Seven Gifts Are:

1. Wisdom (power of discerning the nature of things)
2. Understanding (power of discerning differences)
3. Counsel (power of forming right conclusions)
4. Fortitude OR Might (power of ability to carry out conclusions with energy)
5. Knowledge (power of knowing God through the fellowship of love)
6. Piety OR Godliness (power to live a holy life to God's glory)
7. Fear of God (power to revere God in all things)

These SEVEN represent Christ and Christ gives these to His Church. Thus, seven candles represent this communion.

And these gifts we NEED and these gifts Christ GIVES to us!

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's covenant people, that He would teach them to remember His wondrous works and to seek His strength and presence, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For courage to speak Christ to the nations and to teach those still in darkness and death about His gift of light and life; and that God

would keep us from being ashamed of His Gospel or intimidated by the opinions of others, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who grow in the faith, that God's Word of encouragement and instruction in endurance would cause them to abound in hope, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For families, that they would faithfully fulfill their vocations to love and forgive one another, even as they grow in the fear, love and trust of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For civil authorities, that they would govern with justice and righteousness as leaders appointed by God to protect the innocent, punish the wicked and work for the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those afflicted in body or mind, [*especially _____*,] that they would receive the riches of God's grace, healing according to His will, and grace to carry them through the day of trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune this day, that their hearts would be stirred up to make ready the way of the Lord Jesus, who comes in His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful to us and to our salvation, that with confidence in Your will, we may say "amen" to our prayers and live in contentment and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming -- Paul Manz

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

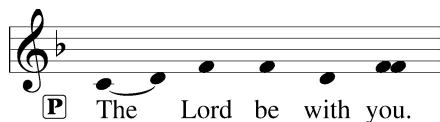
+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



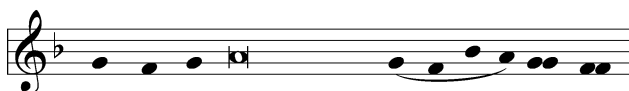
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

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

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom

**and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

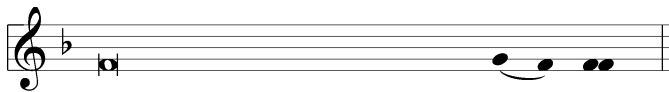
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

346 When All the World Was Cursed

(all stanzas)

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

(all stanzas)

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

(all stanzas)

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy

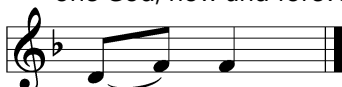


with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

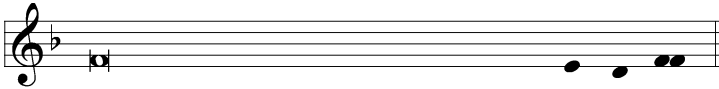
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

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



C A - men.



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.



C A - men.

Postlude

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers – Paul Manz

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Today:

Special Presentation – after Divine Service

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 **Today**, after Divine Service and Fellowship, around **11:00 a.m.**

We hope to see you there!

Coming Up:

Save the Date: Fellowship Christmas Brunch – December 21st

Join us after the service on December 21 for our annual **Fellowship Christmas Brunch!** A sign-up sheet will be available following today’s service. This special **potluck brunch** is always a highlight of the season— not only because of the delicious dishes, but because of the warm, festive ambiance that Renee Mott and the Fellowship Team create. Expect a joyful spread, a cozy atmosphere, a **Nativity-themed photo booth with costumes**, and plenty of **Christmas carols** to sing together!

All are welcome to bring a hot or cold dish to share.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Renee or Jackie, or email the office at office@saintpaulsirvine.com. Come celebrate the season with food, fellowship, and joy! 🎄

Children's Christmas Toy Drive – More Details Coming Soon!

This year, our congregation is excited to support a special Children's Christmas Toy Drive. **We will be sending out more information via email this week**, but we wanted to share our heart and direction for this year's efforts. In gratitude for the hospitals that have cared for our community so well—especially **CHOC Hospital**, recently visited by the Cuenca family, and **City of Hope**, where some of our members are currently receiving treatment—we hope to give back by blessing the children receiving care there this Christmas season.

Jackie is reaching out to both organizations to learn how we can best share gifts with the kiddos who need it most as they bravely face their health battles this time of year. **Please keep an eye on your email this week** for details on how you can participate and “gift a blessing” to children in need. **Thank you for helping us share Christ's love in a meaningful way!**

Congregational Meeting December 14

The topics for this meeting are:

1. Nominations for Synodical President and Regional Vice President
2. Results of last August's worship survey
3. Amplify software update
4. Financial report

Thank you for your attention to church business and your commitment to engaging with the congregation. We look forward to our meeting scheduled for December 14.

Your Sister-in-Christ, serving Saint Paul's—Debbie Dannemeyer

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

Concordia Christmas Concert at Segerstrom Hall

Emmanuel: A Concordia Christmas

Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall
600 Town Center Dr,
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Celebrate the season of hope at Orange County's beloved Concordia Christmas Concerts at the stunning Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. This treasured event features choirs, handbells, and orchestra combined in a joyful mix of carols, old and new. Secure your tickets early from the Segerstrom Hall Box Office at <https://bit.ly/CUI-XMAS-2025>.

General Announcements

Wednesday Night Bible Study Returns!

January 7th @ 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

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 the 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.

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: December 7 "Children brightly signaled hope in our sin-infested world of old—consider the births of Seth, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Samuel, John, and, finally, of course and paramount, Jesus. And we, too, must become as children." *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: December 7 – Advent 2

Matthew 3:1-2 – “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.



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.



☀️ 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.

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



Circle of Friends

The most effective way for a church to grow in the Kingdom of God is to be faithful in the Word and Sacrament of Christ and to truly love people. One way to do that is to allow us to pray for those you know who need Christ and/or a church



home. Please submit the names of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others to us through our ministry called Circle of Friends. Thank you!

~Pastor Espinosa.

For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home. Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor? Use this QR code to let us know!

Opportunities to Volunteer & Serve

We're always looking for ways to share our gifts and serve both our congregation and the wider community. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved—and for students, it can also be a great way to fulfill required service hours. If you are interested in volunteering with any of our current opportunities—or if you have new ideas for how we can serve together—please contact the church office at office@saintpaulsirvine.com.

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: erin.mackenzie@lcms.org	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: britt.odemba@lcms.org	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park Email: tom.park@lcms.org	Taiwan

Missionary Friends *(Non-Financial Support)*

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: tirzah.krey@lcms.org	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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/ Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Welcome Table</u>	<u>Livestream</u>
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Shared Role</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Kiu Geister</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
1 st Sunday 12/7/2025	Nina Mueller	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla	Kiu Geister	Jim J.
2 nd Sunday 12/14/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Lange	Kiu Geister	Jim J.
3 rd Sunday 12/21/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4 th Sunday 12/28/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church	Anne Wright	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

1 st Sunday 12/7/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 12/14/2025	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon
3 rd Sunday 12/21/2025	<i>Christmas Potluck Brunch- bring a dish!</i>
4 th Sunday 12/28/2025	Daisy Minter, Anne Marie Hines