

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

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 5, 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

Office: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm T-F; 949-599-4760

Website: www.saintpaulsirvine.com

Email: office@saintpaulsirvine.com

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

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring -- JS Bach

Greeting

P For God alone my soul waits in silence;

C from him comes my salvation.

- Psalm 62:1

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 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

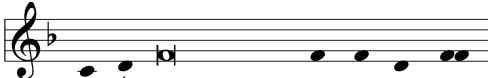
Entrance Hymn:

850 God of Grace and God of Glory

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

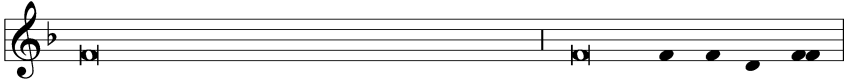
LSB 152



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.



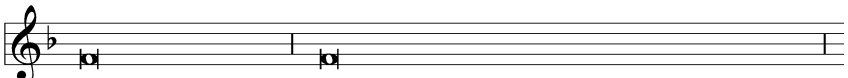
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



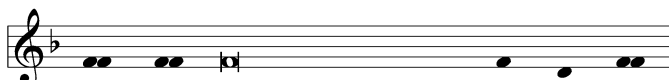
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



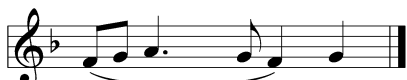
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4

¹The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.

¹I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,
and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

²And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.

³For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.”

P Once God has spoken;
twice have I | heard this:*
that power belongs to God,

C and that to you, O Lord, belongs | steadfast love.

For you will render | to a man*
according | to his work.

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 For God alone my soul waits in | silence,*
from him comes my sal- | vation.

Epistle

2 Timothy 1:1–14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹²which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

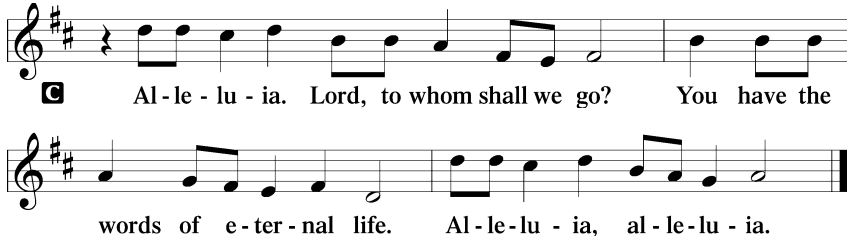
A This is the Word of the Lord.

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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 17:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! ²It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. ³Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? ⁸Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day:

587 I Know My Faith Is Founded

(all stanzas)

Children's Message

Sermon

“Wait For It”

(Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4)

Proper 22C: “The Nature of Faith”

Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa

The Text:

1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Habakkuk's Complaint

- ² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?
- ³ Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
- ⁴ So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.

2 I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,
and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

The Righteous Shall Live by His Faith

- ² And the LORD answered me:
“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.
- ³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.
- ⁴ “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen. Carly Simon, grammy winning vocalist was at the height of her career in the 1970's. One of her 13 top 40 U.S. hits include her song, “Anticipation.” The opening lyrics:

“We can never know about the days to come
But we think about them anyway
And I wonder if I’m really with you now
Or just chasin’ after some finer day

Anticipation, anticipation
Is makin’ me wait
Is keepin’ me waitin’”

I **love** *sacred* music because it teaches us about what is most vital: it puts forth the Word of God to teach us of God and what it means to live as people of faith in Jesus. And I **value** *secular* music (though even the sacred is within the secular, but here I mean music that is not about the faith) because it teaches us about what is in the hearts of people, and the more you get to know people, the better you can bridge the gap between the sacred and the secular.

Some theologians who are too lazy to invest in people will say, but we already know what is in the hearts of people and they will quote Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Therefore – so the argument goes – don’t waste your time with the hearts of people, because God has already told you all you need to know. This position goes too far, because even while knowing that sin is in the hearts of people, ***every person if they confide and share with you, reveals inroads for knowing how to love them, help them, and share Jesus with them.*** We cannot be lazy. We are people of the Word, and we should therefore be people *of people and for people*. We invest in the Word, and we invest in people. Furthermore, in thinking about music, all the astounding gifts we see in musicians across the board come from God. Think about that for a second. Even if a musician does not sing to give glory to God, and even if they sing to perpetuate a message that is *not* good, their skill, their ability nevertheless comes from God. This is ironic in that the musician -- who may be an atheist, agnostic, or other religionist while denying Christ -- who has great gifts in music, inevitably gives glory to the One who granted them their gifts even without their intention to do so.

With all that, Carly expresses something we can relate to: we don’t know about the days to come, but we *do* know that we want them to be better days like the best of “the good old days!” but even more, we want to be with someone [and the Christian can plug in the most important “someone” here] and along the way the waiting, the anticipation isn’t easy. And, as Carly reminds us through her bare and revealing emotion, sometimes we can be tempted to wonder if we are just “chasin’ after some finer day.”

This is what we might call the natural knowledge of God on the human soul. We can’t get away from it. It is in our DNA. We struggle to wait. The process that Traci and I are going through requires waiting. How would she do after

the first chemo treatments? How would she do through the ongoing lumbar punctures which are also chemo treatments along the way? How would she do through her two rounds of immunotherapy? And how will she do – still to come – through the upcoming intensive chemo? And then how will she do through the bone-marrow transplant? And then, how will she do especially through the first critical 100 days after the transplant? There is a lot of waiting to be had.

We would rather not have to wait so much. And many times, we just plain ‘ol don’t like it and can even feel as though we are sick and tired of waiting. That’s more than ok for the Christian and you need to hear that. During Uwe Siemon-Netto’s memorial sermon I quoted our brother in Christ (as he was so easy to quote as he was a prolific author): “It is, however, perfectly in order to shout at God in despair, as long as we acknowledge Him as Lord.” (*One Incarnate Truth: Christianity’s Answer to Spiritual Chaos*, CPH, 2002, see his essay, “Prayer: A Vertical Activity”)

That was a bold thing for Uwe to write, that we Christians may “despair.” I smiled when I first read that for many reasons, one of them being because it was one step towards the publication of my first book *Faith That Sees Through the Culture* (2018). If you’re going to write a book, there should be a fire in your belly about something, a passion, feeling compelled to address something on account of a need you recognize. For me at the time, it was many years of witnessing Christians confused about paradoxes and further, what I dubbed as “dualities.” Early on, the word “despair” was one of the words that showed me the need for clarifications. Consider Saint Paul:

2nd Corinthians 4:7-8: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, **but not driven to despair.**”

He was referring to his apostolic ministry and those who were serving with him for the sake of serving Christ’s Church, and what did he say point blank? “[they were] not [as we are not] driven to despair.” Boom, there it is, because we have faith in Christ, because God is with us – even though in ourselves we are weak and only “jars of clay” – we are not driven to despair!

But wait a minute, there is also 2nd Corinthians 1:8-9: “For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that **we despaired of life itself.** Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”

So, two things come out: all of you Christians who trust in the LORD Jesus and have saving faith: you are more than capable of two states: 1) The state through faith in Christ that pushes away despair, **so that you are freed**

from despair; and 2) The state of your weakness in the flesh, to easily experience despair – and I might add – especially when you and I have to wait.

This is not a contradiction in Scripture, but a reality of our two “I’s” within ourselves. We are saint and we are sinner. We are new creation, and we are old man. The sinner is like the Israelites at the edge of the Red Sea who saw only two options: 1) drown in the Red Sea; or 2) be trampled by Pharaoh’s chariots. That’s it. What was this the occasion for? You guessed it: despair. But then God intervened: He delayed Pharaoh’s chariots (Exodus 14: 19-20 and 24-25) and had instructed Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea and God divided the sea and made dry land right down the middle “And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left (Exodus 14:22).”



As a result, guess what? Their despair vanished. It was dissipated by the power of God. So, what does the Christian experience? Both. Sometimes we know despair and then when we experience God’s help – **which comes with the waiting, which comes with the waiting, which comes with the waiting** – we experience the lifting of our despair, and our despair is vanquished. 1st Corinthians 10:13: can be confusing because many English translations turn the Greek into the words “temptation” or “temptations,” but the sense of the words is **a putting to proof, discipline, adversity, or trial**. The verse applies to our concern:

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with

the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” That is, God helps us in our despair so that when we have despair, we are not overcome by it. The way of escape is not necessarily that the trial will end when we think it should – ***again, here’s the waiting*** – but the way of escape will be God’s way to sustain us.

With this extensive groundwork, we approach Habakkuk whose name means “an embracer.” He embraced the waiting ones who were loaded down. His prophetic ministry was also sent by God to comfort us *to this day* as we struggle so much with waiting. He starts his book to completely relate to us, chapter 1, verse 2: “O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you ‘Violence!’ and you will not save? [verse 3] Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. [verse 4] So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.” The Word of the LORD. Thanks be to God.

Gregory of Nazianzus wrote, “[Habakkuk] utters...heated words, and is impatient with God Himself, and cries down, as it were our good Lord, because of the injustice of the judges.” (NPNF 2 7:217) Gregory saw the prophet of God: he was heated towards God, impatient with God...on account of all the evil and the suffering. What do we learn from this? If you must dump this way to God, do it, but do so as you hold to Christ who put upon Himself all evil, all injustice, and all suffering for you and for me. Go ahead and do it, God can take it, and He will use it to teach us how to wait.

The Lutheran Study Bible states at page 1506: “...Habakkuk demands to know how long the Lord, who promises to hear the prayers of believers, will remain silent. Like Job...the prophet cries, ‘Violence!’ (with regard to the injustice among His people), but his prayer for deliverance remains unanswered.”

Thus, “The prophet is deeply troubled because God seems to tolerate iniquity and wrong – things such as destruction, violence, strife, and contention – and does nothing about it. Sin and its results abound in the land.” (Ibid., 1506)

Talk about a text that is over 2600 years old applying perfectly to our current day and age. It is startling in fact. Things were so bad that to the prophet it appeared that the law itself was paralyzed (verse 4). That’s how bad things can get and to many even in our own country, that’s how bad it seems things already are. But you don’t have to step back to look at our country, sometimes we can look within our families, and furthermore, sometimes all we need to do is look within ourselves. And we pray, “How long O LORD?” Again, if you Christian have ever felt this way, have ever gone through this, or are going through it now, we know that the waiting can be torturous. The

situation in the Judah, the Southern Kingdom of God's people was full of unchecked evil, and the prophet was feeling despair. Sometimes we feel the unchecked evil even as it may attack our bodies, our minds, and our souls and we too can feel despair and when we do the waiting can feel exhausted.

But now we go to the beginning of chapter 2 in Habakkuk. At verse 1, the prophet recommitted himself to his watch post and he stationed himself in his tower. What was he doing? He was returning to God's Word, God's voice, God's instruction, God's answer. And here we encounter the wisdom from above. There is a world beyond the world, a kingdom beyond the kingdom, a power above all earthly powers, peace that surpasses the lack of peace, a resource when all other resources fail: the Word of the LORD. And here waiting takes on a whole new dimension, because this waiting is for the Word of God which has already come and is promised to you to keep coming.

So, God told Habakkuk: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets..." His Word was being given. At verse 2, God's Word "awaits its appointed time." And then God says this: **"If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."** And this those who rely only upon their own resources, their own wherewithal – or those as verse 4 says who are "puffed up" – will assuredly remain in despair, real hope will continue to elude them, but, but, but, no so for the Christian; so not so for you: **"but the righteous shall live by his faith."** (verse 4) Long before Luther said it, Saint Paul said it; and long before Saint Paul said it, Habakkuk said it. We know how God sanctifies our waiting; how God makes our waiting good and holy: through faith in Christ and in all the promises pertaining to the Lover of our Soul; our Savior and Best Friend!

Thus, Isaiah: "He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:29-31)

How can this be? Because the waiting of faith waits while beholding Christ and we know that in Him all the agony of our waiting, all the despair of our waiting, and all the sin in our waiting has been taken from us and put upon Him. He has taken it up for us. Now, our waiting changes. It is a waiting that knows that we are not overcome by despair, but it is a waiting that drives out despair, because God is with us in Christ, the One who covered sin with all its despair by His holy and divine blood.

Now God speaks to us. He gives us His Word and says, "Wait for it." (Habakkuk 2:3). And here it comes dear Christians: Christ comes. He has come to you, He is coming to you, and He will continue to come to you, so

that when He says, “Wait for it,” He means “it will surely come; it will not delay” (Habakkuk 2:4) because Christ comes to you even now. Faith teaches us how to wait, because faith sees that God’s promises have already been fulfilled in Christ – done deal! – now it is just a matter of time before we see the results of all of it with our own eyes.

In the meantime, hear this as you wait: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.” Keep waiting, God will keep His promise to you. The blood of Jesus guarantees it.

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who bear witness to Christ, that God — who has given them a spirit not of fear, but of power and self-control — would bless them with winsomeness and wisdom to speak His Word in faith and love to all who will hear, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For pastors, whom God has called to a holy calling, that He would embolden them in their testimony concerning our Lord Jesus and strengthen them by His power to suffer courageously for the Gospel and guard the good deposit entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all Christian homes, that husbands and wives may love and forgive each other, that parents may be faithful examples to their children, and that orphans may know the joy of a home, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who exercise authority over us, who order us according to our laws, who execute justice and who defend us against our enemies: our president; Congress; governor; legislature; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who are suffering from the effects of sin in their bodies or minds, [*especially _____*], that the Lord would grant them faith, perseverance and, if it is for their good, healing even in their times of trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For strengthened faith through God's Word and hearts prepared to faithfully receive the divine gift, which brings the immortal body and blood of Jesus to our very lips, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For strength against temptation, that God would guard our steps, that in our weakness or in our liberty we do not cause others to sin, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Almighty and everlasting God, deliver us from temptation and the powers of evil, that we may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life. Whether we live or die, we belong to You. Comfort us with this promise, that we may join the company of the saints

on Your appointed day and enter into the heavenly places to worship at Your throne on high; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C Amen.

Sit

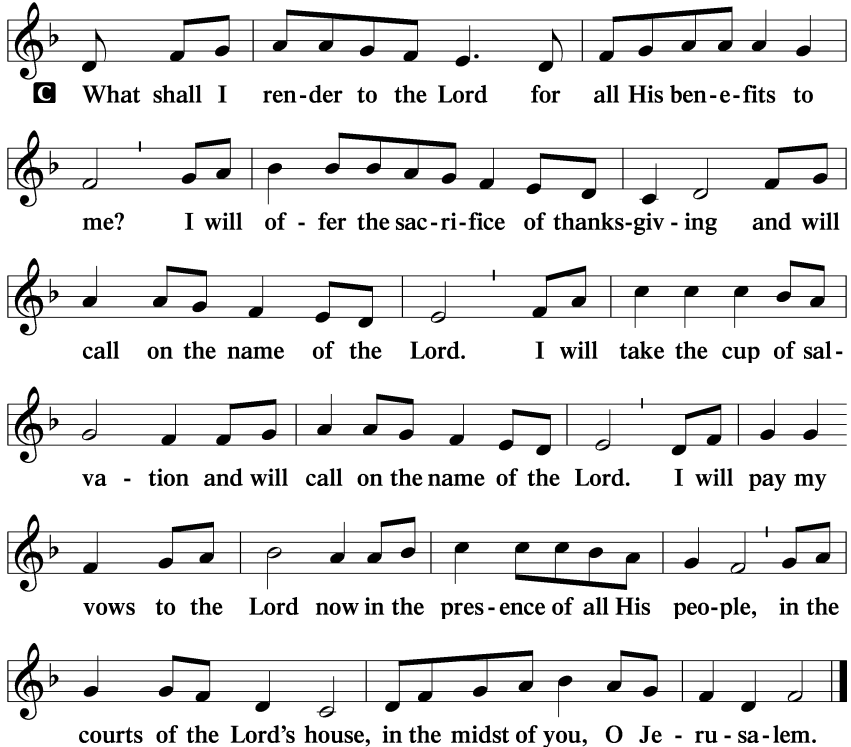
Offering

I Know My Faith Is Founded -- Jacob B Weber

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.



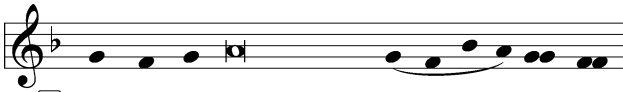
C And al - so with you.



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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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 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.

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.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

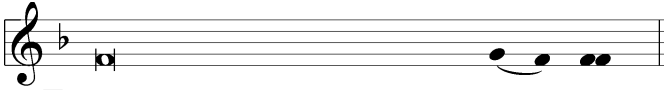
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

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:

496 Holy Spirit, Light Divine

(all stanzas)

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

(all stanzas)

756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

(all stanzas)

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

(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.

Benediction

LSB 166

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

Toccata -- Dieterich Buxtehude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Special Announcement:

Pastor Espinosa's Upcoming Leave

Pastor Espinosa's last Sunday preaching before his leave to care for his wife, Traci, during her bone marrow transplant will be **Sunday, October 12th**.

While he is away, Rev. Darrin Sheek will be available for emergency pastoral care. If you need pastoral support, please contact **Rev. Sheek at 949-370-7198**.

For any **questions or administrative needs**, please call the church office at **949-599-4760** — Jackie will be glad to assist you. Pastor Espinosa plans to return on **Sunday, November 9th**. Please keep Pastor, Traci, and their family in your prayers during this time.

Today:

Pastor Appreciation Month Kick-Off

October is **Pastor Appreciation Month!** As some of you know, Pastor Al will be at City of Hope with his wife, Tracy, for part of October. We are grateful to Pastor Mueller for graciously leading our Sunday services during that time.

To begin this special month, we will hold a **Kick-Off Fellowship Today!**

We will also begin our **Appreciation Cards** on October 5. Cards will be available for:

- **Pastor Al and Traci**
- **Pastor Mueller and Nina**

These cards are a wonderful way to share your encouragement and thanks for all they do for our congregation. Completed cards can be returned to the church office or placed in the collection box on the Welcome Table on Sundays. Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for our pastors and their families throughout the month of October!


This Week:

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.

General Announcements


Walk for Hope – Join the Saint Paul's Team!


Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine is walking in the **City of Hope Walk for Hope** on **Sunday, November 2, 2025**. Site Opens: 7:00 AM | Walk Begins: 9:30 AM **City of Hope Orange County | 1000 Fivepoint, Irvine, CA 92618**

Our team goal is **\$10,000**, and as of October 4th we've already raised **\$4,840** with **4** walkers signed up!

We walk because cancer has touched our congregation — with three members currently receiving care at City of Hope and many others impacted in the past. Every step and every gift fuels research, compassionate care, and hope for the future. ***Scan here to donate or join our team!***

How you can help:

 **Pray** – Keep our team, loved ones, and City of Hope in your prayers.

 **Donate** – Give online, by check using the donation form, or through Thrivent Charitable!

 **Join the Walk** – Lace up and walk with us in Irvine.

Donate Online or Join the Team:

<https://ourhope.cityofhope.org/team/766721>

Thrivent Charitable Instructions:

- **Login** to your Thrivent Charitable account.
- **Select** Recommend Grant.
- **Search Available Grantees:** City of Hope in California
- **Select:** City of Hope, 1500 Duarte Rd Duarte, CA 91010; Tax ID: 95-3435919
- **Change Grant Purpose** to “Run/Walk or similar fundraiser”



- **Type in Give fundraising credit to:** “Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine team” (Optional: You can also add the name of an individual you want to give to who is one the team)

Special Music at St. Paul’s

Join us for upcoming services featuring St. Paul’s Choir, directed by Mark Howard. *“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.”*

– Martin Luther

- **Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 9:30 am:**
Music by Michael Burkhardt, Paul Christiansen, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, with Jerry Dahlin (organ) and Bruce Benne (handbells).
- **Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025 – 7:00 pm:**
Music by Jeffrey Van, Alfred Fedak, Gustav Holst, and John Rutter, with Jerry Dahlin (organ) and Rachel Okonski (flute).

Come and be blessed by these special worship services!

For more information or to join the choir, contact Mark Howard at 714-423-6460 or markahoward@sbcglobal.net

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: October 5 “We shouldn’t expect to know or understand the ways of God. We simply live in trust and ask God’s blessing on our lives of sanctification, lived in love and thanksgiving to Christ.” *Marie MacPherson, author – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: October 5 – Proper 22

Luke 17:10 – “So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’” We can never put God in our debt. Even if we lived in perfect compliance with the Law, we would still only be unworthy servants. Our giving to the Lord’s work in the church is a sign that we recognize our role as servants. Furthermore, we give because we recognize our own need for that work of the Lord in the church. And what a blessing it is to give to the church so that the ministry of His Word and Sacraments may reach all in our community.

Upcoming Service Dates to Know:

Join us for our upcoming special services as we give thanks and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ:

- **Thanksgiving Eve Service** – Wednesday, **November 27 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**

Come and worship with us as we celebrate the faithfulness of our God and the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

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.

Upcoming Choir Schedule – Fall & Christmas 2025

The choir will resume rehearsals this fall! Please join us on the following dates:

- **Sunday, Oct. 12** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Sunday, Oct. 19** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Sunday, Oct. 26** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am**, sing for service at **9:30 am**
- **Sunday, Dec. 14** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Sunday, Dec. 21** – Rehearsal at **8:30 am** in the café area
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24** – Rehearsal at **6:00 pm**, sing for the **7:00 pm** Christmas Eve service

Sheet music and rehearsal recordings will be available on the church website (*Ministries – Choir*) so you can review the music ahead of time. *Please plan your schedule to make yourself available to rehearse and sing.*

All are invited to sing in the choir – we need everyone!

For questions, please contact **Mark Howard, Choir Director** at (714) 423-6460 or markahoward@sbcglobal.net.

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</i>	Dominican Republic

<i>directly.</i>	
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 supports our local evangelist.

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 ~ **Miles & Jackie Johnson** – Youth Directors

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

Date	Altar Team	Ushers/Greeter	Elders on Duty	Welcome Table	Livestream
<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>
1st Sunday 10/5/2025	Nina Mueller	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 10/12/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Lange	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 10/19/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 10/26/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	<i>Mike Padilla (Help Needed)</i>	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

1st Sunday 10/5/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2nd Sunday 10/12/2025	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon
3rd Sunday 10/19/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 10/26/2025	Johnsons, Daisy Minter