

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

***Ninth Sunday After Pentecost***  
**Sunday, August 10, 2025 – 9:30 am**  
**Divine Service**

**Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller, Ph.D.**

**Organist: Gerald Dahlin**

**Choir Director: Mark Howard**

**Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson**

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

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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
- Wednesday Bible Studies on summer hiatus.

**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:**

Largo – Dvorak

## **Greeting**

**P** Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,

**C** **the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

- Psalm 33:12

## 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:**

**555 Salvation unto Us Has Come**

*(stanzas 1–5)*

# Kyrie

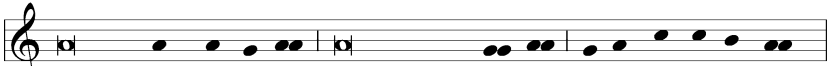
LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



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



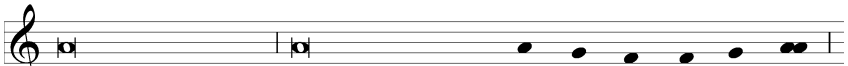
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



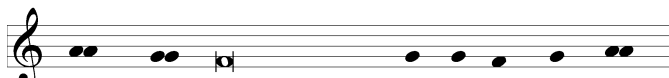
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



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



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### This Is the Feast

LSB 171



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



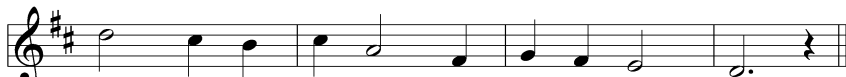
**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

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

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

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

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 15:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my



**P** Our soul waits | for the LORD,\*

he is our help | and our shield.

**G** For our heart is | glad in him,\*

because we trust in his | holy name.

**P** Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be up- | on us,\*

even as we | hope in you.

**G** 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** Our soul waits | for the LORD,\*

he is our help | and our shield.

## Epistle

*Hebrews 11:1–16*

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>4</sup>By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants

as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

<sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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

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

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 173*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 12:22–34*

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

<sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that

you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

<sup>32</sup>"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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



*Sit*

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day:

### 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

*(stanzas 6–10)*

### Sermon

Proper 14: Faith, trust in God, and the call to live a life of grace and integrity

“You Don’t Have a Care in the World”

Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: When I was a little boy, my mother would say, “Don’t be in a hurry to grow up, because you don’t have a care in the world.”

- A. Children have a different view and in a healthy environment, they just trust.
- B. So, Jesus commends their example to us.
- C. They are spared of having developed *reason*.
- D. The older we get the more we ask, “Why?”
- E. It’s okay to ask, but “why” should never overtake “trust”
- F. We have been going through Job in our daily devotions. Job’s three friends plus the young man had said more than God could listen to anymore, so at Job 38:2, God came and said, **“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”**
- G. And boy, do we try!
  - 1. Through science which dismisses faith out of hand

But Robert Jastrow, the first chairman of NASA’s Lunar Exploration Committee though he held to agnosticism [a position which straddles the

fence on God, could not shake his conviction that the universe had a beginning] wrote, “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” (God and the Astronomers, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1992, page 106)

2. Through various occult practices giving credence to astrology, palm reading, past lives, and other natural phenomenon. It is important to have a sense of how Scripture addresses these: God permits these to contain some seeming legitimacy. Consider: Pharaoh’s magicians seemed to possess some level of dark power. Understand: Satan uses some real things that bring real results to pull you in. But in the end, it leads to a big lie and disastrous results.
3. Through of course through good ‘ol fashioned reason when reason is permitted to go too far and get too high. The difference between the magisterial use of reason and the ministerial use of reason.

Part I: Today’s Scripture readings are about faith in the heart, personal faith; the faith that the Holy Spirit creates in us through the Word so that we trust in Jesus. Such faith in your heart...

- A. Knows God’s universal grace for sinners through Christ.
- B. Assents to this universal grace applied personally to oneself.
- C. Desires this grace out of feeling sin’s great burden; seeks and prays for God’s help through the benefits of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- D. Trusts that the benefits of the Gospel have been personally received through God’s Word and continues to trust even in the face of great trials and burdens.
- E. Experiences “the joy of the Spirit” so that one feels “the new life and joy in God, happily rest[ing] in the promise of grace, even under the cross.”

--Martin Chemnitz, *Loci Theologici II*, trans., J.A.O. Preus (CPH, 502)

Part II: On the Way out to Radio Shack, circa ’87-’88.

- A. Back from seminary, and off to my part-time job at Radio Shack.
- B. Traci said we were coming up short to cover our monthly bills.

- C. So, I prayed. Recall that two weeks ago, I clarified that prayer has no power in and of itself, as if reciting a magic formula; or generating power through a mysterious mantra, but prayer relies and trusts on God and **His promises**. What does God SAY? What does He PROMISE?

**Luke 12:27-31:** “<sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.”

- D. My Radio Shack commission that evening gave us exactly what we needed.
- E. It happened again that year. This time all I did was open my campus mailbox. Chuck DeVries who I met while in college serving his congregation in San Jose through summer youth ministry teams – now in heaven – had decided to sponsor me. He was my seminary patron. His gift that month gave us just what we needed.
- F. What the two events had in common though was it was just what we needed. God was teaching us. Consider this from Proverbs chapter 30:

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God proves true;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him...

<sup>7</sup> Two things I ask of you;  
deny them not to me before I die:

<sup>8</sup> Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is needful for me,

<sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you  
and say, “Who is the Lord?”  
or lest I be poor and steal  
and profane the name of my God.

- G. Agur wrote this Proverb by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Note that his prayer says, “give me neither poverty nor riches”
- H. It is good to just have enough and be content.

Part III: Abram was afraid about his future.

- A. How easy this is to do. Satan desires to use the future to trap us in fear.
- B. But God came to Abram and said at Genesis 15:1:

**“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:  
“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”**

- C. Similarly, Jesus said to His first-century disciples at Luke 12:32:

**“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”**

- D. And all of us can pray this prayer from Psalm 118:6a:

**“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.”**

- E. So, in the end what enabled Abram to replace his fear with faith?  
Answer: God’s Promise! Our Epistle ends at Hebrews 11:16, let’s look at the next three verses:

**“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,  
<sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”  
<sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead...”**



Conclusion: But Why Should God Listen To My Prayer As I Trust In His Promises?

1. God’s Omnipotent Kindness
2. God’s Unfailing Truthfulness
3. Christ’s Intercession As Our Mediator

#### 4. The Holy Spirit's Work

--JoHann Gerhard, *Meditations On Divine Mercy*, pages 21-26

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

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

**And 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.**

**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. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

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

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

**P** For faith in the wise and gracious will of God, and for power to turn from false belief in our own plans and natural powers, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For the proclamation of the Word, that it may prosper through the work of all pastors and church workers in their various callings; for those who are being called to the Lord's service and those preparing for church-work vocations; and for our seminaries and those who teach and learn God's Word therein, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For Christian fathers, that they, with faith like Abram, would prize the gift of their children and work in their lives for the good of generations yet unseen, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For our nation and those who lead us, that they may be endowed with wisdom and a good heart, seeking justice and showing mercy, especially on behalf of the unborn and those least able to defend themselves, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For the sick, that they would be delivered from suffering and know God's grace and the perfect consummation of hope and full healing of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For the Holy Spirit, that by His grace, those who recline at Christ's table this day would be enlightened by the Word and dressed in readiness for the coming of the Son of Man who girds Himself to serve them with His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord

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

**P** For a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in God's mercy, and a sincere love for the Lord and all our neighbors, that although we are not worthy of the least of His benefits, the Lord would accept our sacrifice of thanks, together with the offerings that we return to Him in faith, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** That we would not be fruitless or ungrateful but magnify God's grace and name throughout our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You worked the salvation of the world through the death of Your dear Son, and You work out Your holy purposes through the deaths of Your saints. Make us faithful unto death, and so receive the fulfillment of all Your promises; through the same 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:**

Toccata, Fiori musicale -- Girolamo Frescobaldi

*Stand*

## Offertory

LSB 176



**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 177



**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. 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 178



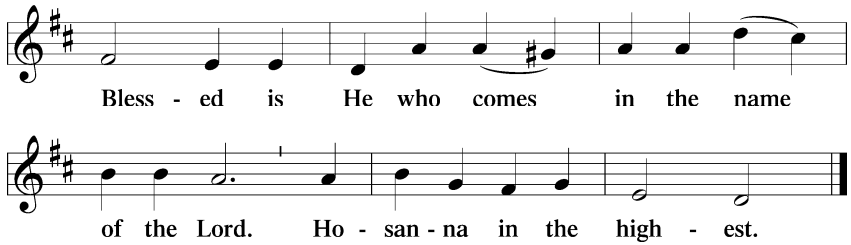
**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

- 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  $\text{†}$  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."

## Proclamation of Christ

- 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

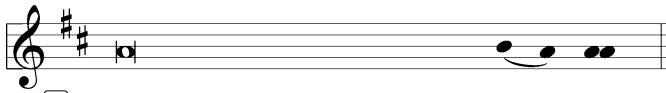
cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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 180



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



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 180



**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, grant us peace.

*Sit*

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymns:**

**733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**  
*(all stanzas)*

**748 I'm But a Stranger Here**  
*(all stanzas)*

**643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing**  
*(all stanzas)*

*Stand*

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 181*

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

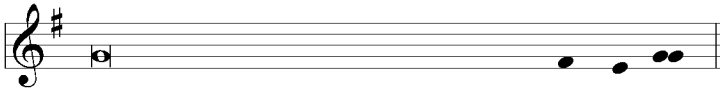
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You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



**C** A - men.

## Benediction

LSB 183



**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:

Psalm XIX -- Marcello

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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## Today:

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church:  
Congregational Growth Survey



### **Congregation Survey – Help Shape Our Future Worship Space**

We're exploring three options to accommodate our growing congregation and would love your input! Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey and share your thoughts. Your feedback will help guide our planning as we seek to faithfully grow together. The survey closes **Sunday, August 10 at midnight**. Scan the QR code to

participate:

### **Bible Study Continues This Sunday!**

Join Pastor Espinosa this Sunday at 11:00 AM, following Divine Service and a brief time of fellowship, as we continue our study through his new book, ***Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith***.

We'll pick up with the next section of the book. If you've already received a copy, please bring it with you. Extra copies are still available for anyone who needs one.

To support your learning, Pastor Espinosa will continue providing a PowerPoint presentation each week to highlight the chapter content and guide discussion.

Come grow in your faith and understanding as we explore this rich study together!

## Upcoming Choir Schedule

- for the rest of 2025

- **Sunday, Sept. 14:** rehearsal at 8:30am in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Sept. 21:** rehearsal at 8:30am in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Sept. 28:** rehearsal at 8:30am, sing for service at 9:30.
- **Sunday, Oct. 12:** rehearsal at 8:30am in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Oct. 19:** rehearsal at 8:30am in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Oct. 26:** rehearsal at 8:30am, sing for service at 9:30.
- **Sunday, Dec. 14:** rehearsal at 8:30am in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Dec. 21:** rehearsal at 8:30am in the cafe area.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24:** rehearsal at 6:00pm, sing for service at 7:00pm.



The sheet music and rehearsal recordings will be accessible on the church website (*Ministries-Choir*) so you can get familiar with the music.

*Please plan your schedule to make yourself available to rehearse and sing.*

***All are invited to sing in the choir! We need everyone!***

Contact Mark Howard, Choir Director, if you have any questions.  
(714) 423-6460 / [markahoward@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markahoward@sbcglobal.net)



### Giving Made Easy – Try Our New Online Giving Platform!

We've made it fast and easy to support the ministry at Saint Paul's through our new online giving system with Amplify. This secure platform allows you to set up one-time or recurring donations, all from your phone or computer.

You can even choose to give directly to causes close to your heart—like helping send our high school youth to *Higher Things* or supporting *Saint Paul's Family Bible Camp*.

Give today by scanning the QR code or visiting:

<https://giving.myamplify.io/app/giving/sain9267562>

Thank you for your continued generosity!

### This Week:


#### Men's Bible Study will Meet 8/12


Join Pastor Espinosa at Tad Kaput's home as we dive into Matthew 5. We meet at 6:00 PM. For the address and previous study materials, please speak with Pastor Espinosa.

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


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

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

 **Need a boost of faith each day?**

 Catch daily devotionals on:

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

 Prefer devotionals by email?

Just send a quick note to [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com) and we'll get you added to the list!

Let's keep growing—together in Christ—one day, one verse at a time.

## General Announcements

### Retreat Updates:

The **Women's Retreat** has been **postponed** — we are hoping to find a new date later this year and will keep you updated as plans develop.

### Men's Retreat Update

The Men's Retreat originally scheduled for **September 19–21** has been **postponed**, and we are now looking at potential dates in the **spring**.

We are currently **gauging interest**—in order to move forward, we would need at least **30 men to sign up**.

If you would be interested in attending a spring retreat, please let us know by emailing:

 [\*\*office@saintpaulsirvine.com\*\*](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com)

Thank you for your input and support as we plan this special time of fellowship and renewal!

### The Bulletin Board

#### Life Quote: August 10

“Our Lord Jesus Christ assures us that the Heavenly Father makes His love for our kind evident in sunshine and rainfall (Matthew 5:45) along with sparrows and lilies (Matthew 6:25-33). So, we may expect to learn about the sanctity of every human life not only from His Word but also from His world.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

#### Weekly Stewardship Message: August 10 – Trinity 8

Matthew 7:17 – “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit.” As fruit follows from a good tree, so our good works flow from the cleansing the Lord has given us in Holy Baptism. In Baptism we have a new identity — we are the “new man in Christ” as St. Paul says. Of course, on this side of glory we still have the world, the devil and the flesh to wrestle with. That means that our growth in sanctification is a struggle. So if it's sometimes a struggle for you

to be generous — don't give up! Keep fighting the good fight of faith, trusting in your Lord and His provision.

### 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.

### Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers for **Ushers, Altar Guild, Welcome Table, Transportation Services, and Visiting Shut-Ins**. If interested, please contact **Mark Kuntz**. We also need help with **Livestream, Family Sunday School, Quilting & Fellowship Team**. Please reach out to [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com) if you can assist.

Thank you for serving our congregation!

### Words of Evangelism: Ch. 8 – This is Personal

Welcome from your Evangelism Committee. Know brothers and sisters in Christ that God's Word is personal because it applies to all. We make it personal to others by declaring it to be for "you." God's wrath and judgment applies to all and all people should justly be terrified of it. But, the Gospel is the power of

salvation for everyone who believes. (Rom 1:16) The Gospel, salvation through Jesus Christ, applies to all who will receive it. We convey this message to others by declaring it to be for them, by declaring it to be for "you."

St. Paul aptly shows us God's wrath applies to all. He writes, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." All ungodliness and unrighteousness accounts for all sins. Whether they be sins of thought, word, and deed or sins willfully committed or sins

committed in weakness, God's wrath is against all of them, every single one. If we are foolish enough to think that we are perfect and have no ungodliness and unrighteousness in us, Paul tells us straight up, "None is righteous, no not one."

(Rom 3:10) Lest this not be enough, Paul continues, "For all have sinned and

fall short of the glory of God." (Rom 3:23) All people have sinned. You have. I have. We all fall short and justly deserve God's wrath.

But, there is hope for us in Jesus Christ our Savior. Just as God's wrath applies to all, so too does his Gospel. For all who will receive it, for all who will trust in it and cleave to it, God promises eternal life. Through Christ's death and

suffering, "we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Heb 10:10) Our God "has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Is 53:6) All people, regardless of race or ethnicity or gender, for all time in

all places have had their sins paid for by the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus has taken your sins upon himself so that you may live, so that I may live, and so that all may live. It is truly "the power of salvation" for all people, "for everyone who believes." (Rom 1:16) God desires that all people

hear this Word and Gospel because he "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim 2:4) Therefore us Christians should carry the message of God's saving grace through Christ to all the corners of the

Earth.

But, what does it look like to declare the Gospel to be for you? Paul did it and risked his life to do it. Even while imprisoned, Paul spoke the Gospel. When a jailer asked how he might be saved, Paul told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:31) To the Romans,

Paul said, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom 10:9) Paul declared to the jailer and to the Romans that Jesus was for him and

for them, but it is also for your neighbors, all people in your life, and for "you." When sharing the Gospel with others, tell them it is for them. Tell them it is for "you."

Lord God Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you. We confess that all of us have committed all sorts of ungodliness and unrighteousness and deserve your wrath. But, for the sake of the once for all

sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord, please forgive us. Remember your promise that all people who believe in your Son will be saved. We know that you desire all people to be saved. So, inspire us, o Lord, to declare the Law and Gospel to all people in all places. Put the words into our mouth, o Lord, so that your

Gospel becomes personal. In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.

**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 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

**Mark Kuntz** – Presiding Elder ~ **Renee Mott** – Fellowship Director ~ **Bradley Hustad** – Evangelism Director

**Jacob Thornblad** – Education Director ~ **Miles & Jackie Johnson** – Youth Directors

**Saint Paul’s Elders**

**Mark Kuntz** (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~ **John Church** ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke**

**Michael Padilla** ~ **Steve Fischer** ~ **Ricky Cuenca** ~ **Alex Padilla**

## **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>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
2nd Sunday 8/10/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 8/17/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 8/24/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
5th Sunday 8/31/2025	Mei Kuntz	<b>Help Needed</b>	Bryan Kilduff	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.

## **FELLOWSHIP ROTATION**

2nd Sunday 8/10/2025	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon
3rd Sunday 8/17/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 8/24/2025	Hines Family, Daisy Minter
5th Sunday 8/31/2025	Julie Stiegemeyer, Jackie Johnson