

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

Sunday, June 15, 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

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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 11:00 am
- Wednesday Bible Studies at 10 am and 7:15 pm in our church offices.
 - You may come in person or join us via TEAMS fully interactive.

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

Prelude in Eb -- JS Bach

Greeting

- P** O LORD, our LORD,
C how majestic is your name in all the earth!

- Psalm 8:9

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** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn:

498 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

(sts. 1, 6-7)

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

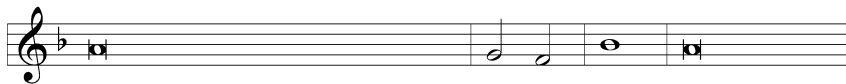
LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



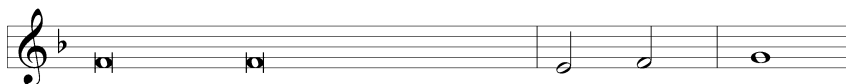
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

¹Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

²On the heights beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;

³beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

⁴“To you, O men, I call,
and my cry is to the children of man. . . .

²²“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of old.

²³Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,

²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields,
or the first of the dust of the world.

²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,

²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman,

and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,

³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 8; antiphon: v. 9



P O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the | heavens.

C **Out of the mouth of babes and infants,**
you have established strength because | of your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.

P When I look at your heavens, the work of your | fingers,*
the moon and the stars, which you have | set in place,

C **what is man that you are mind- | ful of him,***
and the son of man that you | care for him?

P Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

C **You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;***
you have put all things under | his feet,

P all sheep and | oxen,*
and also the beasts | of the field,

C **the birds of the heavens, and the fish | of the sea,***
whatever passes along the paths | of the seas.

P O | LORD, our Lord,*
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

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

P O | LORD, our Lord,*

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

Second Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

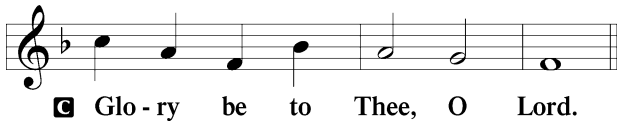
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

John 8:48–59

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.



⁴⁸The Jews answered [Jesus], "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Athanasian Creed

ALL: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

PASTOR: And the catholic faith is this,
that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing
the persons nor dividing the substance.

MEN: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is
another.

WOMEN: But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is
one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

**ALL: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;
the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.
And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one
Uncreated and one Infinite.
In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy
Spirit almighty;
and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.
So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.
So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**

PASTOR: Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each
distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion
to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

MEN: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

WOMEN: The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

**ALL: The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor
created nor begotten, but proceeding.**

PASTOR: Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons;
one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less
than another;

but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so
that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in
Trinity is to be worshipped.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

MEN: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

WOMEN: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

ALL: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

504 Father Most Holy

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Love, Love, Love Beginning with The Father"

Introduction: Analogies Galore (Tertullian, Patrick), Trinity Diagram, Arithmetic, and WHO vs. WHAT, etc. (Always Avoid "PARTS")

But nothing matches the eloquence of *relationship* to which Augustine helped crystalize.

Part I: The Emphasis is LOVE

- A. John 3:16: "God loved the world IN THIS WAY"
- B. The highest love is *agape* (not desire, not friendship, not affection, but *sacrifice*)
- C. We know this is the highest love, but it isn't the one sinners want to give, esp in a culture all about self-gratification
- D. But if anyone wants to know the Heavenly Father, then one can begin with this love, *but where do we see this?*

Part II: Only Son Reveals the Father

St. Matthew 11:27: "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

1st John 2:23: "No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also."

- A. Incarnation
- B. 33 years
- C. Suffering and Death

The highest love is seen in Christ all over the place.

Part III: Only the Holy Spirit Reveals the Son

- A. He teaches us relationship:
 - 1. That we may pray to the Father
 - 2. That we are in the Son
 - 3. That we are given the Holy Spirit

B. And this is what families need: the first estate...without strong families there will not be a strong church

C. It begins with fathers

D. What is the best thing a father can show? Sacrificial Love
[back to the children's message: like a shepherd who sacrifices with rod and staff]

Conclusion: The Holy Trinity...not a just doctrine, but your assurance that you are loved, with the greatest love.

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

Offering:

All the Saints Adore Thee -- Jeffrey Blersch

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving for our redemption in Jesus Christ, for the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing us to faith, and for adoption as God's children through Baptism, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the gift of the Holy Spirit, that we may know the Word of the Lord and keep it in faith through all the days of our earthly pilgrimage until we are joined with faithful Abraham, with patriarch, prophet, apostle and evangelist, in the presence of the Lord forevermore, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For parents and children, that they would be given the courage to love as God has loved us and be united in their common life by the Holy Spirit to know Jesus and serve Him; and that the Lord would bless the single with chastity, protect the orphan and defend the helpless, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may render due honor to our rulers, while faithfully serving Christ, by whom all kings reign, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the ailing, the dying, all those in any need [*especially* _____] and those we name in our hearts [*brief silence*], that God would grant them healing and patience in the midst of their afflictions, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faithful use of the Lord's gifts, that we may be drawn frequently to the Lord's table in true repentance to taste and see that the Lord is good, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For reform and renewal by the Word and Spirit, that where we lack love we may be built up in Christ and where we are distracted we would be given a single focus on our Lord Jesus, so that at last we may be found faithful and be reunited with those who have gone before us to the Lord's nearer presence, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of Your absolution over all their shortcomings. Gather us together with all our fathers to Your eternal household; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+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 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. 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 195



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

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

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

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † bod - y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My † blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

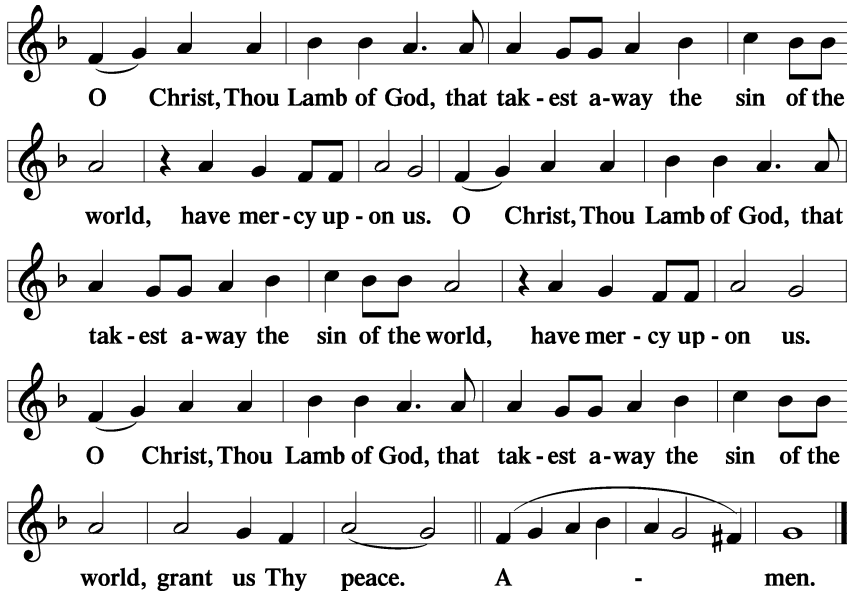
Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- G** Amen.

Distribution Hymns:

717 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

(all stanzas)

512 At the Name of Jesus

(all stanzas)

876 O Blessed, Holy Trinity

(all stanzas)

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

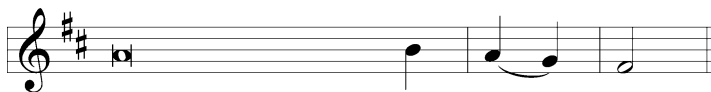
LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

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



C A - men.



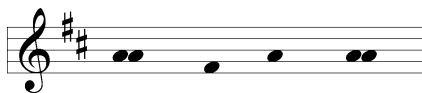
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



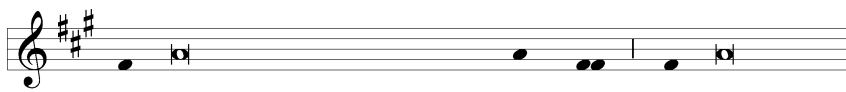
A Bless we the Lord.



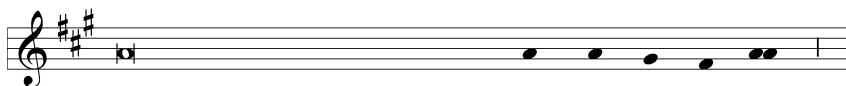
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

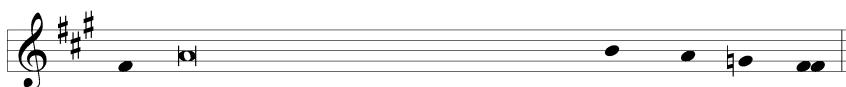
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Postlude:

Holy, Holy, Holy -- Jeffrey Blersch

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

“Journey Through the Parables” Will Meet Today

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to study Parable #25, “Banquet for the Poor.” Please join us after the service and a brief fellowship (around 11 a.m.) for Bible study and an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the Scriptures.

This week:

Wednesday Bible Studies are Back!!

We’re excited to announce that our **Wednesday Bible Studies** have returned and will be finishing up **Hebrews Chapter 13!** Join us as we explore the powerful testimonies of faith that continue to inspire and encourage believers today.

Study times: 10:00 AM & 7:15 PM (In Person & on Microsoft Teams)

All are welcome! Whether you prefer to meet in person or join virtually, we’d love to have you there. For more information or to access the virtual study, please contact **Pastor Espinosa** at **revdrespinosa@saintpaulsirvine.com**

Let’s grow together in faith — we hope to see you there!

General Announcements

Guess What? Pastor Espinosa's New Book Is Here!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news—Pastor Espinosa's latest book, *Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith*, has just been released!

It's now available in paperback, and Kindle the publisher's site: <https://wipfandstock.com/9798385244485/contending-for-christ-through-the-creed>

The hardback edition is available on Amazon: [Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith: Espinosa, Alfonso, Siemon-Netto, Uwe: 9798385244461](https://www.amazon.com/Contending-for-Christ-Through-the-Creed-Apologetics-for-Loving-Answers-on-the-Christian-Faith-Espinosa-Alfonso-Siemon-Netto-Uwe/dp/9798385244461): Amazon.com: Books

But here's the fun part: **we'll soon have discounted paperback copies right here at Saint Paul's**, and by picking one up, you can help support our high school youth group as they prepare to travel to the Higher Things Conference in Michigan this July!

For a **donation of any amount**, Pastor Espinosa will personally sign your copy in classic black ink. For larger donations (price point TBD), he'll autograph your book in **gold ink**—because why not make it fancy? So whether you grab a copy for yourself, a neighbor, or tuck one aside as a gift, it's a great way to dig deeper into the faith *and* lift up our youth at the same time.

Keep an eye out—details about our special Signing Day are coming soon!

Pastor Espinosa will also be featured in Issues, etc. Throughout the week discussing the book, check it out here: [Home - Issues, Etc.](#)

Saint Paul's Family Day Camp

July 21–25 | Irvine Regional Park | Party Pavilion D

We're excited to invite you to **Saint Paul's Family Bible Camp**, formerly known as Vacation Bible School (VBS)! This special week will take place **July 21–25 at Irvine Regional Park**, near the Irvine Park Railroad at **Party Pavilion D** (1 Irvine Park Rd, Orange, CA 92869).

Pastor Espinosa shares:

“Saint Paul's Family Bible Camp is a chance for us to come together as a family of God. We will be on a journey of faith in Jesus and His teaching on the great ‘I Am’ statements of St. John's Gospel. This is a chance for all of us to be together with the little children to sing and pray, break bread and play, take in the puppets, and praise the Lord. All ages are encouraged to come so that our children can see what it means to be a church in Christ.”

Whether you're bringing your family to participate or looking for a meaningful way to serve as a volunteer, **we would love for you to be part of it!**

To receive updates or express interest in volunteering, please contact **Jackie Johnson 714-421-8389** or email **office@stpaulsirvine.org** (or reply to this announcement if shared electronically). More details coming soon — stay tuned!

Author Spotlight

We are blessed to have Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto in our congregation. He is an accomplished and gifted scholar and author. Consider ordering one of his books and ask for his autograph! We are blessed to have Uwe and Karin as members of our church family!

– Pastor Espinosa

Books:

- *Siemon-Netto, Uwe (1990). [The Acquittal of God: a theology for Vietnam veterans](#). New York: [Pilgrim Press](#). ISBN 0-8298-0833-7.*
- *The Fabricated Luther: the rise and fall of the Shirer myth*. St. Louis: [Concordia Publishing House](#), 1995; ISBN 0-570-04800-1.
- *Luther als Wegbereiter Hitlers? Zur Geschichte eines Vorurteils*. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 1993; ISBN 3-579-02203-2.
- *One incarnate truth: Christianity's answer to spiritual chaos*. [Concordia Publishing House](#), 2002; ISBN 0758602774.
- *Duc: A reporter's love for the wounded people of Vietnam*. [Amazon](#), 2013; ISBN 978-1482692808 and ISBN 1482692805.
- *On the brink: the myth of German anti-Americanism*. Washington, D.C.: [Ethics and Public Policy Center](#), 1982; ISBN 0-89633-056-7.
- *Duc, der Deutsche. Mein Vietnam, Warum die Falschen siegten*. Basel: Brunnen-Verlag. 2014; ISBN 978-3-7655-2024-2.
- *(2015). Triumph of the absurd: a reporter's love for the abandoned people of Vietnam*. ISBN 978-1-945500-00-8.
- *Griewatsch. Der Lümmel aus dem Leipziger Luftschuttkeller*. Basel: fontis, 2015; ISBN 978-3-03848-038-9.
- *Luther. Lehrmeister des Widerstandes*, Basel: fontis, 2016. ISBN 978-3-03848-092-1.
- *Luther manipulé. Contre le mythe du réformateur, "fourrier de Hitler"*. Paris: Indes Savantes, 2017; ISBN 978-2-84654-456-6

- *Urchin at War. The tale of a Leipzig rascal and his Lutheran granny under bombs in Nazi Germany.* Irvine: 2021; [ISBN 978-1-94896-958-1](#)

WE WANT YOU!

Summer Men's Chorus



Every man of the congregation is invited!

If you **sing** hymns in church, **sing** in the shower, **sing** along with the radio in the car, we invite you to **sing** with us.

Schedule:

- **Sunday, July 6:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, July 13:** pre-service rehearsal at **8:30am** in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, July 13:** sing for service at **9:30am**.

The sheet music and recordings are on the church website. Please take a look/listen and learn the two songs as much as you can. If you're not sure what part to sing, try them all and see what is comfortable for you. We'll figure it out at rehearsal. See you there!

Mark Howard, Choir Director (markahoward@sbcglobal.net)

St. Paul Lutheran Church Offerings Report Month and Year-to-Date May 2025

	Actual	Budgeted	YTD	Budgeted
General Offerings	\$ 18,999	\$ 22,300	\$ 97,811	\$ 117,100
Other Offerings	\$ 122	\$ 137	\$ 553	\$ 686
Total Reg Offerings	\$ 19,121	\$ 22,437	\$ 98,364	\$ 117,786
Other Offerings (not budgeted)				
Building Fund	\$ 342		\$ 1,026	
Classical Study	\$ -		\$ 8,650	

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: June 15

“You have a higher purpose than living for yourself. Your work is His. You live for the one who died and rose for you. You share the good news about Him. That’s how God grows His family, adding branches to His tree. You get to be part of this family—a family with a rich past and a glorious future.”
Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Weekly Stewardship Message: June 15 – Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:3 – “And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’ ” Three times the angels cry out: “Holy, holy, holy!” It is an indication of the three-ness in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the Name into which we are baptized. We have been made a part of God’s family and are now called to live lives that are in harmony with this new family. We are to be godly and live in God’s image. As God is loving, kind and generous, so also are we called to be.

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the Kuntz family's home on **Saturday, June 28th** at 6pm. St. Paul’s now has two *The Chosen* Bible Study groups that meet once per month. If you are interested in the next meeting, please speak to Pastor.

Mercy Team Needs Your Help!

A Concordia/OLu family is looking to rent a home starting Aug 1 as they have been informed that their rental property is being sold from under them. They are seeking a home that would have a minimum of 3 bed/2 bath and would be willing to have tenants with dogs.

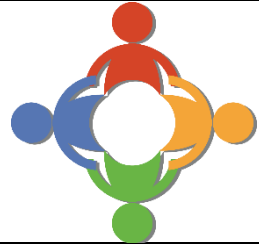
If you are aware of anyone that can assist them in looking or has a place for rent, please feel free to email Bret Taylor at bret.taylor@cui.edu or speak to Pastor Espinosa.

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!



Upcoming Event Dates:

- **Saint Paul’s Family Day Camp:** July 21st –25th

Saint Paul’s Family Day Camp will be held this summer at Irvine Park. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Jackie or Miles Johnson.

- **Higher Things Conference:** July 29th –August 1st

The mission of Higher Things is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. St. Paul’s will be taking a group of young adults to the conference at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. For more information, please talk to Pastor Espinosa.

- **Women’s Retreat:** August 9th

Saint Paul’s first women’s retreat will be held as a daytime event in Dana Point. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, “The Power of Confession” Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa or Laura Miller if you would like to attend or get more information.

- **Men’s Retreat:** September 26th- 28th

Saint Paul’s men’s retreat will be held at the same “Campus by the Sea” on Catalina Island that it was last year. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, “The Power of Confession” Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa if you would like to attend or get more information.



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.



Daily Bible Devotionals – 2025

Join Pastor Espinosa in reading through the Holy Bible in 2025!

Follow along daily on:

- ✦ **Facebook:** @AlfonsoEspinosa
- ✦ **TikTok:** @alfonsoespinosa356
- ✦ **Instagram:** @alfonsoespinosa88

Let's rejoice as God strengthens our faith through His Word!

Want devotionals sent to your inbox? Please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com to be added to the list.

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 if you can assist.

Thank you for serving our congregation!

Words of Evangelism: Ch. 7 – Kindness, Gentleness, and Respect

Welcome from your Evangelism Committee. When we share our faith with others, we need to be patient, kind, and gentle with them. This is really nothing other than practicing the Golden Rule or the second table of the Commandments which we should be doing at all times anyway.

Many of you may remember the Golden Rule taught in school during your youth. Treat others how you want to be treated. If you remember this from the public school system, then you may not know that the Golden Rule originates from God's Word. Concerning the Golden Rule, Christ said this, "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them." Christ described the Golden Rule as "the Law and the Prophets." (Mt 7:12) It is a summary of the second table of the Ten Commandments, commandments four through ten.

Elsewhere in Scripture, Jesus was asked what the most important Commandments are. Jesus replied that the first great Commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. (Mk 12:30) He went on to describe a second great Commandment. Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mk 12:31) Lest we think that somehow the Golden Rule or the second great Commandment does not apply to non-believers or non-Christians, we are told "to have mercy on those who doubt." (Jude 22) At all times in our daily lives when interacting with other people, we would do well to remember the second great Commandment.

In our weakness, we know that sometimes we fail to live by this great Commandment. Without knowing it, we lose patience and in a

moment of anger, harsh words come out of our lips. If we associate with someone long enough, we will eventually slip up. But, if we slip up too often, we know this will not spell good for our relationship with that person. John Gottmann, an American psychologist, proposes a magic ratio regarding these interactions. He says that we must have five good interactions for every negative interaction if we want to build and sustain healthy relationships with others.

In order to be successful at sharing the Gospel, we will have to build relationships with others. If we do not build and sustain those relationships, we may never get the opportunity to share the Gospel. People will be unlikely to want to associate with us altogether if we are rude, impatient, and condescending. Peter tells us about sharing the Word, “Honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Pt 3:15) Remembering the Golden Rule can help us tell the Gospel to others with gentleness and respect.

Lord God, we confess that we are imperfect and that we sometimes act poorly towards others. In our weakness, Lord, we become defensive, angry, and full of contempt. Forgive us, o Lord, when we act this way. Be with us, o God, and widen our hearts so that we may treat others with patience, kindness, gentleness, and respect. O Lord, help us, especially remain vigilant at acting out your second great Commandment when sharing your Gospel with others. In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.

Please Pray for our Missionaries, Council Members & Elders

Missionaries Supported by St. Paul’s

(Financial gifts given annually to the national synod)

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

Missionary Friends

(Non-Financial Support)

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: tirzah.krey@lcms.org	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

If you are interested in mailing a letter or giving a donation directly to our missionaries, please send mail directly to the LCMS with the specific Missionaries name in the attention line:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ATTN: (enter missionaries name here)

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Local Evangelism Support: Rev. Mark Jasa – St. Paul’s supports our local evangelist.

St. 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

St. 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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/ Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Entrance Area</u>	<u>Livestrea m</u>
<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>
3rd Sunday 6/15/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 6/22/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
5 th Sunday 6/29/2025	Mei Kuntz	Mark Kuntz Miles Johnson	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 7/6/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeye r	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 7/13/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

3 rd Sunday 6/15/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th Sunday 6/22/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Liana Padilla
5 th Sunday 06/29/2025	Liana Padilla, Johnson's
1st Sunday 7/6/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 7/13/2025	Espinosa's, Ann Marie Hines

If you are a volunteer and believe this schedule does not accurately reflect your assigned service days or would like to update an announcement, please email Jackie at office@saintpaulsirvine.com.