

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

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 25, 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

New Member Sunday: Welcome Michael & Ellen Lange!

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Mission

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

Vision

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

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am. Adult Bible Study 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: Patita on "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"
—Kevin Hildebrand

Greeting

P May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make his face to shine up- | on us,

C **Let the peoples praise you, | O God;***
let all the peoples | praise you!

- Psalm 67:1;3

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn: 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

(stanzas 1-4)

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



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



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



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



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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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

First Reading

Acts 16:9–15

⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 67; antiphon: v. 3



P Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!

May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make his face to shine up- | on us,

G **that your way may be | known on earth,***
your saving power among all | nations.

P Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!

C **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,***
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations up- | on earth.

P Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!

C **The earth has yielded its | increase;*
God, our God, shall | bless us.**

P God shall | bless us;*
let all the ends of the earth | fear him!

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 Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!

Epistle

Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



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



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



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



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

Holy Gospel

John 16:23-33

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

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

²³[Jesus said:] "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

²⁹His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God."

³¹Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming,

indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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 \ddagger of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Reception of Members by Transfer

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.
- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
- R** *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?
- R** *I will, with the help of God.*
- P** Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation.

Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:

P The grace of our † Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C Amen.

The new members return to their places.

Hymn of the Day: 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
(stanzas 5-10)

Sermon

“Ask”

(John 16:23-24)

Pastor Espinosa

23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Here's an axiom, a truism: "If I knew, I wouldn't be asking." Makes sense. This is the sense of the first half of John 16, verse 23. This kind of asking is the asking that is trying to figure something out. This asking is attempting to connect the dots, but not just about anything, but specifically about knowing Jesus Christ: knowing just

who He is and what He has done, is doing, and will do for us.

Jesus told His first-century disciples – and He speaks to all of you this morning, His 21st century disciples – that “In that day” ... those first century disciples wouldn’t be asking those kinds of questions of Jesus, and the principle applies to us today as children of God: we don’t have to ask those kinds of questions, because we now know.

Having said this I had better say a little more to make sense of what I just said. First, what is “in that day”? It is not a particular day, but a period of time. Here, the word “day” is used as when you hear the expression, “Back in the day of my grandfather.” Again, it refers to a period of time.

What is that period? It is the period of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ who reigns over all things.

When you know Jesus dear Christians as the Risen Victor over sin, the world, the devil, and death, then the dots come together when it comes to knowing all about the King of Kings, the Savior, and your Savior. You know who He is: the very Son of God, your Champion, your Good Shepherd, your Risen LORD, the Resurrection and the Life, etc. He is yours and you are His. And you know what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do.

He has washed away your sins. In the eyes of God, your sins are GONE. He currently keeps you in the palm of His hand, so that you have nothing to fear; and He will come again in glory. You know what to expect. There is no need to fear the future. On the last day, you will be able to confidently lift-up your head and see your salvation coming near. It’s all good, so we are past those basic informational questions about Jesus.

1. Who is Jesus? Answer: He is my Savior!

2. What did He do? He came to give His life for you, so that your Heavenly Father would consider you and treat you like His very Son, Jesus. That is how God loves you now! This, you know even if you still learning about the details.

These questions have been answered. You don’t need to ask about such things anymore. Is God for you on account of Christ? You bet He is. There is no need to ask.

I can relate to this in many ways through lesser examples, but

examples that are still very important. I don't have to ask my wife if she loves me. I know she does. I don't have to wonder if I love my children. I know I do. In fact, I don't even have to wonder if the cute low "growl" my white golden retriever really means that she's thinking about attacking me. Nope! It means she's ready for affection and attention. *There are things we just know now.*

He is Risen! We know the implications. Nothing is too hard for Him. He is for me. I don't have to live in fear. Not even death could keep Him down.

"Is God REALLY for me?" Answer: YES! You don't have to ask. Christ has defeated all that stands against you, even death! You don't have to ask: "Does God really love me?" Answer: YES! You don't have to ask. Jesus had guaranteed it. You know already know the answer to St. Paul's rhetorical question in Romans 8:31: "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" You know. You don't have to ask.

This is what Jesus meant when He told His first disciples (and what He means when He speaks to us today through His Word): "**In that day you will ask nothing of me.**" **Jesus wasn't putting them down nor is He putting us down ...as if He were getting on our case! No! But rather: Christ is Risen! I know He's for me!** That's why we aren't asking Him certain questions anymore. There is no need. You have the Holy Spirit now; Jesus makes sure that you know how much God loves you.

But then brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus switches gears. In the second half of verse 23 He uses the word "ask" and two times again in verse 24, ***in a different way.***

This second kind of asking is commanded by God. And it is an asking in prayer; it is an asking that keeps asking (a present durative imperative): "from now on keep asking for all you need, in my name." (Lenski, p. 1101) This is not a suggestion, recommendation, nor invitation, but is *commanded* of us by God: be constantly, perpetually, asking and asking and asking.

But it's one of those commands that we don't have to be coerced into doing. It is rather a command that we want to do and love to do. It's a good and holy DIVINE imperative command that leads to blessings overflowing.

OK, but asking for what? Well, here is the blanket guide: the LORD says ask **“in my name” ... so we do not ask just for anything willy nilly, but whatever category of things we are asking for in His command are things in conformity with faith in Christ, according to His will, His Name, and His promises to us.**

When we are constantly asking this way, what are we really doing? By the grace of God, we are living in faith. We are treating God like we KNOW that He absolutely loves us and is on our side. Faith keeps us knowing this even when we see hard times in the world around us, and even when these hard times spill into our own lives. God uses this to urge us to come to Him in prayer in the Name of Jesus and ask with fervent expectation that He will answer when we pray what He wants us to pray for.

When a child knows that you love her, she will not hesitate to ask according to what she knows what she can ask for. Why is she so bold? Because she knows she is loved. She knows her parent is for her! So, she asks and asks and asks. She knows she is a beloved child.

The LORD wants you to be constantly asking the Father this way in Jesus' Name! The LORD says, “Here, take my Name with you when you come before Abba, Father, and ask and ask and ask...and when He hears my Name – the Name of His only-begotten Son and sees your faith that holds to me, the Father will grant your request!” This is an unqualified promise in the context of what I have just explained. We see it throughout St. John's Gospel:

John 14:13: “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

John 14:14: “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

John 15:7: “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 15:16: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

But in our Gospel today at John 16:24, the LORD adds this additional element: He commands us to ask this way ... WHY?

Answer: "... that your joy may be full." J. Ramsey Michaels (NICNT p. 847) writes:

"The transition from knowledge to joy "is accomplished only through prayer."

"Prayer 'in his name' will be answered because it is the prayer of those who know him, and do not have to be told what he would want." (Ibid)

When we pray this way, we are confident in our relationship with the LORD. We know He is for us, and now He promises that as we are faithful to His command to ask and ask and ask for all that is consistent with His will and Name, He will give it to us. What does such a relationship lead to? Joy!

God wants us to know joy even amid our problems and conflicts.

Galatians 5:22 says, "The fruit of the Spirit is ... joy." Luther: By this we should learn that God does not want people to be sad and that He hates sad thoughts and sayings, and doctrines which oppress us. He makes our hearts joyful. For He did not send His Son to make us sad, but to make us glad. This is why the prophets and apostles and the Lord Christ Himself admonishes us and even commands us at all times to be joyful and of good cheer (as in Zechariah ix. 9), 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem', and many times in the Psalms, 'Let us rejoice in the Lord', and St. Paul in Philippians (iv. 4), 'Rejoice in the Lord always'; and Christ (Luke x. 20), 'Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven'. Where there is this joy of the Spirit there is a dear joy in the heart through faith in Christ, and we know of a certainty that He is our Saviour and High Priest, and this joy is seen in the things we say and do." (Commentary on the Prophet Jonah quoted in *Day by Day We Magnify Thee*, p. 193)

Luther also addressed our Gospel verse directly: *"Therefore this passage [John 16:24] ... calls for help and strength that we may at last be given a pure, whole, and perfect joy. You must not seek it in yourself or within this world, for its joy is impure and in the end death takes it all way. But seek it in prayer, says Christ, asking in My Name that for which I came into the world and called you and ordained you may come to pass, that God's Name and Kingdom and Will may be glorified in all the world...."* (Exposition of John, xvi

also quoted in *Day by Day We Magnify Thee*, p. 195)

And this joy dear Christians comes when He realizes that God, the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth is hearing and listening and answering you. He grants these petitions and when we experience it, we are joyful that God's Name and Kingdom shines through us ... what a glorious honor and blessing; what a great privilege and mission!

What are examples of such petitions in the Name of Jesus?

- 1) Help for your family.
- 2) Blessing for faithfulness to God.
- 3) Help for your conscience and the thoughts you have.
- 4) Blessing to love those who are hard to love, especially your enemies.
- 5) Help for provision, resources to cover your needs.
- 6) Blessing for wisdom to know which way to go when you are confronted with challenging situations.
- 7) Help to love your spouse, your children, and your parents.
- 8) Blessing to be able to serve others and share the Gospel with others.
- 9) Help for fruits of the Spirit to fill your life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).
- 10) Blessing for God to bless all your vocations like at and in your job that you may serve not as serving a boss, but as serving the LORD.
- 11) Help to see that trials are used by God for good and for the ability to see the bigger picture.
- 12) Blessing to remain faithful to the true God and not give into the false cultural gods of sex, money, power, and success.
- 13) Help to break away from addictions.
- 14) Blessing to learn to put on the full armor of God (the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, your feet shod with

the shoes of the Gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit).

15) Help to learn to pray.

16) Blessing to expand your knowledge of the Word.

17) Help to sleep and rest.

18) Blessing for energy and stamina to do God's work.

19) Help to find God's resources to help you, like a good doctor or counselor.

20) Blessing to be an active member of the congregation to strengthen the body of Christ here in this place.

21) Help to honor those you should honor.

22) Blessing to forgive those you should forgive.

23) Help against the demonic.

24) Blessing to be strong in the Lord and His mighty power.

25) Help to grow in skill, knowledge, wisdom, ability, and gifts so that you can glorify God and serve your neighbor.

26) Guidance in the face of an emergency.

There are many things *not* on the list, the things that serve sin, the world, and the devil. These things are out. These things we would never attach to the Name of Jesus. These things we stay away from. But as for the good things, pray! God commands it. And then receive! And then be joyful! This is what moves you from mere knowledge that God is for you, to living like you know when you keep asking Him to bless you and to help you, knowing that He desires that you keep coming back to Him over and over again because in Christ He loves you.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For hearts eager to pray to our heavenly Father for the good of our families, neighbors, rulers, brothers and sisters in Christ, pastors, and overseers, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the saving peace of Christ among the nations; for the Church here and throughout the world; and for those who serve her in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful women of the Church, that they would eagerly and wisely serve her ministry as faithful Lydia served the mission of St. Paul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For good leaders and government in this and every place; for police, emergency personnel and disaster-relief workers; and for the members of the armed forces who defend us, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For faith to cast our burdens upon our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, and to ask for His salvation in the midst of our terrors and trials, *[especially those of _____,]* let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may receive for our good the precious gifts of Christ's body and blood as we commune this day, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering:

Be Thou But Near -- JS Bach

+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

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



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



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



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



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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

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

Lord's Prayer

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

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

- 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:

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

(all stanzas)

773 Hear Us, Father, When We Pray

(all stanzas)

769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

(all stanzas)

490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

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

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \mp give you peace.

G Amen.

Postlude:

Rondeau -- JJ Mouret

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four 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 #22, “The Waiting Servants” from Luke 12:35-40. 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 continuing with **Hebrews Chapter 12**. 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!

Calling All Men: New Men’s Bible Study!

Pastor Espinosa will be hosting a Men’s Bible Study this **Thursday, May 29th, at 6:00 PM** at Tad Kaput’s home.

This study will focus on **Matthew Chapter 3**. Come join your brothers in Christ as we study God’s Word and deepen our faith together.

General Announcements

WE WANT YOU!

We're looking for a few good men to sing in a men's chorus.

We'd like to sing in a Sunday service this summer when the most men are available.

Every man of the congregation is invited! No choir singing experience is required. 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.

Please let me know if you are interested and what your schedule is like for this summer. There will be rehearsals before we sing.

Blessings,

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



Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Offerings Report Month and Year-to-Date April 2025

	Actual	Budgeted	YTD	Budgeted
General Offerings	\$22,963	\$22,300	\$78,812	\$94,800
Other Offerings	\$222	\$137	\$431	\$549
Total Reg Offerings	\$23,185	\$22,437	\$79,243	\$95,349
 Other Offerings(not budgeted)				
Building Fund	\$584		\$684	
Classical Study	\$-		\$8,650	

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: May 25

“We rightly honor our dead who are near to us in time, realizing this is but a passing phase of memory, that in another already-determined Time, all the graves shall be opened, and all shall rise to meet the Judge of the Living and the Dead, whose Kingdom shall have no end. Memory eternal.” *James M.*

*Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9 – “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’” God does all the saving of the Macedonians, but He does it through the ministry of St. Paul who was called to go and help them out. How is the Lord calling you to use your gifts for His work?

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@cu.edu or speak to Pastor Espinosa.

Thank You from the Quilting Team!

We are thrilled to share that **we’ve collected all the cardboard boxes we need**—thanks to your generous donations and support!

Your response was overwhelming, and we are truly grateful for everyone who contributed. The boxes will go a long way in helping us store and ship quilts to those in need.

If you’re interested in joining the **Quilting Team at St. Paul’s**, we would still love to have you! No experience is necessary—just a heart for giving and a willingness to learn.

For more information, please contact **Myra Taylor at 949-636-3431**.

Thank you again for supporting this meaningful ministry!

Calling All Thrivent Members!

Please consider making a difference as a Thrivent member by leading a fundraiser, education event, or service event. **If one of these events is**

approved by Thrivent, they will grant \$250 in seed money. This is especially helpful for church events like VBS, quilting team, etc.

Learn more by visiting

<https://www.thrivent.com/aboutus/membership/thrivent-action-teams>

If you are a Thrivent member and would like more information or have an idea you'd like to share, please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com **Thank you!**

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:

• **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** July 21st–25th

VBS will be held this summer at Irvine Park. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Jackie or Miles Johnson. An informational meeting will be held in April to begin the planning process.

• **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. 6 – Points of Encouragement

Greetings from your evangelism committee. Through our first five sections, we have discussed why we should share the Gospel and also discussed three points that you should remember while sharing the Gospel. We share the Gospel because God has asked us to and because we want to share our love for our neighbor. There are very few better services we can render to our neighbor that are better than sharing the saving Word. Despite the exhortations given us by our Pastors, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit, we can still feel discouraged and afraid to share our faith. We might feel that we are inadequate. We might think we do not know enough about the Bible or God's Word. We might think someone else should do it because they are more capable than us. Here are some points of encouragement to keep in mind that can help give you hope and comfort in undertaking the task.

First, God is with you. When Christ instituted the Great Commission, he said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age." (Mt 28:19-20) Christ himself said that he will be with us. Christ said it. You do not need to be discouraged. Christ said he will be there and unlike sinful human beings, Christ will not renege on his promises. Christ is there for you and with you.

Second, Christ told us that he will send us the Holy Spirit to put the words in our mouth. Christ said, "Do not be anxious about... what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Lk 12:11-12) We might not think we have the courage to say what needs to be said. But, Christ extends to us the promise that the Holy Spirit will help us.

Third, if we feel tongue-tied or discouraged, we can simply remember the three points we already mentioned before. Point A: Death and guilt are universal problems. Point B: There are only two religions in the world, Christianity and false religions of man. Point C: We know the Gospel, the very heart and kernel of our faith. We might not know everything, but we do know the basics. We should constantly return to the Gospel, the redemption we receive through Christ Jesus. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is Christ Jesus, who God put forward as a propitiation by his blood." (Rom 3:23-25) We have been saved by Christ who paid the price for our sins so that we may be reconciled to God and have eternal life.

Fourth, God's Word stands on its own power. Paul himself felt that his words and speech were inadequate. In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul said that he "did not come proclaiming ... the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom." (1 Cor 2:1) Yet, Paul proclaimed the Word nevertheless. If God's Word derived its power from the abilities of man's word and speech, then Paul said that "the cross of Christ" would "be emptied of its power." (1

Cor 1:17) Paul, therefore, decided to know nothing except “Christ crucified” among others. (1 Cor 2:2) Christians, “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.” (Heb 4:12) We are merely the vehicle God chooses to employ to share his Word. As long as we are proclaiming his Word and not another, we are on solid ground when we engage others.

Lord God, our knowledge of your Word is not infinite and we can sometimes be intimidated to speak the Law and Gospel to others. Give us encouragement to share the basics of your Word, o Lord, to others despite our own inabilities. Help us remember that your Word stands on its own power, that you, o Lord, are with us, and that the Holy Spirit will help us. 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>Livestream</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>
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 6/1/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 6/8/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 6/15/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
1st Sunday 6/1/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2nd Sunday 6/08/2025	Espinosa's, Ann Marie Hines
3rd Sunday 6/15/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer

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.