

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

The Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025 - 9:30 am

Divine Service

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

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

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

Office: 12-4 M-F; 949-599-4760

Website: www.saintpaulsirvine.com

Email: office@saintpaulsirvine.com

Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

Mission

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

Vision

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

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am. Adult Bible Study 11:00 am
- Wednesday Lenten Services 7:00 pm
- Holy Thursday (4/17) & Good Friday (4/18) 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Divine Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
 - Easter Fellowship Breakfast between services at 9:30 am

Welcome to Saint Paul's

We praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to serve and bless us through His Word and Sacraments. We follow the ancient liturgy which draws from the Word of God to order and guide our worship. Its biblical structure has been used in the Christian Church before any denominations within Christianity existed. Our worship emphasizes order, beauty, and reverence. We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of sins. We are excited about what the Lord is doing at St. 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 -- César Franck

Greeting

P You forgave the iniquity of your people;

C **you covered all their sin.**

- Psalm 85:2

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.**

Stand

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:

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(all stanzas)

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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel.

Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 8



P Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

C **You forgave the iniquity of your | people;***
you covered | all their sin.

P You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

C **Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,***
and put away your indignation | toward us!

P Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

C **Will you not revive | us again,***

that your people may re- | jice in you?

P Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

C **Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.**

P Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

C **Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.**

P Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

C **Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.**

P Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

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 me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of

the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

⁶And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Eyes On What?"

Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: When we hear about "idols" and "idolatry" in God's Word, it's easy to feel a little detached from the concept since this is not for the most part, a word we use very much.

Isn't that interesting: it is as if the world draws us away from the Word and the words God gives us to use.

- A. Anything or anyone: a person, a place, a think, or even a thought, a drive, an obsession can be an idol.
- B. They come in all shapes and sizes.
- C. They are material and immaterial. They are ubiquitous.

- D. But they really can't hide.
- E. Bottom line whatever an idol is, it always has its home clearly defined: the heart of a person.
- F. An idol is a false god.
- G. It is something a person serves; it is something that drives a person in their life. It is what a person lives for. And if that idol is ever taken away, then life as that person knows it, crumbles.
- H. When Luther taught the first commandment he was pretty clear: "We should fear, love and trust in God above all things."
- I. And this indeed teaches the First Commandment: "You shall no other gods before Me." If ANYTHING competes with your proper allegiance, then your allegiance is compromised.
- J. But idols are powerful and they attack us so as to get lodged in our hearts: money, sex, power, and success are big ones, but again, they are all over the map. Satan uses idols to find which specific idols will hook you and me.

Part I: But why we do we spend time in understand "idol"

- A. Note: 1 Corinthians 10:5-11

5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

B. If we do not understand our idols, then we cannot repent.

C. If you leave sin as this overarching ambiguous thing — and of course in one sense it is (our core sin is devastating and chaotic) —

but our core sin has teeth: it comes out to bite in its various manifestations that we want to pursue.

D. But if you're going to repent (turn away) from something, you have to know what that thing is.

E. Just as faith must have an object (Christ), our repentance also has an object (not just CORE SIN), but the specific idols.

F. This is the key to spiritual renewal, otherwise we remain as slaves and prisoners, tied to an addiction.

Part II: But we get weird about our idols

- A. We don't want to admit to them much less confess them.
- B. First we love to coddle them.
- C. Second, they disturb the images we like to think about ourselves.
- D. We don't want the cat out of the bag as this would cramp our style and what we really love.
- E. We are ashamed of them, but we would rather hide them than expose them.
- F. So, God gives to us a reality check:

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

- 1. Don't think you stand as you hide your idol.
- 2. If you do, you WILL fall.
- 3. And newsflash: there's nothing special about your idol or idols.
- 4. They are "common to man."
- 5. But God knows that you suspect that you're stuck with them.
- 6. No, you're not.
- 7. There is a way for you turn from it.

Part III We need the Idol Killer

- A. You need the Rock
- B. Not the famous former wrestler turned Hollywood myth, but the One infinitely stronger than that guy

C. You need Jesus Christ

I have a friend who loves to evangelize with his "little Jesus's"

You see, idols are like spiritual cancers and they hate radiation

The Word of God radiates upon us and exposes our idols we try to hide

The Word of God strips us from pretention that they aren't really there

But when they are exposed to the LIGHT: 1) Christ is the LIGHT, then they are exposed to the ROCK; 2) Christ is the Rock

D. Jesus was the rock with Moses and Israel:

Warning Against Idolatry

10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ

Jesus was with Israel in the Red Sea

Israel was baptized in this event

They were baptized into Christ through Moses

The same is true for you: You are baptized into the Rock which also great for destroying idols

The Egyptians, the great idolaters of false gods, were destroyed in the Red Sea

Christ can do the same for your idols since He has already defeated Satan who sends all idols

Conclusion: How are we released from our idols?

A. The rest of 1 Cor 10 that is not in our bulletin is here:

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

In the Sacrament of the Altar, when you receive the body and blood of Christ, you receive Christ, your ROCK

- B. And how do you know you're included? And should be included?

Because you were baptized like the Israelites who were baptized into the Red Sea

1. Your Red Sea baptism was more personal at the font.
2. And idols were crushed.
3. Including your CORE SIN that leads to all manifestations and idols.
4. You were put into Jesus, your ROCK

Exodus 14:14: Our Guarantee: "The LORD will fight for you, and you need only to be still." (NIV)

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.

Offering

Adagio, First Sonata -- Felix Mendelssohn

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For repentance and faith in Christ, that God would guard us from doubt and deliver us to life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For a faithful proclamation of truth, that God would embolden pastors to warn of sin and death and give all Christians strength to defend that message; and that sinners would be turned to life through the proclamation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For protection against sexual immorality, that God would make our homes havens of chastity and godly instruction, filling marriages with fidelity and love, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in authority, that God who establishes justice by His Law, which is for all, would enlighten them to rule justly for true good, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For protection when we are tempted, that God in His faithfulness would guard us from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that He will provide the way of escape; and that He would strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until He delivers, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who cry to the Lord for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil, [*especially _____*], that the Lord would deliver and heal them, strengthening their faith to look to Him for help, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune, that the Lord who abounds in steadfast love would give them a holy fear of His wrath and faith in His promises in the body and blood of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do; 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 spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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

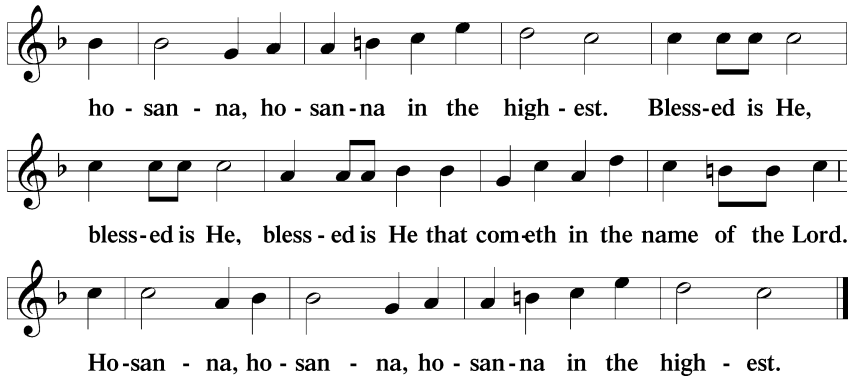
LSB 195



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

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

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

Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

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

Distribution Hymns:

421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

(all stanzas)

718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

(all stanzas)

696 O God, My Faithful God

(sts. 1–3, 6)

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

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 forever.**
- 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.**
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- A** Bless we the Lord.
- G** 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 gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.
- G** Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude

Rigaudon -- André Campra

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Today:

“Journey through the Parables”

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to study Parable #17. 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:

Spiritual Renewal According to the 12 Minor Prophets Wednesdays at 7:00 PM | March 5 – April 9

Join us for a six-week sermon series exploring the timeless messages of the 12 Minor Prophets. Each week, we will uncover how these prophetic voices call us to deeper faith and spiritual renewal.

Series Schedule:

Date	Prophets & Theme
March 26	Nahum & Habakkuk: Trusting God’s Plan
April 2	Zephaniah & Haggai: Renewing Our Devotion
April 9	Zechariah & Malachi: Hope & Restoration

Come and be refreshed through the Word as we seek renewal in our walk with God.

Coming Up:

Congregational Voters' Meeting- Next Sunday

We invite you to join us for a Congregational Voters' Meeting on **Sunday, March 30th** after Divine Service to discuss an important proposal. The topic for this meeting will be the approval of funding for the installation of an air wall between the sanctuary and the adjacent classroom.

This air wall will help improve the functionality of our space, providing greater flexibility for both worship and community activities.

Your input and participation are vital in making this decision, so we encourage all eligible voters to attend.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the life of our church!

Wednesday Bible Studies on Hiatus through the Lenten Season

Our **Wednesday Bible Study** will be on **hiatus through Easter** and will resume on **April 23**. In the meantime, we invite you to join us for our **Midweek Lenten Services**, held **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM**, beginning **March 5 (Ash Wednesday)**.

This year, our Lenten focus will be on **the Minor Prophets**, exploring their messages of hope, justice, and God's faithfulness. We encourage you to take this opportunity to reflect and grow in faith as we journey toward Easter together.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting on **Friday, March 28th** at the Geisler's home. Group #2 will be meeting on **Saturday, April 12th** at the Miller's home. 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.



*For this I will praise
you, O Lord, among
the nations, and
sing to your name.*

- Psalm 18:49

CHOIR SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2025

- ♪ **Sunday, April 6, 8:30-9:15 am**
Rehearsal in the cafeteria area
- ♪ **Sunday, April 13, 8:30-9:15 am**
Rehearsal in the cafeteria area
- ♪ **Good Friday, April 18, 6:00-6:45 pm**
Pre-service rehearsal in the sanctuary
- ♪ **Good Friday, April 18, 7:00-8:00 pm**
Sing for Good Friday service
- ♪ **Easter Sunday, April 20, 9:30 am**
Pre-service rehearsal in the sanctuary
- ♪ **Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:30 am**
Sing for Easter Sunday service

Sheet music PDFs and recordings of the music, including the individual parts, are now on the "Choir" page of the church website. Questions? Contact Mark Howard (714) 423-6460 or markahoward@sbcglobal.net.

General Announcements

"Lux et Veritas K-8 Classical Lutheran Academy"

Update on Lux et Veritas Classical Lutheran Academy: The St. Paul's feasibility team has strengthened our position in going into our work with LCEF that is now commencing. The feasibility study is designed to generate a plan that will succeed. Our congregational team has been in the hard work for this Mission Statement:

Proclaiming the Light and Truth of Jesus Christ through Classical Lutheran Education, fostering academic excellence and nurturing holistic growth.

Our Positioning Statement is:

Lux et Veritas Classical Lutheran Academy provides exceptional scholars a rigorous Christ-centered curriculum that integrates faith and learning, cultivates critical thinking and promotes spiritual growth to prepare them for lives of integrity and service.

Our Vision Statement is almost complete and so far it is looking amazing!

Pastor Espinosa and Traci will be traveling with our LCEF representative to Henderson Nevada to visit an LCMS classical school in April. And members of

our team along with Pastor Espinosa have a meeting scheduled to meet with The Geneva School OC in Laguna Woods.

We are inviting all educators and those who help support and administer education in our congregation to a focused meeting with an LCEF representative on Tuesday, June 10th at 10 am. We have scheduled this for us to get past the regular school year and before the most intensive vacation time during the summer. If you are a teacher, professor (all levels) or service in school administration (including those who are retired from the field) please plan on attending.

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,

Pastor Espinosa

Women's Retreat Update

Laura Miller and Pastor Espinosa met for next steps for our 2025 Women's Retreat. We are looking at a one-day event on **Saturday, August 9** in an affordable location in Dana Point. There are two leading topics right now that Pastor Espinosa will present to the woman: 1) "The Power of Confession" (which is what pastor is presenting at the Men's Retreat September 19-21); OR 2) "Womanhood in Holy Scripture" OR you may suggest another topic.

Please inform Laura Miller or Pastor Espinosa if you would like to attend this one-day retreat.

Paul Ackley Memorial Service

Paul's service will be held at Pacific View Memorial Park and Mortuary in Corona Del Mar at 11 am on **Saturday, April 12th** " Please keep the family in your prayers. If you knew Paul, which includes such members as John Church, and Paul and Ackley Fick, who were all with Paul when we were in Laguna Beach, then the family would like to invite you to the service and the reception immediately following. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Espinosa know."

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!



The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: “Think of how important we as human beings must be in the eyes of God, if He—as the almighty creator and Lord of the entire universe—was willing to take on human flesh and become one of us. God loves the human race so much He decided to become our brother.”
Thomas P. Nass, CELC President – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Weekly Stewardship Message: Luke 11:21–22 – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.” Jesus is stronger than Satan and He disarms him for us. But Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with — he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our Stronger Man. He guards and keeps us and ours, and we have none to fear.

Join Us for Family Sunday School!

Family Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, learn together, and connect as a community! Last Sunday, we had the joy of welcoming four children and their families for story time with one of our amazing volunteers after the service.

Each Sunday, we offer a kid-friendly space where families can watch the service together. This space includes supplemental church resources and activities to keep children engaged, based on the needs of the families in attendance.

If you're a young family looking for a welcoming place to nurture your faith—without having to keep your kiddos calm in the sanctuary (or chasing them down the hallway)—we'd love for you to join us!

Interested in volunteering? We'd love your help! Please reach out to Miles or Jackie Johnson at office@saintpaulsirvine.com.

Thank you for being a blessing to our church family! ❤️

Upcoming Event Dates:

• **Concordia University Irvine - Graphic Design Senior Capstone:** April 12, 1:00–2:30 PM at Grimm Hall

Senior Art Capstone Exhibition: April 23, 5:30–7:30 PM at Grimm Hall
Please consider supporting our senior congregation members as they showcase their artwork.

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

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 29–August 1

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.

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!

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	Kenya

Email: britt.odemba@lcms.org	
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

Date	Altar Team	Ushers/ Greeters	Elders on Duty	Entrance Area	Livestream
<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>
4 th Sunday 3/23/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Ali Frank, Bill Frank	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
5 th Sunday 3/30/2025	Jeanette Dahlin	Help Needed	Help Needed	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele
1 st Sunday 4/6/2025	Nina Mueller, Myra Taylor	Barney Wright	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2 nd Sunday 4/13/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Mike Padilla	Myra Taylor	Shane Perry
3 rd Sunday 4/20/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

4 th Sunday 3/23/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
5 th Sunday 3/30/2025	Johnson's, Julie Stiegemeyer
1 st Sunday 4/6/2025	Liana Padilla, Herb & Kiu Geisler
2 nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Espinosa's
3 rd Sunday 3/16/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer