

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)
Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion
Sunday, April 13, 2025 - 9:30 am

Divine Service

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

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

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

Mission

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

Vision

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

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am. Adult Bible Study 11:00 am
- 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 +

Before the Divine Service the congregation gathers in the cafe, the palm fronds and palm crosses are distributed, and the pastor says:

Palm Sunday Procession with Palms:

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ☩ be with you all.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosana to the Son of David.**

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with the palms in their hands, gathered to greet your dearly beloved Son when he came into his Holy City, grant that we may ever hail him as our King and, when he comes again, may go forth to meet him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

837 Lift High the Cross

sts. ref-6

Processional Participants listed in order:

Crucifer

Palm Bearer

Light Bearer

Palm Bearer

Light Bearer

Book Bearer

Elder

Pastor

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- 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.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie

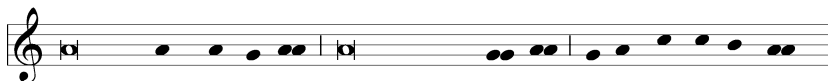
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



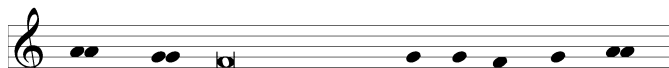
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.

Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 32:36–39

³⁶ The LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone
and there is none remaining, bond or free.

³⁷ Then he will say, "Where are their gods,
the rock in which they took refuge,

³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offering?

Let them rise up and help you;
let them be your protection!

³⁹ "See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 31:9–16



P Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;*
my eye is wasted from grief;

my soul and my body | also.

**C For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with | sighing;*
my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones | waste away.**

P Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,
especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my ac- | quaintances;*
those who see me in the street | flee from me.

**C I have been forgotten like one | who is dead;*
I have become like a broken | vessel.**

P For I hear the whispering of many—
terror on | every side!—*
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to | take my life.

**C But I trust in you, | O LORD;*
I say, “You | are my God.”**

P My times are | in your hand;*
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!

**C Make your face shine on your | servant;*
save me in your | steadfast love!**

**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 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;*
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body | also.

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in

heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Lenten Verse

LSB 173



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12-19

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"He Emptied Himself"

Palm Sunday

Philippians 2:5-11

Pastor Espinosa

Intro: Our Devastation and Undoing

1. C.S. Lewis: Pride is "The Great Sin"

"Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are **mere fleabites in comparison**: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is **the complete anti-God state of mind**." -- *Mere Christianity*, 109

Ezekiel 28:11ff on the King of Tyre with overtones on the devil

Vs. 11: "You were the signet of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty."

Vs. 17: "**Your heart was proud because of your beauty**;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.
I cast you to the ground;"

2. Thus, this is the devil's way toward us: **live in pride and be destroyed.**

Genesis 3:4-5: But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, **and you will be like God**, knowing good and evil."

3. **This produces an unsatiable desire for self, so that life is for self.**
4. And this is our devastation and undoing.
 - a. In choosing a "career"
 - b. In marriage.
 - c. In parenting.
 - d. In our other vocations, including our work in the state realm.
 - e. In our church vocation.

Part I: But the answer is not trying not to be proud (a return to the law and moralism)

1. To try to improve this way pours fuel onto the fire.
2. Imagine a Christian thinking that they have become better at being humble.
3. Jesus had to come in our flesh to deal with being in Satan's prison of pride.

Part II: Jesus was fulfilling Zechariah 9:9:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,

**humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

1. The greatest humility.
2. But the people shouting, "Save!" were **not focused on the humility = "humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey"**
3. **But they were focused on "your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation"**
4. **Just because someone shouts "Save!" to Jesus doesn't mean they know Him as the Savior. A warning about "worship"**
5. **"Save!" from what? From what competes with our ongoing pride? No!**

Part III: In just a matter of days, the shouts would change from "Save!" to "Crucify!"

1. Jesus knew it, so He came to put out the fire by sucking out the oxygen.
2. Our pride and the devil's pride lost it's power over us **on account of Jesus and HIS complete HUMILITY.**
3. It was perfect and powerful.

Philippians 6-8:

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

4. Christ's humility defeated all pride.
5. Jesus would not live for Himself, but for the FATHER and for YOU!
6. He emptied Himself. **WILLINGLY** turned His divine power into a total state of weakness, to be like us without our pride.
7. Even to the point of death.
8. **But not just death, but death on a cross.**

Conclusion: Our Joy and Restoration

1. We know **the right meaning of "Save!"**
2. Not for us to hold to our pride — living for ourselves — **but for His SAVING us from OURSELVES!**
3. Releasing us from our prison of the god of SELF!
4. So, now our "Hosanna" is a celebration, we cry "Save" **not for an earthly king to make us rich in this world**, but to the King of kings who makes us rich towards God with lives that never die.
5. **This is why we continue to cry out "HOSANNA!"** We read John 12:13 together (when we get to the word "Hosanna!" let's pump up the volume!)

"So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

Stand

Nicene Creed

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

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

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

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For hearts full of the mercy of Christ, that in these holy days we would lift our voices and bow our knees at His holy name, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Christ's Holy Church, that she may be defended against her enemies and kept faithful in the confession of Jesus Christ to the nations, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Christian fathers, that receiving Christ and trusting His atoning sacrifice, they may be enlivened to sacrificial love for their children, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who govern, that God would preserve them in life and duty; and for us as citizens, that we may have the will and desire to honor authority as servants of Christ, living holy, upright and godly lives to the praise of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick, distressed and needy, [*especially _____*], that God would give them His abiding comfort in every circumstance, since in Christ we shall not die, but live and declare His works, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who receive the Lord's Supper, that Christ who rode into Jerusalem to save us from sin would prepare our hearts to welcome Him worthily in His blessed Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! We praise You, Father, that You have sent Your Son not in wrath but in mercy. As we enter this most holy week and ponder together the mysteries of Your great salvation, show us the answer to Your people's prayers of "hosanna" in the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering:

Sursam Cord -- Hailing

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

+ Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing +

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



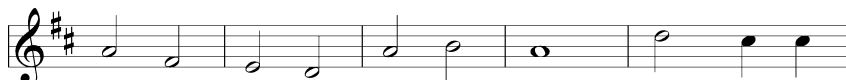
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

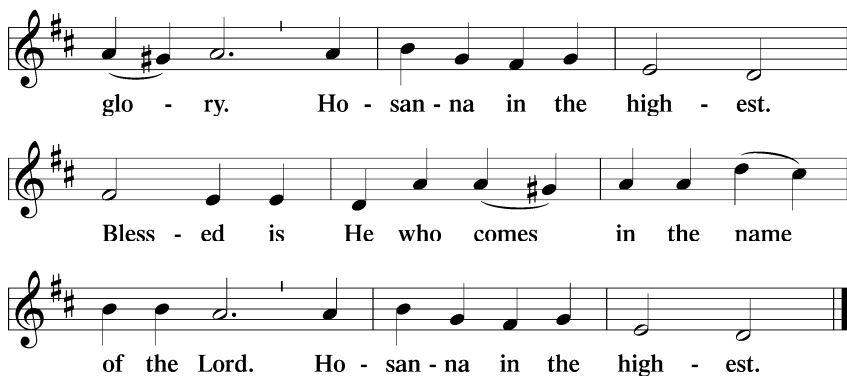
LSB 178



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



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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.**

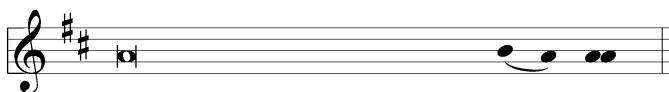
The Words of Our Lord

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 180



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



Sit

Distribution Hymns:

443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

(all stanzas)

560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

(all stanzas)

442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

(all stanzas)

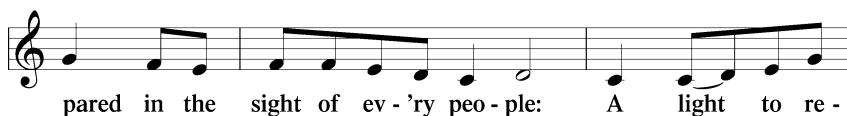
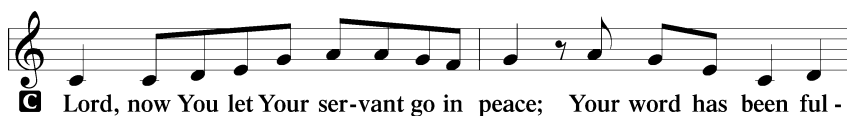
455 The Royal Banners Forward Go

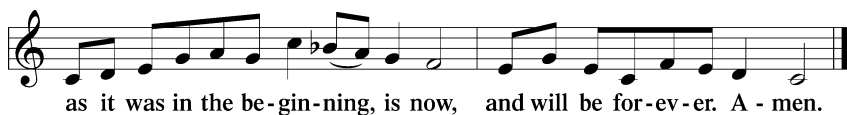
(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 182





Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

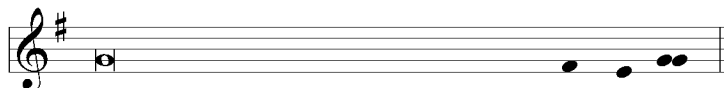
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You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



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you

and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.

Postlude:

Toccata, Gothic Suite -- Léon Boëllmann

Acknowledgments

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Today:

A Special Moment with Our Church Family

Church family, we invite you to join us in a joyful moment as **Dani and Ray Vergara** reveal the gender of their precious baby.

Please come **after service today during fellowship**, just before Bible study, as we gather together to celebrate this new life and surround Dani and Ray with love and excitement.

Let's come together in unity and joy as we discover whether we'll be welcoming a little boy or girl into our church family. What a beautiful blessing to celebrate together!

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him." – Psalm 127:3 (NLT)



"Journey through the Parables"

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to study Parable #19, *The Good Samaritan*. 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.

Experience Bach's St. John Passion – A Concordia Masterworks Concert- TONIGHT!

Join us for an unforgettable performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion*, presented by the **Concordia Master Chorale, Concordia Choir, and MasterWorks Orchestra**, under the baton of **Michael Busch**.

Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 3:00 PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

600 Saint Andrews Rd, Newport Beach, CA

Marking the beginning of **Holy Week**, this monumental oratorio brings to life the gripping drama of Christ's passion and sacrifice as told in the Gospel of John. With profound emotion and masterful composition, *St. John Passion* stands as one of Bach's most celebrated works.

Performed in German with English subtitles.

Don't miss this powerful musical journey—reserve your place today!

This week:

Holy Week Service Offerings

- Holy Thursday (4/17) 7:00 pm
- Good Friday (4/18) 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Divine Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
 - Easter Fellowship Breakfast at 9:30am
 - Egg Hunt at 10:00 am

Easter Fellowship Breakfast- Help wanted!!

Easter Sunday is just around the corner, and we are excited to celebrate together with a special **Easter Breakfast Potluck** on **Sunday, April 20, 2025, in between services around 9:30 am.**

We invite you to bring a dish to share—whether it's a casserole, fresh fruit, pastries, or a special family recipe. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal before our Easter service. To help us plan, please sign up to bring a dish using the sign-up sheet during fellowship on Sunday or this google sheet online [here](#).

Thank you for being part of this special time of community and celebration. We look forward to rejoicing with you on Easter morning!

If you have any questions, please contact **Renee Mott at 650-438-4791.**

Easter Egg Hunt – Candy Donations Needed!

We're preparing for a joyful Easter celebration, and we need your help! Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** is coming up, and we're collecting **individually wrapped candy donations** to fill the eggs for our children's event.

If you'd like to contribute, please bring your candy donations to the church by **April 16.**

Prefer to give online? You can make a donation through our **Amplify Giving Portal** at:

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

Thank you for helping us make this Easter a fun and memorable experience for our church family!

If you have any questions **or would like to volunteer**, please contact **Traci Espinosa at 281-627-2646.**



*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.

Coming Up:

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the Kuntz family's home on **Friday, May 2nd**. "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.

Congregational Voters Meeting: May 4

Topic—Approval of the revised Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has been working for about a year on reviewing and revising the Saint Paul's Constitution and Bylaws, originally written in 1947. The committee was comprised of experts and consultants from within and outside our Saint Paul's membership. The proposed changes were presented to the Church Council, wherein the Council made additional recommendations. The final draft will be available for review in the Church office on Easter Sunday (2 weeks before the vote) and on our website. The voters' meeting content will focus on the significant changes recommended, after which we will conduct a vote.

Please take the time to review in advance of this meeting.

God's blessings to our Saint Paul's church family!

Debbie Dannemeyer, President

Wednesday Bible Studies: Returns April 23rd

Wednesday Bible Studies Are Back April 23rd! We're excited to announce that our **Wednesday Bible Studies** will **resume on April 23**, beginning with **Hebrews Chapter 11 – the Hall of Faith**.

Join us as we explore the powerful testimonies of faith that continue to inspire and encourage believers today.

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

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

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

General Announcements

Church Council Treasurer's Report

YTD Totals: Jan - March 25

Category	Actual	Budget
General Offerings	\$55,749.00	\$72,500.00
Other Offerings	\$209.00	\$412.00
Total Income	\$55,958.00	\$72,912.00

25-March Totals:

Category	Actual	Budget
General Offerings	\$20,331.00	\$27,900.00
Other Offerings	\$72.00	\$138.00
Total Income	\$20,403.00	\$28,038.00

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote:

April 13 "Commit to seeking opportunities to be a light to those living in darkness. Do not place that responsibility on the full-time leaders of the Church. This is your mission in life. God has uniquely placed you in the exact situations, locations, and relationships to make the Light of the world visible and concrete. You are the look of Christ's face. You are the tone of His voice. You are the touch of His hands. You are the physical representation of His light in a dark world (Ephesians 5:8). How bright

will you shine this year?" *Paul David Tripp, author and speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message:

April 13 – Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Did Jesus really need the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! It is likewise with us. The Lord needs none of us, but what an honor it is for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.

Quilting Team Needs Your Help!

The **Quilting Team at St. Paul’s** is in need of **cardboard boxes** for storing and shipping quilts. If you have any boxes to donate, we would greatly appreciate your support!

Additionally, if you’re interested in joining our **quilting team**, we would love to have you. No experience is necessary—just a heart for giving and a willingness to learn!

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

Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry!

Women’s Retreat Update

Laura Miller and Pastor Espinosa recently met to discuss the next steps for our 2025 Women's Retreat. We are planning a one-day event on **Saturday, August 9**, at an affordable location in Dana Point.

Pastor Espinosa will present on the topic “**The Power of Confession**”, which is the same theme he will cover at the Men's Retreat from September 19-21. His presentation will be divided into three parts:

1. Confession of **Sin**
2. Confession of **Faith**
3. Confession of **Praise**

If you are interested in attending this one-day retreat, please inform Laura Miller 949-441-8606 or Pastor Espinosa.

Circle of Friends

The most effective way for a church to grow in the Kingdom of God is to be faithful in the Word and Sacrament of Christ and to truly love people. One way to do that is to allow us to pray for those you know who need Christ and/or a church home. Please submit the names of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others to us through our ministry called Circle of Friends.

Thank you! Pastor Espinosa.

For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home. Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor? Use this QR code to let us know!



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 - 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!

Words of Evangelism: Ch. 5 – Gospel

From the Evangelism Committee. There are three points you should remember when sharing the Gospel. First, death and guilt are universal problems. Second, there are two religions in the world;

Christianity and all others. Third, remember the Gospel. Christ has died for you and your sins and gives you eternal life.

Let's talk about this third point. Let's talk about the Gospel. The Gospel is the Good News. It is the heart and core of our faith. Remember the Gospel. Jesus Christ has died for you and your sins so that you may have eternal life. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." (Rom 5:8-9) Remember the Gospel. Christ has died for you and your sins so that you may have eternal life. "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) Remember the Gospel. Christ has died for you and your sins so that you may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

When sharing your faith with others, always come back and return to the Gospel. It is the message that saves you, us, and them. Constantly come back to it and return to it in your conversations. It is the message that saves us and that everyone needs to hear. Remember the Gospel.

O Lord, of the two universal problems, death and guilt, only belief in you solves both of them. Always keep the Gospel close to our hearts, o God, and do not allow us to be ashamed of it. Let us proclaim like Paul that, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (Rom 1:16) Please Lord, instill within us a heart that longs to share the Gospel with our circle of friends – including our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. 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>
2nd Sunday 4/13/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jim J.
3 rd Sunday 4/20/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4 th Sunday 4/27/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1 st Sunday 5/4/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

2nd Sunday 4/13/2025	Espinosa's
3rd Sunday 4/20/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th Sunday 4/27/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
1 st Sunday 5/3/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard

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.