

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

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Divine Service

9:30 AM

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

**Special Music: St. Paul's Choir – Rachel Okonski, Flute – Jacob
Thornblad, Violin**

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus
16355 Laguna Canyon Rd
Irvine, CA 92618

Mission

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

Vision

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

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café at 10:30 am and Adult Bible Study at 11:00 am
- Wednesday Lenten Midweek Services at 7:00 pm
- Holy Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm
- Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Divine Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
 - Easter Fellowship Breakfast in 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

Blessed Jesus At Thy Word

Setting by Charles Callahan

Greeting

P Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

G for the LORD our God is holy!

- Psalm 99:9

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

G Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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

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

G Amen.

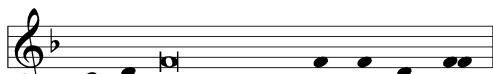
Service of the Word

Hymn of Invocation: 413 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

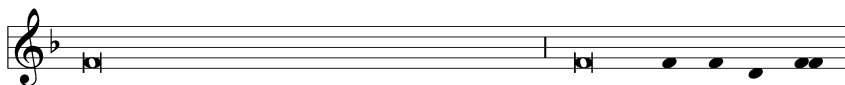
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



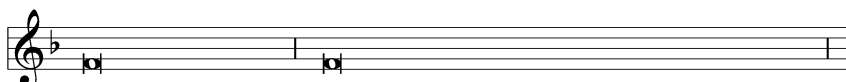
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



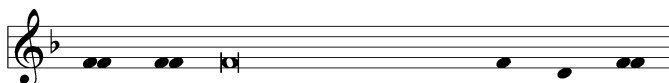
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



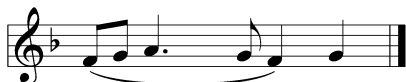
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise:

Choir: ***Sing Praises to the Lord***

by Timothy Shaw

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." ⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, ⁶and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. ⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. ⁸And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

⁹And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹²and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 99; antiphon: v. 9



(chanted responsively between the Choir and the congregation)

Choir: Exalt the LORD our God,

and worship at his holy | mountain;*

for the LORD our God is | holy!

The LORD reigns; let the peoples | tremble!*

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the | earth quake!

C The LORD is great in | Zion;*

he is exalted over all the | peoples.

Choir: Let them praise your great and | awesome name!*

Ho- | ly is he!

C The King in his might loves | justice.*

You have established equity;

you have executed justice

and righteousness in | Jacob.

Choir: Exalt the LORD our God;

worship at his | footstool!*

Ho- | ly is he!

C Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called up- | on his name.*

They called to the LORD, and he | answered them.

Choir: In the pillar of the cloud he | spoke to them;*

they kept his testimonies

and the statute that he | gave them.

C O LORD our God, you | answered them;*

you were a forgiving God to them,

but an avenger of their wrong- | doings.

Choir: Exalt the LORD our God,

and worship at his holy | mountain;*

for the LORD our God is | holy!

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

Choir: Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy | mountain;*
for the LORD our God is | holy!

Epistle

Hebrews 3:1–6

¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ²who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: *Christ Be My Leader*

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, Music by Kevin Hildebrand

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 9:28–36

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

402 The Only Son from Heaven

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"We Are His House"

(Hebrews 3:1-6)

Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: "Holy Brothers" (Heb 3:1) -- Faith Claims Our New Identities

A. Implications of "Holy"

B. Implications of "Brothers"

* We realize who we are in the face of how we react to loss in this life.

* Song: "Knowing You"

All I once held dear, built my life upon

All this world reveres, and wars to own

All I once thought gain I have counted loss

Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing You, Jesus

Knowing You

There is no greater thing

You're all my all, You're the best

You're my joy, my righteousness

And I love You, Lord

* "Holy" = set apart, new values

* "Brothers" = heirs who know the real treasure from the Father

I. We have a heavenly calling (Heb 3:1)

A. God has called us = this call equips you Christians

B. There is no stopping what God calls into existence = unstoppable (not just a movie about a run-away train); this is about us in Christ

Illustration: The unstoppable Christian mother

II. Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession (Heb 3:1)

A. Jesus is "the apostle" = THE "sent one"...imagine, sent for you and me!

B. Jesus is "high priest of our confession" = Jesus is our priest (beyond our ability to describe the glory in this truth)

This is the basis for our confidence coming up at Heb 3:6

III. Jesus was faithful (Heb 3:2)

- A. To God the Father
- B. And for us

IV. Jesus has more glory than Moses (Heb 3:3-5)

- A. Stunning when you consider Deut 34:7 and Deut 34:10
- B. The instrument of God's signs and wonders

V. "we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope." (Heb 3:6)

- A. No need to build a house
- B. We are now His house

i. We are living members of His house with "confidence" (Heb 3:6)

***How God protects our conscience in the blood of Christ.

ii. We boast in this: "our hope" (Heb 3:6)

***As a result of this confidence, we have this hope (rock solid, beyond a shadow of a doubt hope)

Conclusion: The Transfiguration Light of Jesus shines upon us!

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 O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the educational institutions of our synod: for our preschools, our day schools and high schools, our colleges and universities, and for our seminaries, that those who teach and those who learn in them would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all the faithful, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who are sick (especially *[name]*), that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who mourn (especially *[name]*), that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Duet for Flute and Violin

by Yoav Shati

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159



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 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who at His transfiguration revealed His glory to His disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim His cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. 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 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

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

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to

celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † 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."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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

417 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

(all stanzas)

Note about Hymn #417- During the upcoming solemn season of Lent, the word **Alleluia** (Hebrew for **Praise the Lord**) is completely absent from our liturgy, not heard again until its glorious exclamation on Easter Sunday. This hymn is a "Farewell to Alleluia."

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

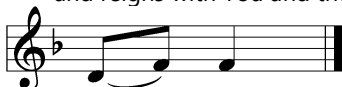


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

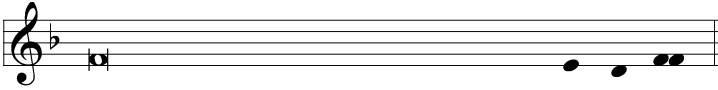
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You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



C A - - men.

Benediction

LSB 166



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.



G A - men.

Postlude

Toccata -- Th Dubois

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

“Ask the Senior Pastor” Table Talk with God’s Word

Bible Study will continue today after the worship service and a brief fellowship time with an opportunity to talk through God’s Word with Pastor Al. Please consider joining us for this time in His word!

We will return to our “Journey through the Parables” on March 9th

This week:

Ash Wednesday Service Announcement

Join us on **Wednesday, March 5th, at 7:00 PM** for our **Ash Wednesday Service**, where we will reflect on the themes of repentance and renewal through a message from the books of **Hosea and Joel**.

The **Imposition of Ashes** will begin at **6:30 PM**, prior to the service. We encourage you to arrive early to receive the ashes and take time to prepare your heart for worship.

Let us begin this Lenten season together in prayer, reflection, and worship. **All are welcome!**

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!

Coming Up:

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	Date	Prophets & Theme
March 5	Hosea & Joel: A Call to Return	March 26	Nahum & Habakkuk: Trusting God's Plan
March 12	Amos & Obadiah: Justice & Humility	April 2	Zephaniah & Haggai: Renewing Our Devotion
March 19	Jonah & Micah: Mercy & Obedience	April 9	Zechariah & Malachi: Hope & Restoration

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

Mercy: Love Throughout Life Conference

Join the LCMS National Mission for this special conference on **March 14–15, 2025!** Attend in person at one of three locations or watch online. A **Spanish track** will also be available online.

Registration Details:

- **Standard (Feb. 15–March 7):** \$74
- **Online Registration:** \$29 (individuals, couples, families, or groups)
- **Students at Concordia universities/seminaries:** Free with valid

email

Space is limited! Register at bit.ly/MercyLovePSD. For more info, email lifeministry@lcms.org.

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the church on **Friday, March 28th** at the Geisler'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.

General Announcements

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: God sent His Son to save us, not because we asked, but because He loves us. God wants you to call on Him, not because He needs the information, and not just because He wants to rescue you from distress. He wants to rescue you for a new life, for a life of trusting that He wants to hear from you, of living with His Word inside you, a life responding with God's love to others in their distress, even before they call." *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: Luke 18:35 – “As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.” Who is not a beggar? All that we have is a gift of God. We are all beggars before Him. Knowing this can leave us with nothing but thankfulness in our hearts. And this thankful acknowledgment of all the Lord's gifts is also what forms the basis of our own generous giving.

Family Sunday School

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve and grow in fellowship with our youngest disciples? Family Sunday School is a **wonderful opportunity to share in faith, learning, and community!**

We are looking for volunteers to help guide and nurture our children in their spiritual journey. If you have special gifts or talents you'd love to share—whether it's storytelling, music, crafts, or simply a heart for teaching—we would love to have you join our Family Sunday School ministry!

If you're interested, please talk to **Miles or Jackie Johnson** or **sign up on the interest sheet located by the welcome table.**

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

Words of Evangelism

Ch. 4 – Two Religions

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 second point. There are only two religions in the world. One religion is the world's religion, the religion of the law. In these religions, the works of men are pursued to please a false deity or deities. One has to achieve, attain, or do something in order to be saved. The other religion is Christianity. In Christianity, the Holy Spirit works faith in Christ who makes us right with God without a single work of our own. A distinguished Professor described this distinction as follows:

"In the discharge of my duties for forty years as professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford, I have devoted as much time as any man living to the study of the Sacred Books of the East, and I have found the one key-note ... of all these so-called sacred books ... – the one refrain through all – salvation by works. They all say that salvation must be purchased, must be bought with a price, and that the sole price, the sole purchase-money, must be our own works and deservings. Our own Holy Bible ... is from the beginning to end a protest against this doctrine. Good works ... are only a thank-offering, the fruits of our faith. They are never the ransom-money of the true Disciples of Christ. ...Let us teach [others] that there is only one sacred book ... that can be their mainstay in that awful hour when they pass all alone into the unseen world. It is the sacred Book which contains that faithful saying, worthy to be received of all ... -- that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (Franz Pieper quoting Max Muller, Christian Dogmatics)

The Christian religion is the one true religion. All other religions are man-made. King David, in prayer, worshiped our Lord and proclaimed, "You alone are God." (Ps 86:10) Besides our God, there is no other. Our God saves. No other God does that. Remember, Christian, this distinction because it shows you just how unique your faith is and how important it is to share it.

O Lord, you alone are our God and you alone provide for our salvation. We thank you, o God, that our salvation comes through your grace and mercy and not through our own works. For by our own works, we would be lost. Always keep us mindful, o Lord, of this truth. Give us courage, o Lord, so that we may teach and pass along the message that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Amen.

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.

Lux et Veritas K-8 Lutheran Classical Academy Update

Lux et Veritas K-8 Lutheran Classical Academy continues to work with LCEF feasibility study in raising funds for the study and conducting groundwork on research for grants and other financial opportunities. In addition, hard work is going into mission and vision formation. The LORD continues to identify for us more people desirous of helping this vision. We are also working closely with the district executive director of schools and our local LCEF representative. Please keep this Great Commission ministry in your prayers for the growth of our congregation and the light of Christ to reach out to many in the Irvine area who may not know the saving Gospel.

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,
Pastor Espinosa

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!

Women’s Retreat Interest Check!

We’re excited to explore the possibility of hosting a St. Paul’s Women’s Retreat, and we want to hear from you! This retreat will be a time for spiritual renewal, personal growth, and connecting with fellow women of faith. Before we move forward with planning, we’d love to gauge interest and see how many women would like to participate. If you’re excited about the idea of taking time away to recharge, grow spiritually, and build meaningful connections, please talk to Laura Miller, email the church office at office@saintpaulsirvine.com

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	Dominican Republic
Erin Mackenzie	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park	Taiwan

Missionary Friends

(Non-Financial Support)

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

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>
1 st Sunday 3/2/2025	Nina Mueller, Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Miles Johnson	Alex Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2 nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, A. Wright	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Mike Padilla	Myra Taylor	Shane Perry
3 rd Sunday 3/16/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Bryan Kilduff	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele
4 th Sunday 3/23/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

1 st Sunday 3/2/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Espinosa's
3 rd Sunday 3/16/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th Sunday 3/23/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott