

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

Sunday, March 16, 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
- 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

Fairest Lord Jesus/As the Deer -- Anna Laura Page

Greeting

P Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

C **You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!**

- Psalm 4:1

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

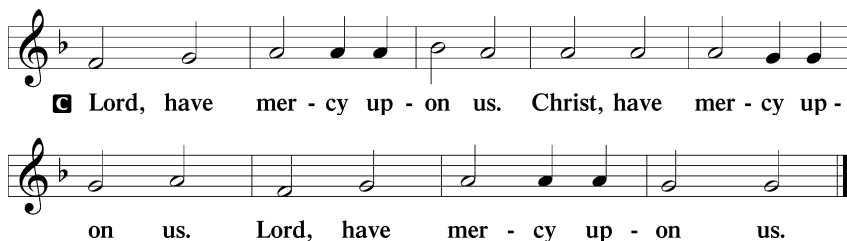
Entrance Hymn:

673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

(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 spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 26:8–15

⁸When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 4; antiphon: v. 8



P In peace I will both lie | down and sleep;*
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in | safety.

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was | in distress.*
Be gracious to me and | hear my prayer!

C **O men, how long shall my honor be turned | into shame?***
How long will you love vain words and seek | after lies?

P But know that the LORD has set apart the godly | for himself;*
the LORD hears when I | call to him.

C **Be angry, and | do not sin;***
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be | silent.

P Offer right sacri- | fices,*
and put your trust | in the LORD.

C There are many who say, “Who will show | us some good?*”
Lift up the light of your face upon us, | O LORD!”

P You have put more joy | in my heart*
than they have when their grain and | wine abound.

C In peace I will both lie | down and sleep;*
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in | safety.

**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**

Epistle

Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:31–35

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets

and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Holy Baptism

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

C Amen.

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

P How are you named?

R [Name]

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

P [Name], receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground,

foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold [name(s)] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [him/her/them] with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in [him/her/them], which has been inherited from Adam and which [he himself / she herself / they themselves] [has/have] committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that [he/she/they] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, [he/she/they] would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

P Is it your intention to serve [name of candidate(s)] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:

Lord's Prayer

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

If the baptismal party has stood at the entrance of the nave to this point, they now move to the font.

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even † forevermore.
C Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P [Name(s)], do you renounce the devil?
R Yes, I renounce him.
P Do you renounce all his works?
R Yes, I renounce them.
P Do you renounce all his ways?
R Yes, I renounce them.
P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
R Yes, I believe.
P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?
R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R Yes, I believe.

P [Name], do you desire to be baptized?

R Yes, I do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life \ddagger everlasting.

C Amen.

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:

A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you [a member / members] of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our [brother(s)/sister(s)] in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted [name(s)] the new birth in Holy Baptism and made [him/her/them] [a

member / members of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as [he/she/they] [has/have] now become Your [child/children], You would keep [him/her/them] in [his/her/their] baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure [he/she/they] may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

One or more of the following collects may also be prayed.

P Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son into this world as the child of the virgin Mary. We thank You for the life of this child entrusted to our care. Help us remember that we are all Your children and so love and nurture [him/her] that [he/she] may attain to the full stature intended for [him/her] in Your eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You grant us the adoption as sons through Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and claim us as Your own from the kingdom of Satan, rescuing us from sin and everlasting condemnation. We give thanks to You that [name(s)] [has/have] been made Your own dear [child/children] in Holy Baptism and that [name of parents] have also adopted [him/her/them]. Grant Your blessing to these parents that, being strengthened in the grace of their own Baptism, they may faithfully nurture their [child/children] in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord and Giver of life, look with kindness upon the father(s) and mother(s) of [this child / these children] and upon all our parents. Let them ever rejoice in the gift You have given them. Enable them to be teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism that they may share eternally with their children the salvation You have given them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, since You govern and sanctify the whole Christian Church by Your Holy Spirit, hear our prayers for all her members, and mercifully grant that by Your grace we may serve You in true faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ☩ be with you.

C Amen.

All return to their places

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

748 I'm But a Stranger Here

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Our Goal is the Cross"

Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: to the world this is insanity.

- A. The cross is an instrument of death.
- B. That's true, but we know what it was putting to death.
 1. Our sin upon the LORD Jesus Christ.
 2. This CORE Gospel that people are shy to talk about, because it sounds so outlandish and yet it IS the Gospel, Isaiah 53, 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 3:13.
 3. For a person to know the Gospel, they must know where God put their sin.
 4. So yes, the cross was death, but it was the death of a sinner. Christ became that sinner for us.
 5. But the cross continues into our lives on account of the sinful nature that remains.
 6. So, it continues to kill. This is what it means to live in your baptism.
 7. This is the sanctification that follows justification.

Illustration of the Sheep Dogs by Stott...not only a feeding of the new man, but a deprivation of the old...thus, think about some of the good practices associated with the Lenten season.

And this is our everyday lives:

1. You could retaliate.
2. You could cheat.
3. You could lie.
4. And destroy your life, but instead we employ the cross.

Part 1: Jeremiah 26:8-15

- A. Verse 8: "all the people laid hold of him, saying, 'You shall die!'"
- B. Verse 11: "the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, 'This man deserves the sentence of death...".
- C. Verse 14: "But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you."
- D. What does Jeremiah teach us? it is more important to be faithful than to avoid the cross.

Interlude: Crosses are in every good and holy vocation. They must be. That is what God uses to keep us faithful.

Our holiest relationships, roles, and responsibilities must have crosses in order to remain holy. Those crosses kill the sinful nature in us that would otherwise destroy us.

One of my very considerate daughters reacted — in a good way — to something I wrote about Traci that I put in the context of a discussion of the word *martyr*. *She teared up a little about her Mom, but what Traci does is extraordinarily good.*

(A brief excerpt from "Faith That Engages," pgs. 5-6)

Part 2: Philippians 3:17-4:1

- A. Verse 18: Do not be an enemy of the cross of Christ.
- B. Verse 20: We who hold to the cross: "our citizenship is in heaven"

- C. Verse 21: Our bodies will be transformed
- D. Verse 4:1: So, stand firm thus in the LORD

How do we "stand firm"? You guessed it, the cross.

Part 3: Luke 13:31-35

- A. Jesus threatened by death.
- B. See the way He faced it. He would not stop.
- C. He was aiming for Jerusalem. He was aiming for His cross.

Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

Hebrews 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

G Amen.

Stand

Offertory: **422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image**
(all stanzas)

Sit

Offering *Brother James' Air -- Mark Sedio*

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord, have mercy.

P For this and all congregations, that the Lord would remember them, strengthen and defend His pastors and servants in the Church, and cause

His people rightly to fear His wrath and rejoice in His redemption, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For hope in a world convulsed by sin, that we would believe that our eternal citizenship is in heaven and that our Lord Jesus Christ will subject all things to Himself, transforming our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes, that they would not be places to worship our bellies, glory in shame or set our minds on earthly things, but a refuge of love while here and a foretaste of our heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation and its officials, that the Lord would give them wisdom and integrity; and that neither they nor the citizens of our land would hinder His Church or despise His call to repentance, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and afflicted, [*especially* _____,] that He who cast out demons and performed cures on His way to the cross would strengthen their faith and deliver them from suffering, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For repentance and joyful confidence in Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, and that God would gather us at His altar in a true confession of His Word as a hen gathers her chicks, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For courage to bear reproach and declare boldly the name of Jesus, who suffered reproach and bore our sins to the cross, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

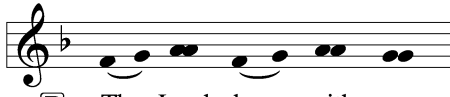
+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



C It is meet and right so to do.

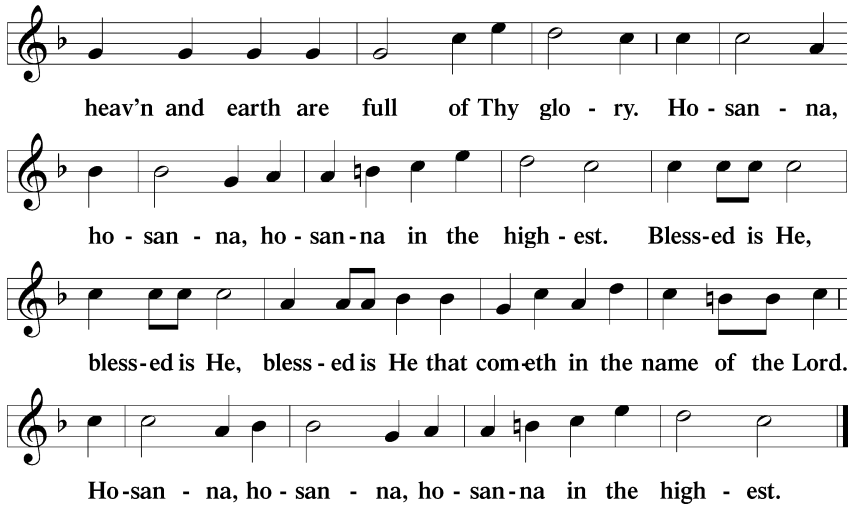
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared 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.

The Words of Our Lord

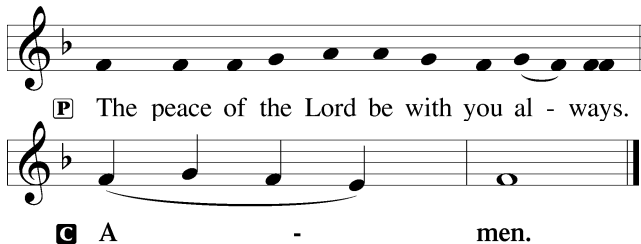
LSB 197

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

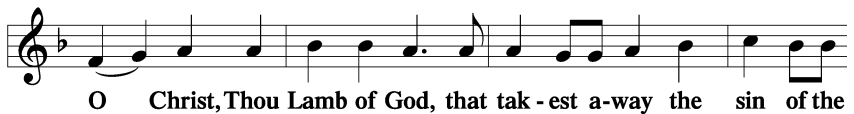
LSB 197



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

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

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

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

730 What Is the World to Me

(all stanzas)

725 Children of the Heavenly Father

(all stanzas)

672 Jerusalem the Golden

(all stanzas)

825 Rise, Shine, You People

(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 - tles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

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

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

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

C A - men.



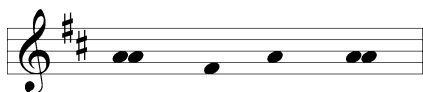
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



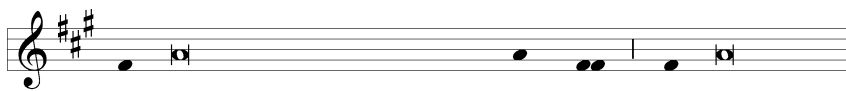
A Bless we the Lord.



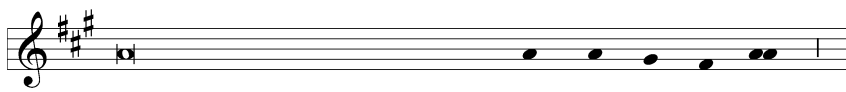
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

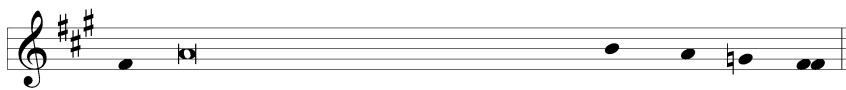
LSB 202



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



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



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



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

Postlude

Psalm XIX -- Benedetto Marcello

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

“Journey through the Parables”

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to explore the Parable 16. 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 19	Jonah & Micah: Mercy & Obedience
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

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!

Paul Ackley Memorial Service

Paul's service will be held at Pacific View Memorial Park and Mortuary in Corona Del Mar on **Saturday, April 12th** – more information on service time coming soon. Please continue to keep his family and friends in your prayers.

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"

This is a very exciting time as we are commencing our partnership with Lutheran Church Extension Fund and their professionally crafted feasibility study to put us in a position for success if the congregation agrees to take the next steps towards a classical school. LCEF is preparing to send us a tailor-made process. In the meantime, I will be traveling with our representative to Henderson, Nevada to learn about a new lcms classical school there. We will also be conducting a meeting with Grace Presbyterian classical school in Laguna Hills together more information. We are also amassing a list of all of our educators, current and past educators here at St. Paul's to have a very important kickoff rally meeting at the beginning of June (We are doing it early in June so that our educators can finish the school year and so that we can catch them hopefully before extended vacations). This meeting will be a very important part of the feasibility study phase. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. This is for the Great Commission!"

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 either on **Saturday, August 9 or 23** 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.

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: On St. Joseph: "Though Mary's husband did not beget Jesus from his own body, he did father him in the fashion of a foster, adoptive, or step-parent. For this reason, he has received the title of Guardian of Our Lord. His service to God and family not only figures prominently in the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also exemplifies the holy vocation of fatherhood and testifies to the sanctity of marriage, parenting, adoption, and every human life." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: Matthew 15:27 – “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Faith receives what God gives, because faith knows that God only gives good things. Indeed, God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table — He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That's where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God who is the greatest Giver.

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**
office@saintpaulsirvine.com

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

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	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>
2nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, A. Wright	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Mike Padilla	Myra Taylor	Shane Perry
3rd Sunday 3/16/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 3/23/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell	Miles Johnson	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
5th Sunday 3/30/2025	Jeanette Dahlin	Mark Kuntz	Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 4/6/2025	Nina Mueller, Myra Taylor	Barney Wright	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

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

