

***Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!***  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)**  
**"The Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany"**  
**Sunday, February 23, 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**

**Guest Pastor: Rev. Robert Dargatz**

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

Website: [www.saintpaulsirvine.com](http://www.saintpaulsirvine.com)

Email: [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com)

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

### **Mission**

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

### **Vision**

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

### **Service Offerings**

- Sunday Divine Service 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

Largo - A Dvorak

### Greeting

**P** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**C** **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

- Psalm 103:1-2

## Confession and Absolution

### *Stand*

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Entrance Hymn:

## 820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

(sts. 1-2)

## Kyrie

LSB 204



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



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



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



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



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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 45:3–15*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Psalm

Psalm 103:1–13; antiphon: v. 8



(congregation chants in unison)

**☐ The LORD is merciful and | gracious,\*  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\*  
and all that is within me,  
bless his | holy name!**

**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\*  
and forget not all his | benefits,  
who forgives all your in- | iquity,\*  
who heals all your dis- | eases,  
who redeems your life | from the pit,\*  
who crowns you with steadfast love and | mercy,  
who satisfies | you with good\*  
so that your youth is renewed like the | eagle's.**

**The LORD works | righteousness\*  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

**He made known his ways to | Moses,\*  
his acts to the people of | Israel.**

**The LORD is merciful and | gracious,\*  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

**He will not | always chide,\*  
nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.**

**He does not deal with us according | to our sins,\*  
nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.**

**For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth,\*  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who | fear him;**

**as far as the east is | from the west,\*  
so far does he remove our transgres- | sions from us.**

**As a father shows compassion to his | children,\*  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who | fear him.**

**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**

**The LORD is merciful and | gracious,\*  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

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



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



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



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

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 6:27-38*

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

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

<sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## 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.**

*Sit*

## Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

(sts. 3–4)

## Sermon-

“Joseph : The Old Testament Character Most Like Jesus”

(Genesis 45:3–15)

Pastor Dargatz

Joseph : The Old Testament Character Most Like Jesus

What does God owe me?

What do I owe God?

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Which will ultimately prevail: Good or Evil?

Can we sure of the answer? Why?

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For tested faith like that of Joseph, who endured hardship and struggle, yet believed it would come to good; and that God would bring all things to completion according to His purposes in Christ, the new Adam, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church; for an end to her earthly divisions; for the true unity of doctrine and faith in God’s Word; and for those who lead us in our Synod, district, circuit and in this congregation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who hate and persecute us, that by His gracious visitation God would lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, to be of one accord, and to share one mind and heart with us and with His whole Church, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For guidance amid the changes and chances of this mortal life, that we would be free from the pangs of doubt and the paralysis of fear; that we would know with joy our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the power of His resurrection; and that we would not surrender to anxiety or despair, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For civil authority and those responsible to God for the welfare of our nation, state and community, that they would pursue faithfully the cause of justice and protect life from beginning to natural end; and for first responders and those who defend us here or abroad, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the sick and infirm, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they may have patience to endure their time of suffering and that their days may be crowned with God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** In thanksgiving for the gift of the blessed Sacrament; and for a right heart among all who prepare to commune, that by this eating and drinking we would be equipped to love God above all and our neighbors as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners with no good in us. Our hearts and our flesh and blood are so corrupted by sin that we are never without sinful desires in this life. Therefore, we implore You, forgive us our sins. Let Your Holy Spirit so cleanse our hearts that we would love Your Word, abide by it and, by Your grace, be saved forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering :** Basse de Cromorne -- L-N Clérambault

**+ Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing +**

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

# Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

## Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

## Sanctus

LSB 208



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



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



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



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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

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

## Lord's Prayer

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

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

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

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymns:

**843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"**

*(all stanzas)*

**561 The Tree of Life**

*(all stanzas)*

**706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living**

*(all stanzas)*

**845 Where Charity and Love Prevail**

*(sts. 1-3)*

*Stand*

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

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

## Post-Communion Collect

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

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- G** **Amen.**

## Postlude

Toccata on *Old Hundredth* -- Michael Burkhardt

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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### Today:

#### **"Journey Through the Parables" will meet today.**

Today, Pastor Dargatz will be leading a bible study over an Old Testament Parable, Ezekiel 17.

Please join us for Bible Study at 11 AM, following the Divine Service and a brief time of fellowship.

### This week:

#### **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!

#### **Pastor Espinosa will be on vacation through 3/1**

In the event of a Pastoral emergency please contact Rev. Robert Dargatz at 714-474-3444. If you need support in a non-emergent way, please contact [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com)

## Coming Up:

### 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!**



*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

Psalm 95:1

### *Choir Schedule for February-March 2025*

- ♪ **Sunday, Feb. 23:** Rehearsal before church at 8:30 am
- ♪ **Sunday, Mar. 2:** Rehearsal before church at 8:30 am
- ♪ **Sunday, Mar. 2:** Sing for Divine Service at 9:30 am

Rehearsal on 2/23 will be in the cafeteria area by the piano.  
Rehearsal on 3/2 will be in the Sanctuary. ***Please be prompt!***

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](mailto:markahoward@sbcglobal.net).

### 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](https://bit.ly/MercyLovePSD). For more info, email [lifeministry@lcms.org](mailto:lifeministry@lcms.org).

## **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:*

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

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

### ***Chosen Bible Study***

Group #1 will be meeting at the church on **Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** 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

### **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](mailto: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!

### **Lux et Veritas: Classical Lutheran Academy Update**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The LORD is leading us regarding the possibility of *Lux et Veritas* K-8 Lutheran Classical Academy. Recently articles in the public arena on a national level have been appearing praising classical education. This is God's timing. There is another mission and vision meeting this coming Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 pm. Please keep this process in prayer. We have a great team working on our preparations before we have LCEF join us with their expertise. In the meantime, we are still raising money for the feasibility study. There are many needs set before us. Would you like to support our future ministry to families with young children and for those children to be equipped with a top-notch education for the whole person, especially as they come to know Jesus and become equipped also to defend the saving faith in the 21st century? If so, please give a special offering marked "Classical Academy." This past week one of our young families told me that they hope their children might be a part of this venture here in Irvine. God does great things for His Church. Let us call on Him and expect great blessings, especially when our motivation is the Great Commission of Jesus!

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,

Pastor Espinosa

### **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 or email the church office at [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto: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**

## FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

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

## SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Altar Team</b>	<b>Ushers/ Greeters</b>	<b>Elders on Duty</b>	<b>Entrance Area</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 2/23/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, A. Wright	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 3/2/2025	Nina Mueller, Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Miles Johnson	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Mei Kuntz, Elizabeth Brothwell	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla	Myra Taylor	Shane Perry
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 2/16/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele

