

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine

(LCMS)

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**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**

**Administrative Coordinator: Sheryl Kim**

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**16355 Laguna Canyon Rd**  
**Irvine, CA 92618**

**Our Mission:** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

**Our Vision:** "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (*Acts 2:42*)

## **+ In Jesus' Name +**

Divine Service	9:30–10:35
Fellowship	10:35–11:00 (café)
Bible Class	11:00–11:45

## **Prayer before worship**

"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."

**Instruction in biblical, Christian teaching** using the outline of Luther's Small Catechism is available to all adults who are interested in joining our fellowship leading to adult confirmation. *Please talk to Pastor Espinosa if you are interested in catechism classes for you and/or your children.*

**THE LORD'S SUPPER** 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.**

**Please use your freedom in the Gospel to receive either the individual cup or the chalice.** If the pastor does not see you holding an individual cup, then he will present the blood of Christ to you in the chalice (common cup). *Please NOTE: We have gluten-free wafers available for those who have a gluten allergy. Please speak to a pastor or elder before the service.*

**The structure of our worship** emphasizes God coming to serve us through His Word and Sacrament. Since every aspect of the liturgy is based on the Word of God, we are led by His Word throughout the entire service. In addition, Lutheran hymnody leads us to praise the Triune God, while teaching the faith that we then confess back to God! Please ask

Pastor Al if you would like a free copy of the LSB hymnal (retail: \$30.00) and he will get one to you. Please feel free to use your hymnal in church!

**This is the Saving Gospel/The Good News:** God forgives you all your sins, gives you eternal life, and abundant life now led by Him ***all on account of Jesus Christ by grace through faith in Jesus!*** To know Jesus as your Savior is to be delivered from sin, death, and the power of the devil. God is FOR YOU in and through Jesus Christ! Please read Luke 24:47, John 3:16, John 1:29, John 6:51, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 2:2, Matthew 11:28, Romans 11:32, 2 Peter 3:9, Romans 10:12, Romans 3:22, and John 6:40. This service brings the life-giving Word and Sacraments of Jesus to you so that your saving faith in this Gospel would be fed and nourished! Welcome

## Prelude

Partita on "Hark the Glad Sound"  
--Paul Bouman

## Greeting

**P** "Those who sow in tears"

**C** "SHALL REAP WITH SHOUTS OF JOY"  
126:5

--Psalm

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

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

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

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

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

**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  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
 way for God with - in, And let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

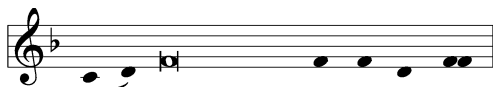


for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Kyrie

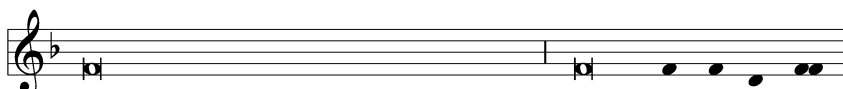
LSB 152



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



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



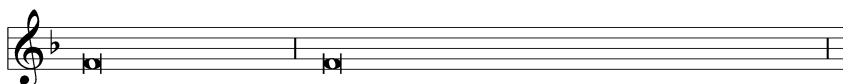
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



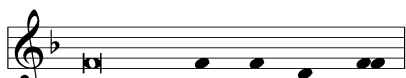
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



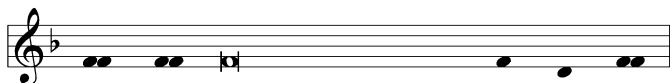
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



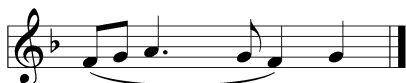
let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**C** A - men.

*Stand*

## Magnificat

LSB 248

*Refrain*



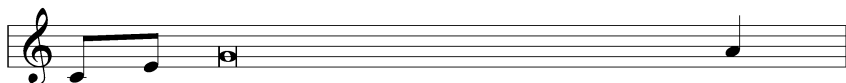
**C** My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -



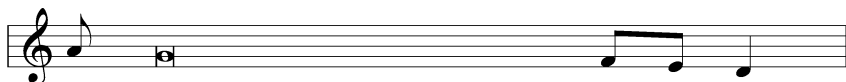
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the



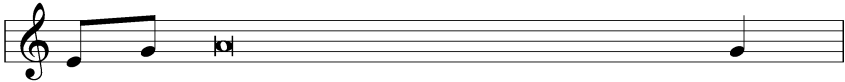
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



- 1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - - - - - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



- 1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand - maiden.
- 2 and holy . . . . . is His name;
- 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
- 5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessed.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - - men. *Refrain*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to  
 lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for  
 You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
 now and forever.



**G** A - - men.

*Sit*

- <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;
- <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
- <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .
- <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
- <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful  
headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.



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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5*

**A** <sup>5</sup>Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

**C** <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**A** <sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**C** <sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

**A** <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!

**C** <sup>5</sup>Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

**A** <sup>6</sup>He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**A** <sup>5</sup>Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

## **C** Thanks be to God.

*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**

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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



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

*Sit*

## Children's Message

### 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

"Bring Good News"

(Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

Pastor Espinosa

*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**

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

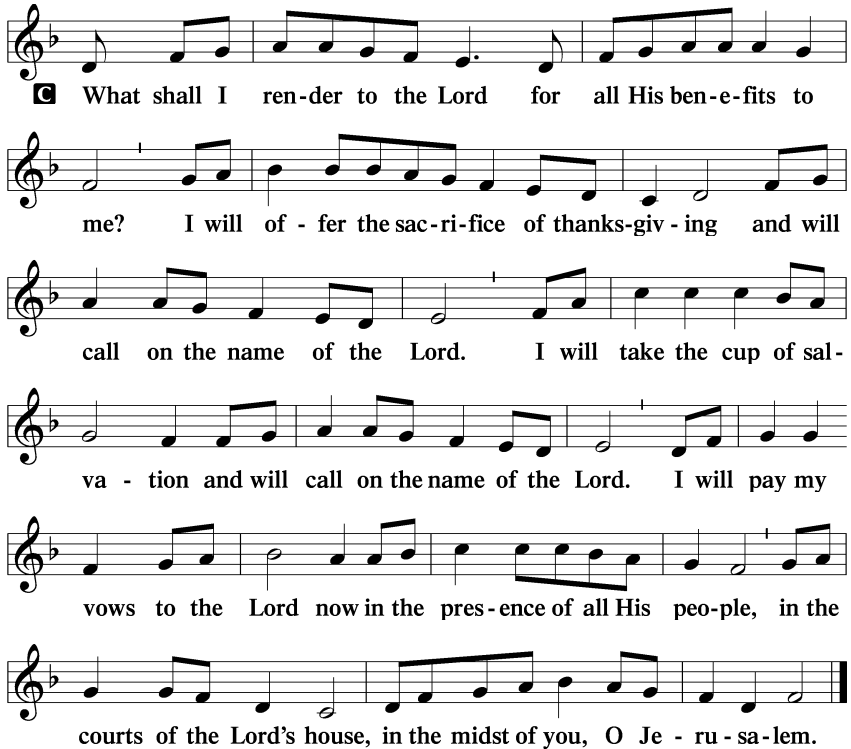
Sit

## Offering

Stand

## Offertory

LSB 159



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.

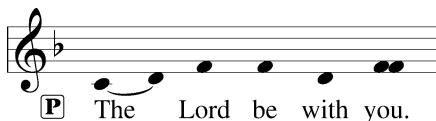
## Announcements

+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 160



**P** The Lord be with you.



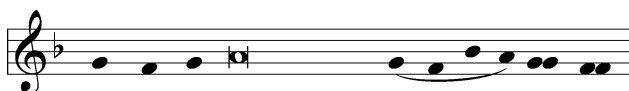
**C** And al - so with you.



**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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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.

## Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom  
And teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;**



**and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

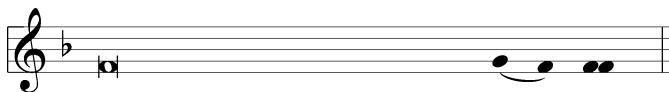
## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  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

LSB 163



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



**G** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163



**G** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



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

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## 349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Text and tune: Public domain

### 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the  
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in  
 3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur - dis -  
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
 And to You we come confessing  
 That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
 From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
 Gently lead us and be near us  
 Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn

License no. 110000405

Tune: Public domain

### 381 Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!  
 From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!  
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 3-4): tr. unknown, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Vincent Pisek, 1859-1930

Text and tune: Bohemian, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

### Post Communion Canticle

#### Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☐ 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.

**C** A - men.

**Postlude**

**Rejoice, Rejoice Believer**  
**--Paul Manz**

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**Worship Attendance Form  
For Members & Guests:**

(or you may fill out an [attendance card](#) at the entrance table. GUESTS, please sign our [guestbook](#) at the entrance table.)



**Offerings** may be placed in the box on the entrance table on your way out. (Guests, please note that offerings are always voluntary. We are glad you joined us today!)



## Upcoming New Services

*[In addition to every Sunday at 9:30am]*

**Advent Services:**

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>: Theme is, "Peace" at 7:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Morning with special guest musicians:**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am

**Christmas Eve with special guests musicians:**

Sunday, December 24th at 7 pm

- ❖ Carols and Christmas Readings (individual electronic candles will be given to everyone)

## **Christmas Morning:**

Monday, December 25th at 9:30 am

## **First NEW Wednesday Service through The Pauline Epistles:**

Begins Wednesday, December 27th at 7pm (Romans 1)

**Pastor Espinosa is preaching at the installation for church son, Rev. Dr. Steve Parks, becoming the new regular pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, 1041 E. Foothill Blvd., Glendora. This service is on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. All are invited.**

## **First NEW Sunday early evening service at 4 pm:**

January 14, 2024

## **Special Service Offerings**

**Please join us on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00pm at Regents Point in Irvine.** We sponsor a worship service once per month at the Senior Living facility in order to serve retired members of our community. You are invited to come with Pastor Espinosa to share the love of Christ with the residents. Regents Point is located at 19191 Harvard Ave, Irvine (not far from UCI). Walk into the main doors and the gathering room is to your left (just beyond the sign-in desk).



## **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

**We are meeting during the school year every second and fourth Saturday at 4pm.**

For any questions or information, please contact:

Shane Perry at (949) 400-6426

or shaneperryca@gmail.com

Instagram: @lamplight\_youngadults

## **LIGHT OF THE WORLD PODCAST**

**Check out our podcast for your own edification and as another way to reach out to a friend for Christ.** You can access our podcast on YouTube, Apple, Spotify, Amazon, or Audible.

Join us online:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsIrvine](https://www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsIrvine) YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/SaintPaulsIrvine](https://www.youtube.com/SaintPaulsIrvine)



### **Average Sunday Attendance 2023**

(Averages include those who registered online attendance)

January: 71	April: 91	July: 82
February: 78	May: 83	August: 98
March: 82	June: 77	September: 81
October: 87	November: 80	
Last week: 84 in person 4 online		

***“IN CHRIST”***

***ONLINE DAILY DEVOTIONS***

We trek through **the entire** Word of God in 2023 in chronological order.

Every episode is recorded on Facebook.

[facebook.com/PastorAOE/](https://facebook.com/PastorAOE/)

### **EDUCATION**

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS** Journey Through God’s Word today: **Philippians!** Come and collect outlines for all the books. Pastor Espinosa will get you caught up with them all!





## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Pastor Espinosa is starting brand new **adult** confirmations classes very soon! **Youth** confirmation classes will begin this Saturday December 12, at 10:00 am. Any youth between the ages of 11-14 may enroll in this class. **If you are interested for yourself or your family, please let Pastor Espinosa know.**

### BUILDING FUND

**Total Donations as of December 10: \$115,076**

**Total Expenditures as of December 10: \$63,212**

*In the coming months, many more expenditures will be on the way. These funds will support the installation of stained glass, lighting, ceiling tiles, a new altar, and more. Donations to our building fund are still very much needed and appreciated.*

#### **To donate to our building fund:**

**Text** dollar amount to (844) 794-2206 (*specify building fund*)

**Online** at [www.saintpaulsirvine.com/online-giving](http://www.saintpaulsirvine.com/online-giving) (select "Building Fund") *Note: Works best with Chrome or Explorer.*

**Check** (*please write "building fund" in the memo*)

**Cash** (*marked envelopes provided on the entrance table*)

*Please pray for our Missionaries...*

**St. Paul's is helping to support these missionaries with financial gifts to the national synod annually:**

Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad

Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic

Rev. Dr. John and Melinda Bombaro

Serving the Lord in the Czech Republic • Theological Educator

Erin Mackenzie

Serving the Lord in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Mark Winterstein

Serving the Lord in Germany — Refugee Outreach Missionary



**St. Paul's has formed friendships with these missionaries and are not currently supporting them financially:**

Tirzah Krey, Regional Human Care Coordinator

Serving the Lord in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Britt Odemba

Serving the Lord in Kenya

Rev. Dr. Tom Park

Serving the Lord in Taiwan

**St. Paul's also supports our local evangelist Rev. Mark Jasa.**

*Please pray for our Church Leaders...*

**Our Parish Council members and Elders are so appreciated. Please pray that God grant them strength and bless their ministry to our church:**

St. Paul's Parish Council Members

Debbie Dannemeyer – President

Matt Bures – Secretary

Ken Mott – Treasurer

Laura Miller – Financial Secretary

Steve Fischer – Trustee

Paul Fick- Stewardship

Mark Kuntz – Presiding Elder

Angela Perry – Fellowship Director

Bradley Hustad – Evangelism Director

Kate Panichi – Education Director

Danielle Vergara – Youth Director

St. Paul's Elders: Mark Kuntz (Presiding Elder), Brad Perry, Bruce Dannemeyer, Bryan Kilduff, John Church, Jon Steele, Karl Blanke, Michael Padilla, Steve Fischer



# The Bulletin Board

## **Life Quote:**

"You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

## **Weekly Stewardship Message:**

2 Peter 3:11 – "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?" All the things of the earth have an expiration date: "Good until the last day." On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?



**Circle of Friends**

*For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home...*

Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor? **Use this QR code** to let us know!



More comfortable with pen and paper?

**Paper forms are available on the entrance table.**

## Calling all High School Youth (and your friends!)

Pastor Espinosa is taking two trips to Higher Things events:

1st: Is a mini-conference at First Lutheran Church, El Cajon (San Diego), CA, Friday, January 12th through Saturday, January 13th, 2024. Theme: Masks of God

This one is low cost and pastor will be driving his van to take a group. We might need possibly one other vehicle and definitely another parent chaperone.

2nd: The main conference at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, Tuesday, July 23rd through Friday, July 26th, 2024. Theme: Who Am I

This one will require a fundraiser (which we have an idea for) so that we can raise funds for airfare to fly to Portland and also to pay for the registration which includes room and board.

This one will require at least two chaperones (male and female) who will serve along with Pastor Espinosa. Please let Pastor Espinosa know if you are interested!

# The Christian Family at Prayer

**Go to pages 295-298 of the hymnal and choose one of the following:**

Morning, Noon, Early Evening, or Close of Day

For a very brief devotion, simply use the opening sentences, concluding prayers, and blessing.

Additionally, you may insert the following:

**-Hymn of the Week**

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

**-Daily Lectionary** (pp. 299-304)

Use as the "appointed reading."

**-Small Catechism** (pp. 321-330)

**-Psalm**

See p. 304 or simply plan on reading all 150 psalms ("The Psalter") each month.

**-Prayers:**

Go to p. 294 or use the special prayers on pp. 305-318.

You may also choose to use:

*Responsive Prayer 1 (pp. 282-284)*

*Responsive Prayer 2 (pp. 285-287)*

*The Litany (pp. 288-289)*

Or other services like:

*Matins (pp. 219-228)*

*Evening Prayer (pp 243-252)*

*Compline (pp. 253-259)*

These may be used for variety on any given day or evening.



*Note: Some apps, such as YouTube Music, enable you to download these services so that you may learn to chant them.*

# 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>Laura Hendricks</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
Sunday 12/17	Ali Frank/Laura Miller	Bill Frank/ Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff/Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Shane Perry
Sunday 12/24	Jeanette Dahlin/Ann Wright	Gary & Daisy Minter/Barne y Wright	John Church/Jon Steele	Anne Wright	John Steele
Sunday 12/31	Mei Kuntz		Mike Padilla/Mark Kuntz	Laura Hendricks	
Sunday 1/7/24	Nina Mueller/Myra Taylor	Alex Padilla	Bruce Dannemeye r/Karl Blanke	Kui Geisler	

## Fellowship Rotation

Date	Set up/Clean up	Notes
Sunday 12/17	Jeanette Dahlin	
Sunday 12/24	Gary & Daisy Minter	
Sunday 12/31	Angela Perry	
Sunday 1/7	Liana Padilla	

## **Ongoing Services**

**HOLY ABSOLUTION** – The Sacrament of Holy Absolution is offered by appointment with Pastor Espinosa. Pastor is pretty flexible in scheduling these appointments. They are generally conducted in his study but can be done in another location.

**HOLY BAPTISM** – Infant children of congregation members should be baptized as soon as possible after birth. Baptism may take place in the hospital, at home, or on the first Sunday the child is brought to church. The sooner, the better. Older children and adults ordinarily are baptized after a period of instruction (catechesis); young children and infants are baptized with the promise on the part of parents and sponsors that they will be taught the Christian faith and raised as worshipping members of the body of Christ. If you wish to be baptized or have your children baptized, please speak with Pastor Espinosa.

**SICK AND SHUT-IN COMMUNION** – Holy Communion will be brought to members who are too frail to leave their homes and come to church. If you are not able to come to church to hear God’s Word and eat and drink Jesus’ body and blood, please inform your elder or Pastor.

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK** – If you are ill, facing surgery, or are hospitalized, please be sure to contact your elder or Pastor for anointing and prayer as described in James 5.

**WEDDINGS** – Please inform Pastor of your intention to marry before you set a firm date. Usually, three months provides ample opportunity to prepare for your marriage as well as your wedding day. Ordinarily, weddings are not performed during Holy Week.

**COMMENDATION OF THE DYING**—When the last moments are imminent, we offer a beautiful and personal family service filled with prayers and psalms. It is a great way to comfort the dying and to minister to the entire family. This is done in residences, convalescent homes, hospitals, or wherever it needs to be done.

**FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS**—We stand by our people through this time of bereavement. We meet to comfort loved ones and honor the deceased. We will coordinate with your chosen funeral home and then plan a rich service (or services) to give glory and praise to God who will raise our bodies from the grave. We do not grieve as those with no hope (1st Thess 4:13), but we still grieve and so we run to the Lord for His compassion and peace given through His Word.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** – Scripture says "everything...is consecrated by the Word of God and prayer" (1 Tim 4:4-5) and we have a special service in our pastoral companion book that presents a beautiful service for house blessings. Pastor Espinosa would love to come and provide this for your home. Just contact us and we will schedule an appointment for a time convenient for you.

**FAMILY VISITATIONS** – Pastor Espinosa is happy to meet with your family at your home or in his study for applying God's Word and prayer to anything you'd like to talk about. Please speak with Pastor.

## **New Announcement:**

St. Paul's has a long-standing relationship with ***The Teen Project and her founder and president Lauri Burns.***

***In years past we have provided Christmas gifts, other resources, and even a used van!***

We have reconnected with them for Christmas 2023!

***We will send everyone an email with a LINK so that you can help with Christmas gifts to the young women staying at Vera's Sanctuary.***

***The email will contain the following information with The Teen Project logo, information about Vera's Sanctuary, and a LINK to TARGET gift registry.***



***Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's gift drive for those in need!***



***Vera's Sanctuary rescues sex trafficked victims, providing a safe place where the trajectory of their lives is changed from hopelessness and fear to hope and healing.***

***Some of these young women have babies who are welcomed into the program, becoming an integral part of the supportive environment as their moms undergo recovery.***

***Help unwrap healing to these precious ladies by clicking on the link below and purchasing a holiday gift from the registry***



Click on the link **above** and  
put a present under the tree for one  
special girl!

