

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Divine Service: 9:30 am (Guest Preacher: Pastor Eric Kaelberer)

My bride, Kawai and have been married going on 43 years. I am "retired," with my last call being at Grace, in Rialto. Know that all of you, your beloved Pastor, and his bride, Traci have been in our prayers. It is such an honor to be with you and to share in the super-abundance of our Savior's grace as we receive both Word and Sacrament. - In Christ, Pastor Eric Kaelberer

Matins: 2:00 pm (Vicar Johnson)

Vicar will present Luther's work.

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.*

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 Saint 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

As stated in Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII (The Holy Supper) Paragraph 69: "For Christians who are of weak faith, diffident, troubled, and heartily terrified because of the greatness and number of their sins, and think that in this their great impurity they are not worthy of this precious treasure and the benefits of Christ, and who feel and lament their weakness of faith, and from their hearts desire that they may serve God with stronger, more joyful faith and pure obedience, they are the truly worthy guests for whom this highly venerable Sacrament [and sacred feast] has been especially instituted and appointed." ***If you are a guest and desire to receive the sacrament. Please speak to one of the pastors before communing.***

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.

Saint Paul's Staff:

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

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

Vicar: Miles Johnson

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Vacant

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

+ In the Name of Jesus +

PRESERVICE HYMN SING THIS SUNDAY! Have a hymn that you would like to sing? We will sing one stanza of hymns that are requested at that time, starting 10 minutes before the service (9:20 am). Come join us!

Prelude

Hymn Singalong

Greeting

- P** Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
C **which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

- Ps 125 1a-1b

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

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

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-shipped and a - dored;

The first staff of music is written in treble clef. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. This is followed by a quarter note G4, then another series of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The staff concludes with a quarter note G4.

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

© Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Romans 11:33, 36



C Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is

interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes."
⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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

Entrance Hymn 713 From God Can Nothing Move Me



1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side
2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure
3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es; Who can His work de - stroy?
4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.
Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.
In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.
He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,
He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it
He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Where - ev - er I may stand.
I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.
His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.
Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

- 5 Praise God with acclamation
And in His gifts rejoice.
Each day finds its vocation
Responding to His voice.
Soon years on earth are past;
But time we spend expressing
The love of God brings blessing
That will forever last!
- 6 Yet even though I suffer
The world's unpleasantness,
And though the days grow rougher
And bring me great distress,
That day of bliss divine,
Which knows no end or measure,
And Christ, who is my pleasure,
Forever shall be mine.

- △ 7 For thus the Father willed it,
Who fashioned us from clay;
And His own Son fulfilled it
And brought eternal day.
The Spirit now has come,
To us true faith has given;
He leads us home to heaven.
O praise the Three in One!

Text: Ludwig Heimbold, 1532-38; [sts. 1-2, 6]: tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.; [st. 3]: tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; [sts. 4-5]: tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; [st. 7]: tr. Joseph Herl, 1959
Tune: Recueil de plusieurs chansons, 1557, Lyons, alt.
Text [sts. 1-2, 6]: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; [sts. 3-5, 7]: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000405
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For preservation from error and deliverance from temptation, that we may remain steadfast and immovable in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all pastors, that they may faithfully teach the whole counsel of God's Word; and that we may receive their words with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faithfulness in our vocations, that we would come to see the various offices God has given us as gifts through which we serve Him and our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Donald, our president; _____, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that they would lead with wisdom, and seek what is best for all in accordance with God's will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those burdened by sickness and affliction, [especially _____], that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who commune, that they might receive the Sacrament faithfully and depart from the Lord's table refreshed, knowing that they are His forgiven people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving to God for those who have fallen asleep in Christ; and in joyful expectation of our inheritance with the saints in light, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb -- Donald Rottermund

+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

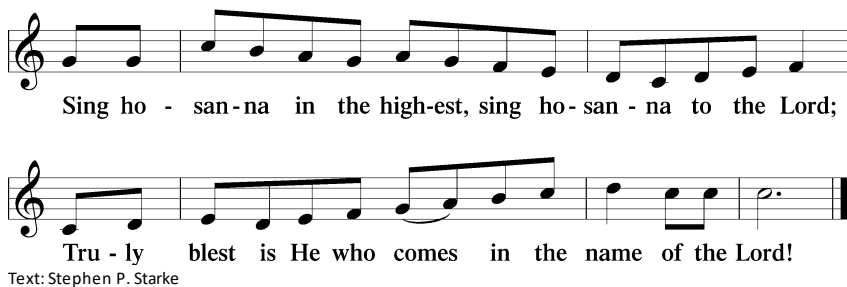
LSB 208



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.



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.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

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 ✠ 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 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

651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord



1 I love Your king - dom, Lord, The place of Your a - bode,
 2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,
 3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev - 'ry land,
 4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers as - cend;
 5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n



The Church our blest Re-deem-er saved With His own pre-cious blood.
 Its sweet com-mu-nion, sol-emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
 Dear as the ap-ple of Your eye And grav-en on Your hand.
 For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.
 The bright-est glo-ries earth can yield And bright-er bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817, alt.
 Tune Aaron Williams, 1731-76
 Text and tune: Public domain

644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1-5



1 The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na-tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis-tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
 And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



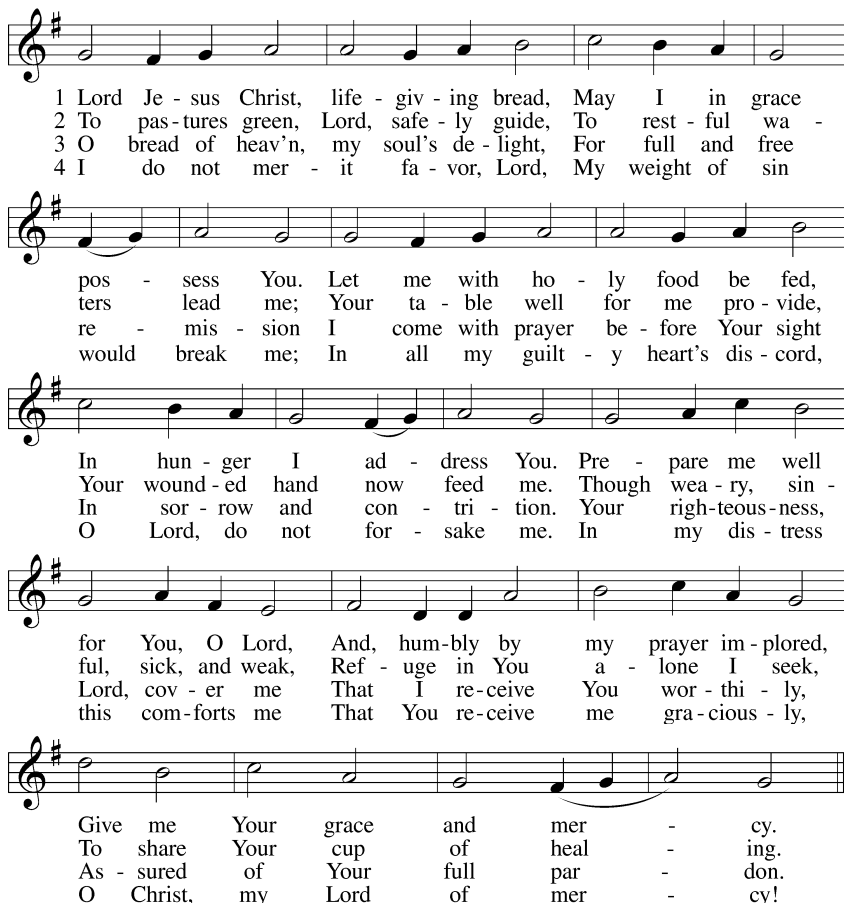
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
 Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76
 Text and tune: Public domain

625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace
 2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -
 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free
 4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin

pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,
 ters lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,
 re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight
 would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,

In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well
 Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -
 In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,
 O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress

for You, O Lord, And, hum - bly by my prayer im - plored,
 ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,
 Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,
 this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,

Give me Your grace and mer - cy.
 To share Your cup of heal - ing.
 As - sured of Your full par - don.
 O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
 Tune: Theütsch Kirchen ampt, 1525, Strassburg
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
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 ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Postlude

Toccata -- Charles Sergisson

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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Special Announcements:
A New Direct Line for Jackie: Jackie Johnson now has a new number — if you need anything, please call her direct line at 949-805-4774 . This will be the number maintained during her upcoming maternity leave, as her previous phone will no longer take work calls once baby Miles Edward Johnson III arrives. Feel free to call 949-805-4774 or email office@SaintPaulsIrvine.com with any questions.
A Note on Pastoral Coverage: Rev. Espinosa will be away July 19–28 , attending district convention and enjoying some well-earned vacation time — he'll return to us on Wednesday, July 29 . Please keep him and his family in your prayers during this time away. Should a pastoral emergency arise while he's gone, Vicar Miles Johnson is happy to help and can be reached at 913-401-9223 ; he will connect you with an available pastor. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and support.