

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 29, 2023

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

PSALM 15 A Psalm of David.

¹O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?²Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;³who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;⁴in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;⁵who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:

The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; Mahealani & Evan Flournoy; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Shanna Childers; Rosita Fabia; Jesus Espinoza; Sean Halbert; Ed Sais; Celia Torres; Julianna Cortez; Bjorn Landberg; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Maxine Miller & her son, Leonard; Aki Fukui; Lilly Fukui; Pastor David Berkedal & Rev. Sally Welch; Susan & Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Renee McCormick; Ron Sahara and his family; Moises Alvarado for the safe return of his dog, Charlie; Renate Kurrle & family; In Paris, Elizabeth and her family; Meher Montessori School; for churches, may our hearts and doors remain open for those who wish to share the Good News; for our country, our military and first responders; watch over those who are affected by the war in Ukraine; for those who are being wrongfully persecuted in Iran; for those struggling with anxiety and mental illness; for our neighbors and the healing of our city following the recent mass shooting.



Birthdays in February:

- Zeke Cortez (February 6)
- Jo Anne Mitchell (February 22)
- Mary Sais (February 28)

Next — Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20
Augsburg Liturgies License: SB170464; Augsburg ELW License: SB170463; CCLI: 923430

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Sunday Service at 9:30 AM
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Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

While LA County has formally rescinded the masking order as of 3/4/22, masks are still being recommended for use in public settings, such as our worship space. For the safety of our at-risk members and our current visiting pastor, we ask that you consider wearing a mask and maintain social distancing for the time being.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **These pages continue our approach to bringing information to those who gather here.** We are committed to communicating effectively and regularly with all, newcomers and long-time worshippers, regular or occasional, and especially those who can't be here. Each week a copy is sent by email or postal mail to each member and friend who were unable to attend worship on Sunday.
- **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience. We rejoice in our opportunity to join together in praise and thanksgiving to God. Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship. Any questions? Please ask.
- **We welcome Pastor David Berkedal as regular preacher and worship leader at St. Paul's.** Pastor Berkedal will be working on **Thursdays, from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm.** in Monterey Park to help us develop the congregation's ministry and outreach as we move out of the global pandemic. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Welch began a Youtube Channel, "Streams of Living Waters" at the beginning of the pandemic to provide connection and encouragement and an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Christian during times of isolation. Each video has been matched with a podcast on their "Living Water Radio" channel and a blog entry on "Words of Living Water." You may send an email to Pastor Berkedal at dberkedal@gmail.com for links to all three or visit our website (stpaulsmpk.org).
- **The Congregational Meeting will begin shortly after service today in the lounge.** To get to the lounge from the sanctuary, please exit the glass doors at the back, go through the glass doors on the right and straight ahead to the open door of the lounge. Today's refreshments are provided by Church Council.
- **Elizabeth will be out of the office on Thursday, February 2nd** to attend a seminar regarding our church's compliance with the new laws of 2023. Jo Anne will be in the office for part of the day for any questions and Pastor Berkedal will have his regular office hours that day.
- **St. Olaf Choir from Minnesota will be performing on Wednesday February 1st at 7pm at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena.** A sign-up sheet is available on the kiosk for those who would like to go. If you would prefer to purchase tickets yourself, they are \$40 for adults and \$10 for all students ages 10 and up. The church's address is 500 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91101.

FIRST READING: MICAH 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burn offerings, with calves a year old?

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A message from Pr. Ford:

Just a note to say we are thinking of everyone in Monterey Park after the horrific event late Saturday night. We know everyone is shaken to the core. I asked the congregation I preached at yesterday to include you all in their prayers. I hope everyone at St. Paul's and Trinity Faith Lutheran are doing well.

Yours in Christ,
Tom Ford

