

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16—To the Leader. A Psalm of David

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. ²Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. ³You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me, ⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. ⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. ¹⁵My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Sunday Service at 9:30 AM

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Find us on Facebook [@stpaulsmpk](#) or our website stpaulsmpk.org

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship.

Any questions? Please ask.

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

News and Needs

- **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 welcome back Pastor Mark Winick** as he presides over our Sunday Service this week.
- **A Note from Council:** "For the next few months, we will be having visiting pastors, most who have joined us in the past; one or two who will be new to us. We continue to work with Synod on the call process and finding the right pastor for St. Paul's. Your ongoing support and prayers will move us in the right direction."
- **Coffee Hour & Fellowship will be held in the lounge following today's service.** 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 Maxine Miller.
- **Church Council will meet in the Lounge on Thursday, May 11th at 3:45 pm.**
- **Save the Date!** Monterey Park is turning 107 this year! To mark the occasion, there will be a 4-day "Play Days Carnival" at Barnes Park. The celebration kicks off on Thursday, May 11th with the weekly Farmers' Market and live music with a special focus on Cinco de Mayo. Activities will be held all weekend with Sunday, May 14th being the last day.
- * **St. Paul's** is proud to be a Bronze sponsor for this year's celebrations to show our support and commitment to the City of Monterey Park. We hope that you and your families will take part in the celebrations that weekend.
- **Elizabeth will be out of the office until May 9th. In case of an emergency, please call Ed or Jean Sais.**
- **Jean Sais** would like to thank St. Paul's for the beautiful flower arrangement and thoughtful condolence messages and prayers she received last week following her sister's passing.

FIRST READING: ACTS 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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; George Aspeitia; Jesus Espinoza; Jess Torres; Karen Suarez; Bjorn Landberg; Linda Wilson; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Aki Fukui; Lilly Fukui; Ray Chavira; 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; Glen Ambra; Gabrielle Zimmerman; Marion Mercer; 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 struggling with anxiety & mental illness; for all affected by gun violence; for those being persecuted for being who they are.