

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. <sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. <sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. <sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. <sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

### 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; Rick Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Shanna Childers; Rosita Fabia and her daughter; Ed Sais; Celia Torres; 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; for Stephen's recovery; Ron Sahara and his family; Moises Alvarado for the safe return of his dog, Charlie; Rolf Kurrle & family; In Paris, Elizabeth and her family; Ray Chavira; Ray Chavira's daughter Cristina and son-in-law Troy Hamblet; 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.



### Birthdays in December

- Max Madrigal (December 31)

Next—Christmas Sunday: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2: [1-7] 8-20  
Augsburg Liturgies License: SB170464; Augsburg ELW License: SB170463; CCLI: 923430

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

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

2009 South Garfield Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754  
Phone: (323) 721-0840 - Email: [stpaulsmpk@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsmpk@gmail.com)  
Find us on Facebook @stpaulsmpk or our website [stpaulsmpk.org](http://stpaulsmpk.org)

## 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 worshipers, 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](mailto:dberkedal@gmail.com) for links to all three or visit our website ( [stpaulsmpk.org](http://stpaulsmpk.org) ).
- **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 the Sais and Cortez families.
- **Bread for the Day books are available in the church office for those who did not pick theirs up or want to take home an extra.** Please see Jo Anne Mitchell after service to get them.
- **Envelope boxes for 2023 have been ordered and we hope to receive them by New Year's Day.** Please note that any previous numbers you may have had will be changed.
- **We will have a joint Christmas Eve service with Trinity Faith at 6:30pm and it will be held in both English and Mandarin.** Please take some invitations from the back table and give them to family, friends, and neighbors. Each household will receive a free gift for attending and please invite them back for Christmas Day service at 9:30am.

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Poinsettias** are often referred to as Christmas plants or Flores de Noche Buena (Flowers of the Holy Night) because they resemble the Star of Bethlehem that announced Christ's birth. Additionally, there is a legend passed down in Mexico that a young girl named Maria, having nothing to give the Christ child for his birth, was told by her cousin that "even the most humble gift will be acceptable in His eyes." She placed weeds she had gathered from the roadside at the foot of the Nativity scene and the weeds bloomed into bright red flowers. A Christmas Miracle! If you would like to donate one in someone's memory or honor, please fill out one of the slips on the back table and place it in the offering plate.



**The most prevalent Advent candle practice involves four candles being placed around the wreath. On each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, a fresh candle is lit.**

The fourth candle, known as the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes serenity (Peace). The angels declared that Jesus had come to bring peace—to reacquaint mankind with God and one another. Purple is also used to symbolize the climax of love in the Messiah.

