

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:13-20

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

PSALM 112:1-9

¹Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments. ²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. ⁴They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵It is well with those who deal generously and who conduct their affairs with justice. ⁶For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. ⁷They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. ⁸Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ⁹They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

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; 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 — Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
Augsburg Liturgies License: SB170464; Augsburg ELW License: SB170463; CCLI: 923430

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 5, 2023

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
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

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).
- **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 Ed and Jean Sais.
- **Tonight, February 5th, at 5:30 pm, a dinner will be held at Union Church LA to promote community hope, healing and unity.** The address is 201 S. New Ave, Monterey Park, CA 91755. There will be messages from community leaders and Chaplain Steve Sewell with Chinese interpretation available for those who need it. Please contact Union Church LA with any questions at 626-656-6300 or info@unionchurchla.com
- **American Legion Post 397 is collecting donations for their City of Monterey Park Compassion Project.** For a complete list of requested items and ways to donate, please take a handout from the back table or check out the flyer on the kiosk. They are also hosting a blood drive at their post for the Children's Hospital of LA on Tuesday, February 21st from 11am-5:30pm. Please sign up via the website <https://www.chla.org/blood-donor-center>, click "Schedule Appointment Online" and search with the zip code 91754. For assistance, please contact Elizabeth and she can help set up an appointment for you.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:1-9a

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-16

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.