

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

PSALM 146:5-10

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, ⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

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’s daughter, and son-in-law, Cristina and 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

- Larry Sullivan (December 14)
- Max Madrigal (December 31)

Next — Fourth Sunday in Advent: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
Augsburg Liturgies License: SB170464; Augsburg ELW License: SB170463; CCLI: 923430

Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 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
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 (stpaulmpk.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 Lilly Fukui.
- **Bread for the Day books** will be distributed after service today! Please see Jean Sais or Jo Anne Mitchell to receive your orders.
- **Envelope boxes for 2023 have been ordered and we hope to receive them by Christmas.** Please note that any previous numbers you may have had will be changed.

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 third candle, known as the "Shepherd's Candle," represents **Joy**. The shepherds were overjoyed when the angels declared that Jesus had also come for ordinary, inconsequential people like them. The color rose is associated with pleasure in the liturgy. This candle is pink in hue to symbolize pleasure and happiness.



FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

If you would like to bring poinsettias for our altar, we welcome you to do so! Please bring them to church during office hours or bring them with you on Christmas Eve. Forms will be provided on the back table for those who wish to bring one in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

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!

