

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

PSALM 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. ¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; ¹² you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. ¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, ¹⁴ those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. ¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. ¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. ¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

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 Aspetia; 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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023

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

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Phone: (323) 721-0840 - Email: stpaulsmpk@gmail.com
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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.

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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.
- **Pastor Lin will be presiding over communion for our services today.** In honor of Mother's Day, we will have a special "Temple Talk" by Jean Sais.
- **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 Carol & Larry Sullivan.
- **The Monterey Park Lions Club Pancake Breakfast** will be held at Fire Station 61 (next to City Hall) from 8am-10am on Saturday May 20th. Tickets are \$7/each. All proceeds from this event will go towards funding the MPK Lion's Club Eye Screening programs for AUSD elementary schools.
- **May is AAPI Heritage month, so Asian-Americans Advancing Justice– Southern California has partnered with the Tsay family to put on a Community Dance event at the Lai Lai ballroom on May 20th at 3:30pm.** Kristienne, whose father was one of the victims of the Star Dance Studio tragedy, reached out to Jesse Chang, who then reached out to us looking for volunteers to help decorate the ballroom and parking lot starting at 9am. The event itself is a free Family event and will feature vocal performances and professional and amateur dances performed by Lai Lai Instructors and students. Please contact Elizabeth in the office by email or phone if you would like to volunteer, otherwise, we hope that you will attend the event to show support for this celebration of unity.



Thank you for joining us this Mother's Day. This day may be hard for some, but here at St. Paul's, you are welcomed with open arms and loving hearts. Please take a carnation as you leave service today as a reminder of God's love for you and in honor of the mothers and mother-figures in your life.

FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-31

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.