

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

PSALM 23 - A Psalm of David

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

The National Day of Prayer, as signed into law by the United States Congress in 1952 and amended in 1988, is held every year on the first Thursday of May. This year, we will celebrate it on May 4th and we encourage everyone to take time to pray for those near to us in our communities and those across the country. The following are local events that you are welcome to attend:

- **National Day of Prayer in South El Monte:** The city of South El Monte invites everyone to its National Day of Prayer breakfast, 10 a.m.-noon May 4. South El Monte Community Center, 1530 Central Ave. 626-579-2043. www.cityofsouthelmonte.org/250/Special-Events
- **National Day of Prayer service:** Arcadia Interfaith Council holds an event with the theme “Together Under One Roof,” 7 p.m. May 4. Temple Beth David, 9677 Longden Ave., Temple City. 626-287-9994. www.templebethdavidsgv.org/events/calendar

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 30, 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**

Next: Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
Augsburg Liturgies License: SB170464; Augsburg ELW License: SB170463; CCLI: 923430

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.

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

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 Steve Bieghler** 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 Ed & Jean Sais.
- **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 from May 4th-May 9th. In case of an emergency, please call Ed or Jean Sais.**

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

¹⁸Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and led us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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 our neighbors & the healing of our city; for all affected by gun violence.