

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## *The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

10 West 31st Street Savannah, Georgia 31401 (912) 233-8895

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**  
**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Welcome & Announcements**

**Organ Prelude**

“Voluntary on Kremser”                      Gordon Young

**Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Most merciful God,

**C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

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## Opening Hymn

### We Praise You, O God #241

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963, alt.

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**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## The Hymn of Praise



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men

## The Prayer of The Day

### Recognition of Birthdays & The Children's Sermon

## **The First Lesson**

## **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." <sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. <sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. <sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

## **Chancel Choir Anthem**

## **The Second Lesson**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.**

**C** Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

**P The Gospel of the Lord.**

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**The Sermon**

**Rev. Peter J. Hartmann**

**The Sermon Hymn**

**Sing to the Lord of Harvest #412**

Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices  
your alleluias raise.

By him the rolling seasons  
in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest  
a joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness,  
the deserts bloom and spring,  
the hills leap up in gladness,  
the valleys laugh and sing.

God fills them with his fullness,  
all things with large increase;  
he crowns the year with goodness,  
with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar  
the gifts his goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest,  
the souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him  
when at his feet you fall,  
and with your lives adore him  
who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

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## The Apostles' Creed


- + I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen**

## The Prayers of The Church The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**


## The Words of Institution & The Communion

- P** The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** 

## Benediction

- P** The Lord Bless You & Keep You, The Lord Make His Face Shine on you and Be Gracious to You, The Lord Look Upon You with Favor, and Give You Peace.

**C** 



## The Closing Hymn

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### My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

#### *Refrain*

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3 What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

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**P/C** Go In Peace! Serve The Lord! / **Thanks Be To God!**

**Organ Postlude**

**Rebecca McClain**

“Tocatta on Now Thank We All Our God”  
Margaret Vardell Sandresky

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**We Welcome You to  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church...**

Whether you are a long time member, friend at St. Paul's, or here for the first time, we are glad you are with us in worship today! If you are in need of pastoral care, please give us a call. If you will be entering the hospital or preparing for any surgical procedures, please let the Pastor know so he can plan to visit and have prayer with you during this time. Thank you for checking the "prayer list" posted in the bulletin today and for helping us to keep this list current by notifying the office with any updates. All are welcome to partake in The Communion during the service. After The Consecration, come forward as able to receive the Blessing and The Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ and then return to your pew to complete the service.

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**We Remember in Our Prayers...**

Kevin Boatright, Ronnie & Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Nancy Flood, Janet Gnann, Garrison Hadden, Virginia Huber, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Dottie Kraft, Ann Lariscy, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Leonora Reid, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Sherouse, Mary Sikes, Charlie Smith, Barbara & Tim Tyson, and Melissa Waller.

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**Current Budgetary Needs Each Sunday From 2023 Offerings**  
\$8,600.00

**Received From Current Offerings Last Week**  
Offering \$2385.00 E-Giving \$ 0

**Worship Statistics Last Week In Person & At Home**  
8:30 am - 27 11:00 am - 44 Facebook - 77

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**W E L C A**

**NOVEMBER COLLECTIONS ...**

**We are collecting monetary Donations to Help  
With Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes &  
Gift Cards or Monetary Donations for  
Park Place Outreach Residential Shelter  
For Displaced Older Teens or Young Adults.**

**Our Worship Leaders & Staff...**

**Senior Pastor...** The Rev. Peter J. Hartmann  
**Director of Music & CFO ...** Donald R. Martin, Jr.  
**Senior Organist ...** Rebecca T. McClain  
**Office Administrator ...** Fran Snipes  
**“The Epistle” ...** Betsy Martin  
**Facebook Live Broadcasting...** Lisa B. Martin  
**Chancel Choir Soprano Section Leader ...** Melissa Flummerfelt  
**Chancel Choir Tenor Section Leader ...** Carl Lettow  
**Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader ...** Anthony Broadnax  
**Pre-School Director ...** Gina Johnson  
**Assistant Pre-School Director ...** Cynthia Thomas  
**Parish Housekeeping ...** April Reilly

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**Our Lectors Today**

8:30 Alan Cale 11:00 Chuck McCallar

**November Altar Guild**

8:30 Charlie Schafer  
11:00 Becky Truluck

**Liturgical Service Cantors**

Melissa Flummerfelt, Emma Levy, Carol Stemsrud

**Communion Assistants**

8:30 David & Dianne Fennell  
11:00 Lisa Neville & Pat Sparks

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**“Operation Christmas Child”  
Your Shoeboxes Are Due TODAY!**



# *Advent Season at St. Paul's*

*Wednesday, November 29th*

First Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

*Thursday, November 30th*

WELCA / Craft Group - Decorate Christmas Trees - 9AM

*Sunday, December 3rd*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00

Family Advent Night - 5:00 PM Evening Meal

Devotion, Crafts & Gingerbread House Competition

*Wednesday, December 6th*

Second Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

*Sunday, December 10th*

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Tri-Church Christmas Festival - 4PM

Reception at the Greek Church Hellenic Center - 5PM

*Wednesday, December 13th*

Third Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

*Sunday December 17th*

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Christmas Caroling - 2:30 PM - 6:30 - See Donald to Signup

*Wednesday, December 20th*

Fourth Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

***Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th***

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle - 10:00 AM

One 10 AM Service - Sunday School Christmas Play

**Two Evening Services**

Candlelight Communion Services

w/ Choirs, Violin, Organ & Brass - 6:30 PM & 10:00 PM

***New Year's Eve, Sunday December 31st***

One Service of Lessons & Carols

Worship w/ our Chancel Choir - 10:00 AM

# Vanco E-Giving

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Let us first begin by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards your church.

Your on-going contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our church and our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJQW> or scan the QR code below with your smart phone and follow the link.

Whether you choose to give online, by mail or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

If you have any questions, please just ask and again, Thank You for all that you do for St. Paul's.

Blessings,

Donald Martin, Jr.  
Treasurer



**St. Paul's Christmas Angels**

*As we approach the End of the Year, I once again am looking for "Angels" to offer an extra \$1,000 Gift above their regular levels of giving to help me close the year in the "positive." However, any gift is accepted and no one will ever know the amount of your additional sacrifice. Thanking you for another Great Year of Blessings! Donald*



**ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA ....**

We would like to give all members an opportunity to place a Poinsettia in the church this Christmas in honor and/or in memory of loved ones.

The plants will be ordered through the church at a cost of **\$15.00** each. This price includes tax and delivery.

If you would like to place a Poinsettia, please complete the form below and return to the church office no later than **December 17th**

**PLEASE ATTACH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:  
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

I wish to donate a Poinsettia which will adorn the Chancel for the services of Christmas, to the Glory of God and be:

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please list exactly as you would like it shown in the Bulletin and use the back for additional space.)**

\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service or during the following week for my own enjoyment, or I'll take to a neighbor or a shut-in.