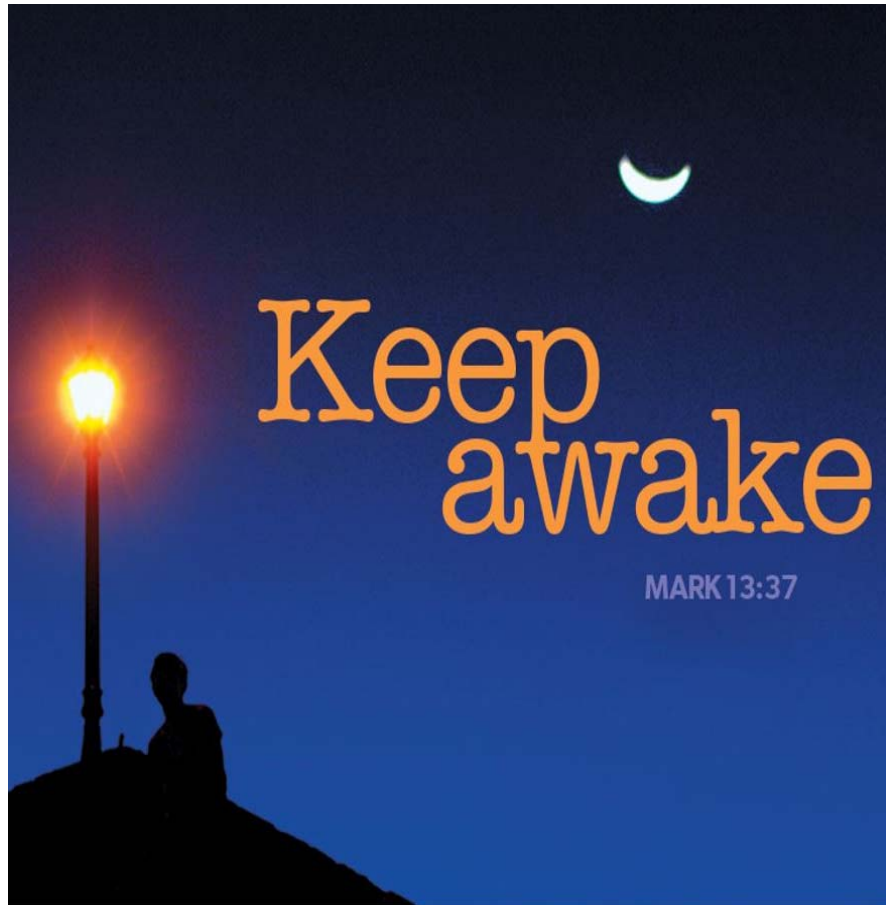


# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## *The First Sunday In Advent*

Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**The First Sunday In Advent**  
**Welcome & Announcements**

**Piano Prelude**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Mark Hayes

**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

# Prepare the Royal Highway #26

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

### *Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

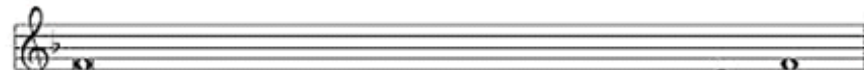
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**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.


**C** And also with you.


## The Kyrie

  
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

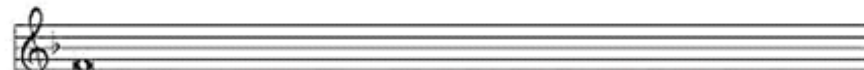
  
Ⓐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

  
Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

  
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

  
Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

  
Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

  
let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

  
Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.    Ⓞ A - men

## The Prayer of The Day

### The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

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

### **The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

### **Chancel Choir Anthem**

### **The Second Lesson**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**P The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

**The Sermon**

**Rev. Peter J. Hartmann**

**The Sermon Hymn**

**Rejoice, Rejoice Believers #25**

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.
  
- 2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.
  
- 3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and sufferings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.
  
- 4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

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## The Apostles' Creed

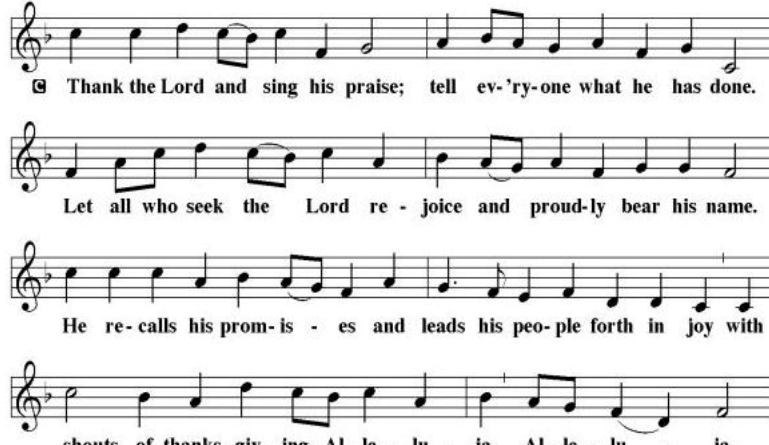
- + I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the 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.**

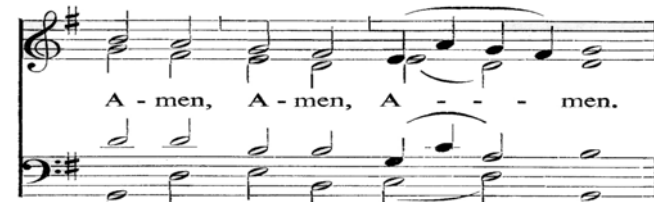
## The Words of Institution & The Communion

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

**C**  **C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## 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**  **C** A - men, A - men, A - - - men.



## The Closing Hymn

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### Angels from the Realms of Glory #50

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

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

**Organ Postlude**

**Rebecca McClain**

“Wake, Awake for Night if Flying”

Paul Manz

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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, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Dottie Kraft, Ann Lariscy, Lamar Linton, 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 \$ 2,024.00 E-Giving \$ 30.87

**Worship Statistics Last Week In Person & At Home**

8:30 am - 35 11:00 am - 43 Facebook - 83

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**W E L C A**

**DECEMBER COLLECTIONS ...**

**Household Items, monetary donations and baby supplies  
for "Shelter from the Rain", a service for  
Single Mother Assistance...**

**\$20 Generic Gift Cards or WalMart Gift Cards for  
"Park Place Outreach"**

**An emergency shelter for displaced or homeless older teens...**

## **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 Bill Wiggins 11:00 Rick Gnann

### **December Altar Guild**

8:30 Natasha Smith  
11:00 Lisa Neville & Donna Wall

### **Liturgical Service Cantors**

Melissa Flummerfelt, Emma Levy, Carol Stemsrud

### **Communion Assistants**

8:30 Chris & Kim Conway  
11:00 Toni Hadden & Richard Wolf

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# *Advent Season at St. Paul's*

## *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

