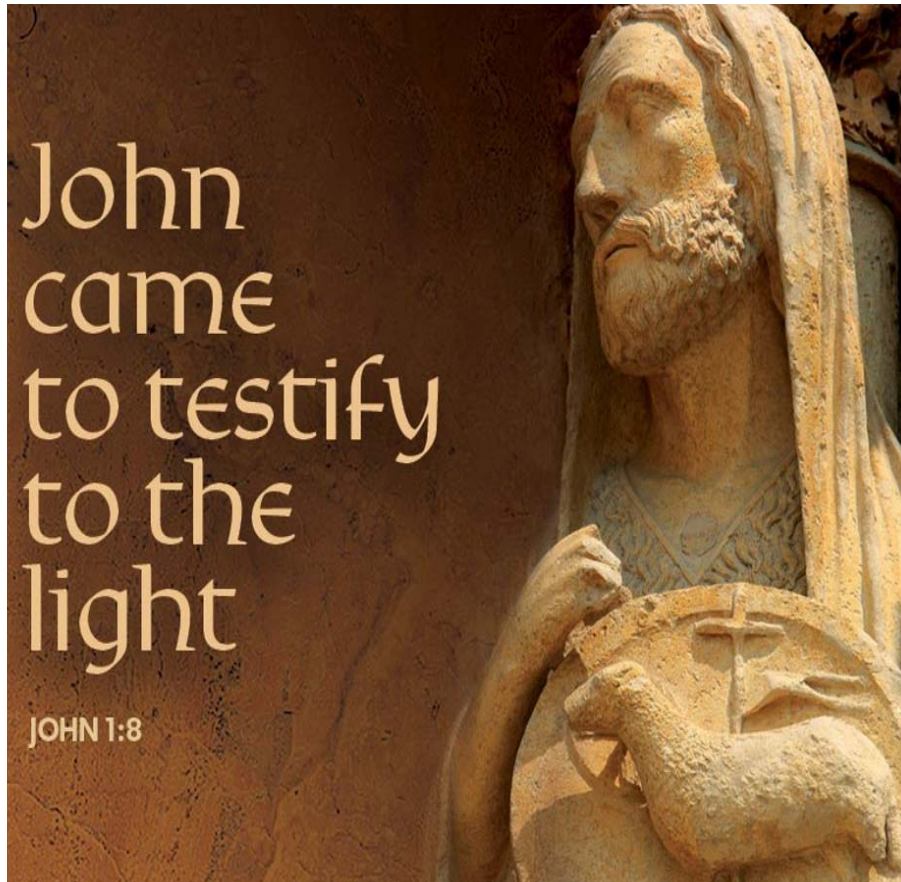


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Third Sunday In Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, December 17, 2023
The Third Sunday In Advent
Welcome & Announcements

Piano Prelude

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. 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

O Come, O Come Emanuel #34

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

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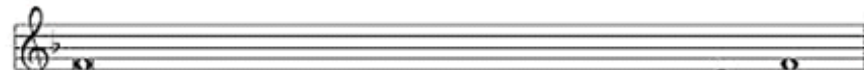
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C And also with you.

The 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.



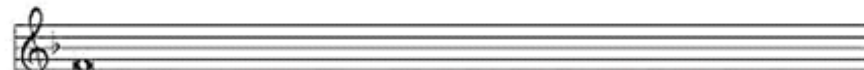
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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 Third Advent Candle
Recognition of Birthdays & The Children's Sermon**

The First Lesson**Isaiah 40:1-4,8-11**

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Chancel Choir Anthem**The Second Lesson****1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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. John, the first chapter.

C Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P
C Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Peter J. Hartmann

The Sermon Hymn

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Sy Miller & Jill Jackson

Let there be Peace on Earth
And Let it begin with me.
Let there be Peace on Earth,
The Peace that was meant to be.
With God as Our Father,
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother,
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me.
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take,
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth
And let it begin with me!

The Apostles' Creed

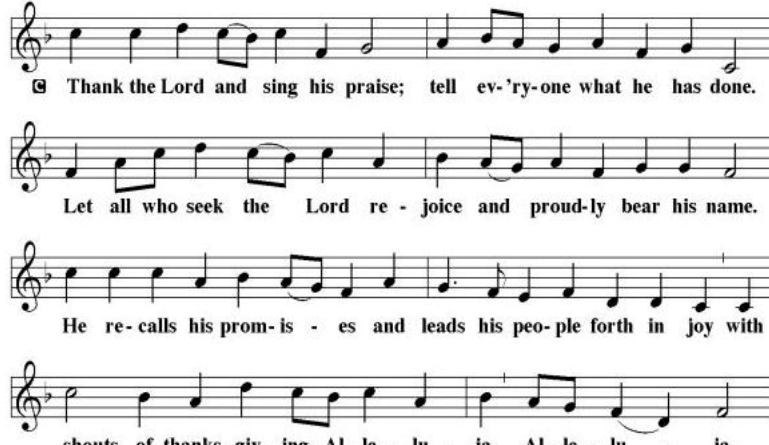
- + I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the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

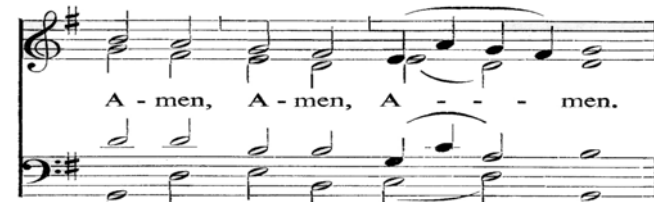
The Words of Institution & The Communion

- 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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It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #54

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

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

Organ Postlude

Rebecca McClain

"Veni Emmanuel" Robert POWell

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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, Mike Hatfill, 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 \$5,125.00 E-Giving \$838.87

Christmas Angels Last Week - \$3,000.00 Total to Date - \$14,410.00

Worship Statistics Last Week In Person & At Home
8:30 am - 45 11:00 am - 35 Facebook - 50

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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" - A shelter for 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 Charlie Schafer 11:00 Mary Gail Wolf

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 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

