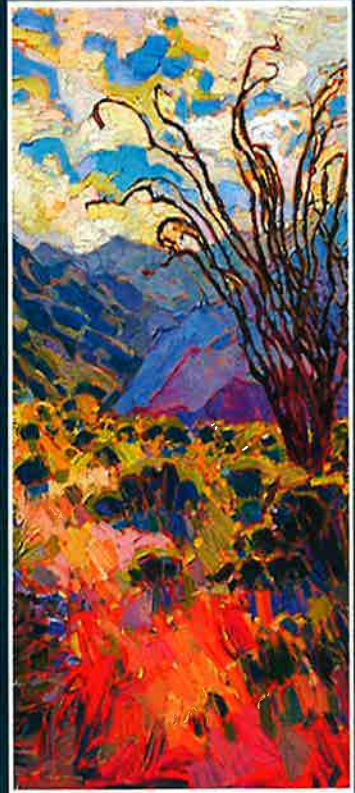


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The
desert shall
rejoice
and
blossom

ISAIAH 35:1



*The Third Sunday
in Advent*

Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:00 a.m.

10 West 31st Street, Savannah, Georgia

912.233.8895

stpaul_office@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 14, 2025
The Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Service Prelude

Jared Hall, Organist

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.

Opening Hymn

+ “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #34



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.

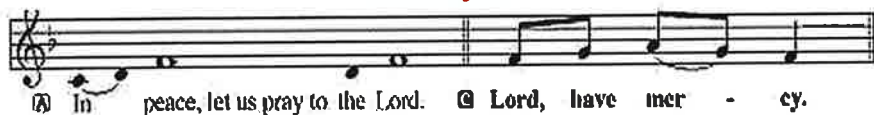


Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

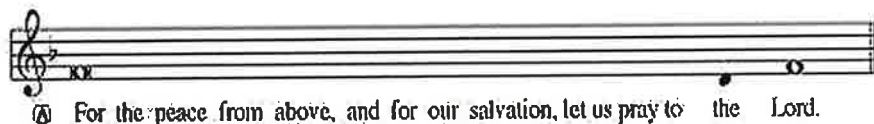
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C And also with you.

The Kyrie



① In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ② Lord, have mer - cy.




① For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



② Lord, have mer - cy.



① For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



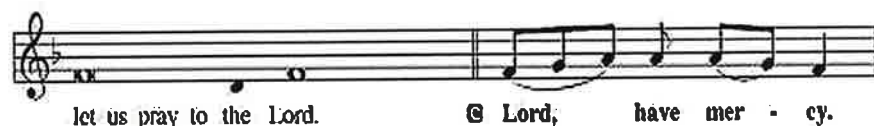
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



② Lord, have mer - cy.



① For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ② Lord, have mer - cy.



① Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. ② A - men

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
- ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”
- ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
- ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- ⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
- ⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Here Ends the First Lesson

Psalm Hymn

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus #30”

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Here Ends the Second Lesson



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

P The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the Eleventh chapter.



²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P The Gospel of the Lord



The Sermon Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #55



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce	With heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce	With heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce	With heart and soul and voice;



Give ye heed to what we say:	Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss:	Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave;	Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow,	And he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door,	And we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all	To gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!	Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!	Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!	Christ was born to save!



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.**

P The Peace of The Lord Be with You.

C And Also with You.

Sharing of The Peace & Chancel Choir Anthem

The Offering

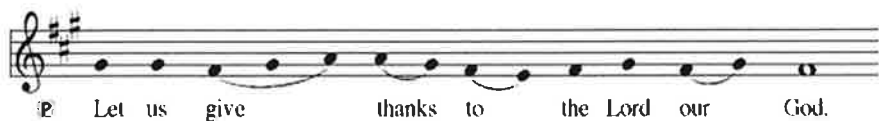
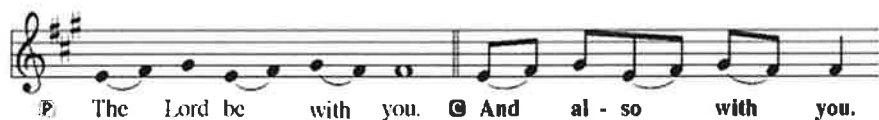
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

P Let Us Pray

P Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love, Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



The Words of Institution

The Communion



C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

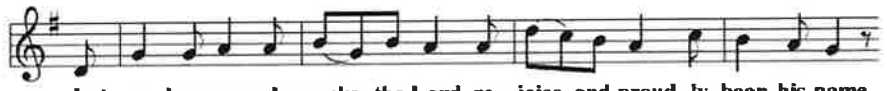


grant us peace, grant us peace.

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



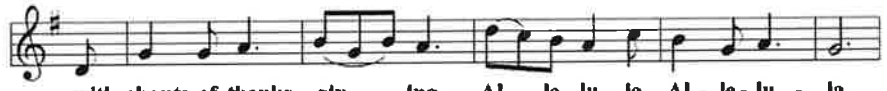
C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



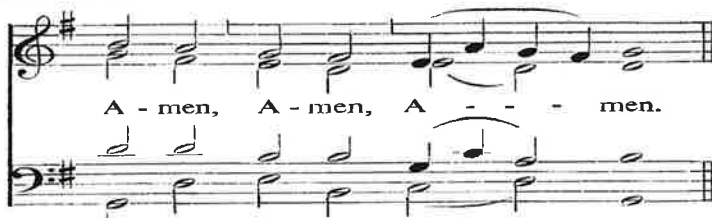
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-lu-lu. Al-le-lu-lu-lu.

Benediction

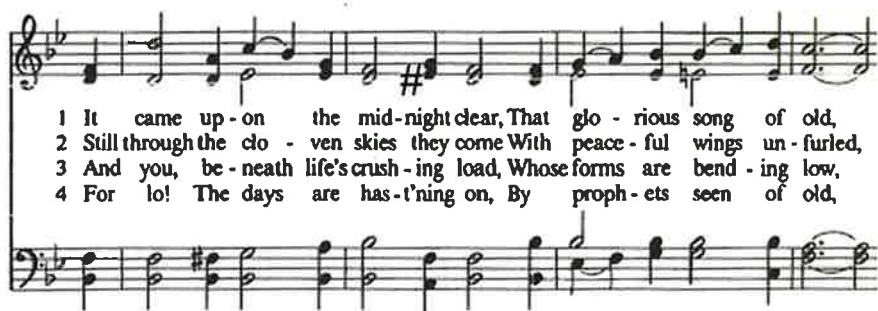
P The Lord Bless You & Keep You, The Lord Make His Face Shine on you and Be Gracious to You, The Lord Look Upon You with Favor, and Give You Peace.



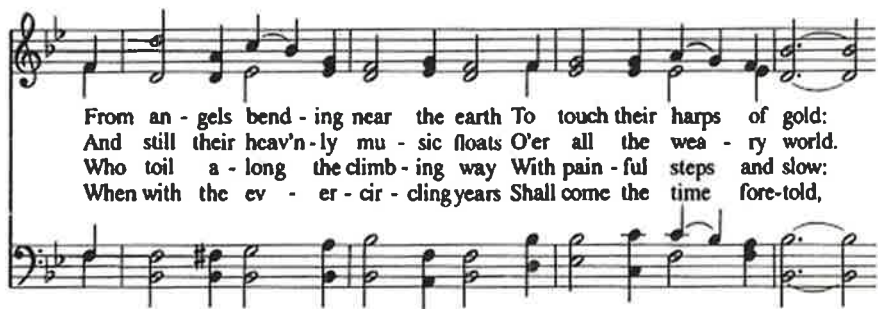
A-men, A-men, A - - - men.

The Closing Hymn

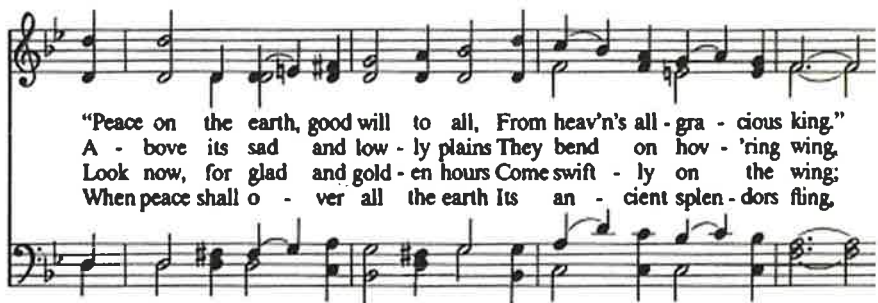
+ “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #54



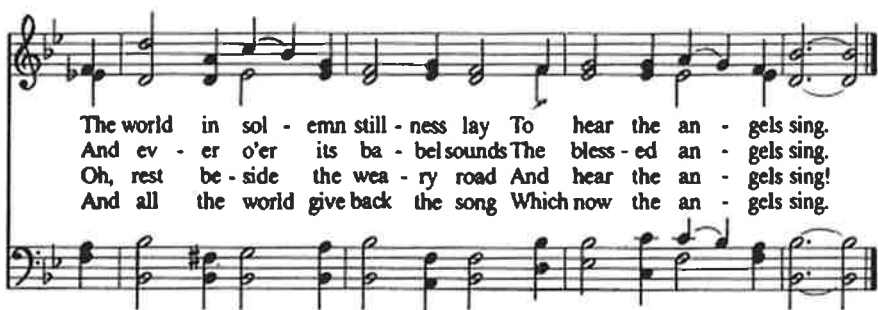
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By proph - ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow:
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;
When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
Oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing!
And all the world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

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

Postlude Jared Hall

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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.

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We Remember in Our Prayers...

Kristen Aspaas, Kevin Boatright, Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Alice Ann Duggar, David Fennell, George Flathmann, Mike Frederick, Miriam Fulton, Frances Graff, Louise Grotheer, Mike Hatfil, Gene Henry, Don Kennedy, Dianne Martin, Mario Morin, Sydney Oetgen, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Sherouse, Charlie Smith, Debbie Sonnenschmidt, Barbara & Tim Tyson, Melissa Waller, Michelle Ward, Joe Whitaker and Alan Wyatt.

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Current Budgetary Needs Each Sunday From 2025 Offerings

\$8,200.00

Received From Current Offerings Last Week:

\$5,806.00

Received From Christmas Angels Last Week:

\$1,000.00

Christmas Angels To Date:

\$2,000.00

Worship Statistics Last Week:

10:00 AM - 81 Facebook Broadcast - 94

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POINSETTIA

**PLANT DEDICATIONS
DUE IN THE OFFICE BY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st**



Our Worship Leaders & Staff...

Senior Pastor... The Rev. Peter J. Hartmann

Director of Music & CFO ... Donald R. Martin, Jr.

Senior Organist & Choir Accompanist ... Jared Hall

Organ Curator ... James Freeman - Callahan, Florida

Office Administrator ... Fran Snipes

"The Epistle" ... Betsy Martin

Facebook Live ... Lisa B. Martin, Emma Levy, George Wiggins

Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader &

Assistant Choral Director ... Anthony Broadnax

Chancel Choir Soprano Section Leader ... Evelyn Thomas

Chancel Choir Tenor Section Leader ... Allan Berry, II

Resonator Guitar ... William Pan

Pre-School Director ... Gina Johnson

Assistant Pre-School Director ... Cynthia Thomas

Parish Housekeeping ... April Reilly

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Our Lector Today Hunter Hadden

Altar Guild

Natasha Smith, Lisa Neville & Donna Wall

Liturgical Service Cantors

Emma Levy, Carol Stemsrud & Donald Martin

Communion Assistants

Michelle & Jim Ward

Narthex Greeter Donna Wall

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Family Advent Night



*Salad, Rolls & Drinks
Provided...*



*Bring a Pot of Soup
Or A Plate of Sandwiches
To Share...*

Sunday December 21st 5:00-7:30 pm

In Hoffner Hall

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



25-26 Seasonal Worship Offerings

Wednesday December 17th - Advent Services

11:00 am Advent Services in the Henry J. Black Chapel

Sunday December 21st - Advent 4

9:00 am-10:00 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Sunday School Christmas Play

5:00 Annual Family Advent Night - Soup & Sandwich Dinner

Wednesday December 24th - Christmas Eve Services

6:30 & 10:00 pm Candlelight Communion Services
w/ Organ, Piano, Choirs & Brass

Sunday December 28th

9:00 am-10:00 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Lessons & Carols Service with the Choir

Sunday January 4th - 2026

9:00 am-10:00 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

**The 65th Tri-Church Christmas
Festival This Evening at 4PM**

...IN OUR SANCTUARY



**Online
Giving+**

NOW AVAILABLE