



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 19, 2023 • 10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II**

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer and is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Voluntary

Thanksgiving
Brook Boddie

The Processional Hymn

Come, ye thankful people, come
Hymnal 290

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The People say together

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

Hymnal S 280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The First Reading ~ Zephaniah 1:7, 12 - 18

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. 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." 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.

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. 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 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. 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm ~ 90:1 - 8, 12

The Psalm is sung by the choir.

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
 from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, *
 from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
 "Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
 and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The Second Reading ~ I Thessalonians 5:1 - 11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

The Sequence Hymn

I want to walk as a child of the light
Hymnal 490

The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 25:14 - 30

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the

one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey

A period of silent prayer.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in

accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People — Form III

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People *That we all may be one.*

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.*

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or
trouble;
People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Samuel;
People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Intercessor We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially
Vanessa, Aimee, Silas, and Jeff.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Prayer In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
{BCP page 824}

The celebrant adds a concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant says

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Announcements

The Blessings and Thanksgivings

The Offertory Sentence

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit - Spiritual
arr. William Dawson

The Presentation Hymn

O God, our help in ages past
Hymnal 680

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 129

Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of

me.” After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The Great Amen

Hymnal S 146



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Holy Communion is offered via the common cup for sipping or intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. A mobility impaired individual can receive communion at your seat by raising your hand.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion Anthem

God Be In My Head
John Rutter

The Communion Hymn

For the bread which you have broken
Hymnal 341

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those Not Receiving the Blessed Sacrament

[Adapted from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book. For those not present in the Nave.]

Blessed Jesus, in union with the faithful of every place and people and nation, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I believe that you are truly present in the Bread that has been blessed, broken and given. Since I cannot now receive this holy sacrament, I pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Abide with me, that I may embrace you entirely, and submit myself to your love and mercy. Let me never be separated from you, that in my waking and in my sleeping I may know the comfort of your presence. I ask this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

Come, labor on
Hymnal 541

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Remember in your Prayers

A Prayer for Vision (From The Daughters of the King): Grant Us, Lord God, the vision of your Kingdom, forgiveness and new life, and the stirring of your Spirit: so that we may share your vision, proclaim your love and change the world. In the Name of Christ. Amen.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Roger Hines, Elisabeth Stubbs, Gary Henault, Max Thomas, Ronnie Peoples, Marsha Friedman, Carol Self, Shirley Cotter, Shaleta Fugua, Beverly Miller, Theo Mann, Colleen Furlong, Bo Warren, Joan LeVan, Annie McDorman.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Jaron Smith, Glenn L. Eaton, Al Williams, David Waldron, Larry Sams, Rev. Hope Knobler, Jim Myrick, Candy Waldron, Ashton Hughes, Lanie Mae Henderson, Lamar Toole, Elizabeth Briscoe, William 'Parker' Johnson, Christian Llosa.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Mark, Frankey, Marge, Mary Frances, Polly, Tony, Roy, Virginia and for the Staff: Canon John, Nicole, Rhett, Dawn, Geoff, Cole, Nicole, Kimberly.

We pray for members of the Rector Nominating Committee: Philip Hand, Lisa Beerman, Kasey Bulford, Brother Massenburg, Katie McBride-Newman, J.J. Thomasson, and Bill Tudor.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg, Ryan Whitfield, Stephen Malcom, Victoria Eversoll, Trey Bland.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Vanessa Shearman, Aimee Watkiss, Silas Nieto, and Jeff Lawhead.

We pray for those who have died, especially Samuel Beeson. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

Service Participants

Vestry Person of the Week	Mark LeVan
Vergers	Daryl Jones, Brother Massenburg & Katie McBride Newman
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeff & Marianne Lawhead
Acolytes	Mary Scott Fabrizi (1st); Adele Bulford (2nd); Jaden Reynolds (Banner); Rowan Mattera & Zachary Reynolds (Torchbearers)
Reader(s)	David Carver
Healing Intercessors	Anne Graner & Mary Frances Honea
Ushers	Bill Tudor, John Crow, Dwight Ellison, Nick Eversoll, Christian Llosa, Tom Mathews, Linda Tudor, Frank West, & Ron Wilson
Altar Guild	Renee Powell
Flower Guild	Cathy Sandlin

Parish Notices

Administrative Office: The St. Paul's administrative offices will be closed Wednesday, November 22nd - Friday, November, 24th.

Nominating Committee: At 9:30 am and 11:30 am today, Bill Tudor and Lisa Beerman, will lead a group session to hear from you. You will have the opportunity to let us know the qualities you desire in our next rector; describe your understanding of the mission and ministry of St. Paul's; where you hope to see St. Paul's in the future; and anything else you would like to share. If you can't stay today, we will also be here next Sunday the 26th.

2023 Contributions: We are in the last quarter of 2023, please log in to Realm and review your profile information, including email address, and your giving so far this year, especially your pledge status. If you need help logging into Realm or you would like a copy of your 2023 giving statement emailed or printed contact Nicole at admin@stpaulsnewnan.org.

2024 Stewardship Campaign: There are 2024 Stewardship Campaign brochures and response cards available in the Narthex. To make sure that we receive your pledge and contributions, please drop off your pledge and contributions in the offering plate or drop off at Nicole's office. You can use the QR code to go directly to the pledge campaign page in Realm.



Let's Dance: The Rutledge Center, a nearby non-profit providing person-centered services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rutledge clients and staff will be in the Parish Hall on the third Tuesday of every month from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m., experiencing a joyful dance-centered time facilitated by Anne Graner. If you are available to assist Anne in setting up the space, interacting with our Rutledge friends, and dancing your heart out, please contact her at 404.444.6015 or anne.graner@gmail.com. The next meeting is **Tuesday, November 21st**.

Wednesday Night Supper: There will be no Supper on Wednesday, November 22nd.

Advent Wreath: Advent Wreath making will take place after Wednesday night supper on November 29th. Greenery, candles and foam wreaths will be available for you to decorate and take home. Suggested donation is \$12. Contact Cathy Sandlin at (770) 328-7988 for information. You can sign up via Realm using the QR code.



Upcoming Holiday Schedule: We have finalized the schedule of Christmas services. Please pick up a schedule along with details on making a Flower and/or Music Donation in the Narthex. You can use the QR code for donations and to provide your dedication message.



Christmas Pageant: The first song in the pageant is "Bethlehem Lullaby". Do sheep and angels really sing? Have your child come to the rehearsals on December 2nd, 9th, 18th (Monday) and the 23rd. All rehearsals begin at 10:00 am in the Nave. To sign up, please use the QR code.



Angel Tree: HO! HO! HO! It's not too early to be thinking about choosing a gift or two from our Angel Tree for a needy child or adult in our community. Our Angel is back at St Paul's in her original "live" form -- not online-- so be sure to look for her in the Narthex and choose the star with the gift you would like to provide.

The Daughters of the King: Information pamphlets are available on the bulletin board outside of the parish hall for anyone interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King. We welcome any prospective members!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; **Nicole Walters**, Seminarian; **Rhett Barnwell**, Organist/Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Administrator; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Administrator.

VESTRY

Marianne Lawhead, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Outreach; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life; **Mary Frances Honea**, Health & Healing; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Tony King**, Worship; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications; **Virginia Williams**, Stewardship.

25th Sunday of Pentecost Rite Two 12