EVENSONG

Saint Paul's Church

Gather by the River

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
Half-past Five o'clock in the Evening

The Order for Choral Evensong

Some notes on this Service

Evensong is the ancient Anglican office of Vespers, a liturgy more than 400 years old and one of the Church of England's unique contributions to Western civilization. Evidence of the genius of Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), the words of this beautiful liturgy have been set to music by some of the world's greatest composers. Evensong is a choral office intended to be sung by the choir, but the people also participate actively by singing the hymns and joining in the spoken prayers. Evensong is an opportunity for contemplation and giving thanks to God at the close of the day.

Organ Voluntary **C. Hubert H. Parry**

Prelude on "Eventide"

Hymn 662 **"Abide with me"** **Eventide**



Opening Sentences **Officiant**

Lord, I have loved the habitation of your house and the place where your honor dwells.
- Psalm 26:8

The Preces *Sung by Choir & Cantor* **William Smith of Durham**

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

The congregation is seated for the singing of the psalm by the choir
and the lessons and canticles that follow.

Psalm 121 **Anglican Chant by H. Walford Davies**

Kathleen Chandler, Soprano and George Kasarjian, Tenor

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help? My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved and he that keepeth thee will not sleep. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; The Lord himself is thy keeper; the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand. So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth forevermore. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The First Lesson **Sirach 51:13-22**

While I was still young, before I went on my travels, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer. Before the temple I asked for her, and I will search for her until the end. From the first blossom to the ripening grape, my heart delighted in her; my foot walked on the straight path; from my youth I followed her steps. I inclined my ear a little and received her, and I found for myself much instruction. I made progress in her; to him who gives wisdom I will give glory. For I resolved to practice wisdom, and I was zealous for the good, and I shall never be disappointed. My soul grappled with wisdom, and in my conduct I was strict. I spread out my hands to the heavens and lamented my ignorance of her. I directed my soul to her, and in purity I found her. With her I gained understanding from the first; therefore I will never be forsaken. My heart was stirred to seek her; therefore I have gained a prize possession. The Lord gave me my tongue as a reward, and I will praise him with it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Magnificat **Allen Webber**

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me: and Holy is His Name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him: throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with His arm: He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich He hath sent empty away. He remembering His mercy hath holpen His servant Israel: as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Second Lesson **Matthew 20:1-1**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis **Allen Webber**

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace: according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Apostle's Creed *Sung by all in unison, standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The congregation kneels.

The Responses after the Creed *Sung by the Choir*

The Lord be with you.
And with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which 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. Amen.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation

O Lord, save the State.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect for the 24th Sunday after Pentecost

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. ***Amen***.

A Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. ***Amen***.

A Collect for Aid against Perils

Lighten our darkness we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. ***Amen***.

The Anthem **Friedrich Flemming, arranged by Allen Webber**

"Praise ye the Triune God"

Praise ye the Father, for His loving-kindness, Tenderly cares He for His erring children; Praise Him, ye angels, Praise Him in the heavens, Praise ye Jehovah. Praise ye the Savior, Great is His compassion, Graciously cares He for His chosen people; Young men and maidens, Ye old men and children, Praise ye the Savior. Praise ye the Spirit, Comforter of Israel, Sent of the Father and the Son to bless us; Praise ye the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Praise ye the Triune God!

- Elizabeth R. Charles, c. 1859

The Spoken Prayers *(all kneeling)* **The Officiant**

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with thy servants who seek through music to perfect the praises offered by thy people: and grant to us even now glimpses of thy beauty, and make us worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. ***Amen.***

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. ***Amen***.

The General Thanksgiving *Said by all*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. ***Amen.***

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom **The Officiant**

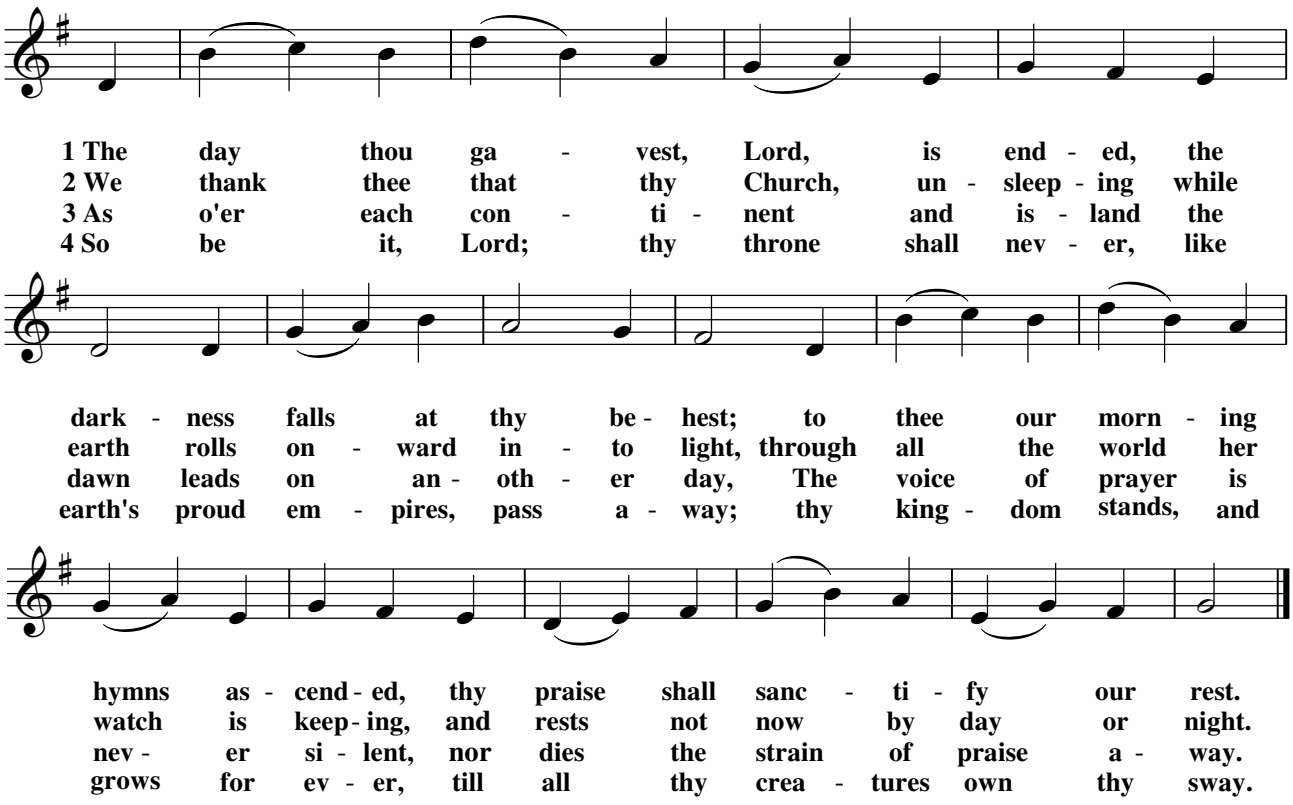
Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them; Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. ***Amen***.

The Grace **The Officiant**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. ***Amen***.

Greetings **The Officiant**

Hymn 24 **"The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended"** **St. Clement**



The Dismissal **The Officiant**

At the Procession, Psalm 150 **Anglican Chant by George S. Talbot**

Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness. Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; praise him with lyre and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Organ Voluntary **Johann Sebastian Bach**

Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

You are invited to a reception in the River Room following this evening's service.

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion every Sunday night at 5:30 p.m.

The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 25 November

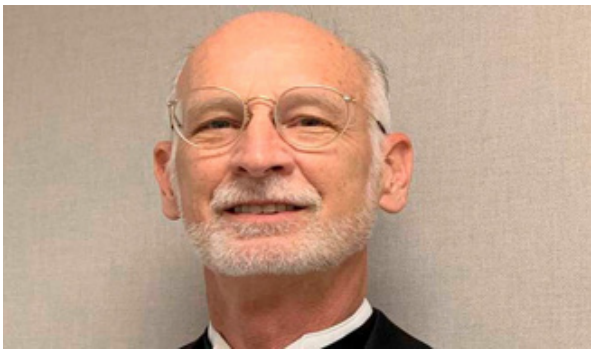
Participants in the Liturgy

Officiant	The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy
Assisting Priest	The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn
Cantor	John Robertson
Lector	Amy Lewis
Organist	Keith Shafer
Music Associate Emerita	Sarah Pritchard
Crucifer	James Robertson
Ushers	Barrett Robertson, Righton Robertson, Cindy Shafer

Tonight's Music

The Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, and anthem being sung tonight were composed by Allen Webber, the Visiting Director of Choral Activities at Paine College from 1986-1988 and a former member of the Saint Paul's Church Choir, Augusta. Mr. Webber has traveled to Augusta to be present for the premiere of his music, and we look forward to greeting him at the reception following tonight's Evensong.

Allen Webber



Allen Webber was Professor of Music at Palm Beach State College from 1989 to 2024, where he directed the PBSC Concert Chorus. He also served as the Visiting Director of Choral Activities at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia from 1986-1988. Allen has also been an integral part of the Palm Beach Post Pathfinder Scholarship program, serving as a vocal music judge for nearly thirty years. In 2013 and 2018, he taught choir and music theory at week-long summer music camps in St. Marc, Haiti. Allen has had various comprimario roles with the South Florida Opera Company (2000-2006) and sang the role of Dr. Spinnelloccio in the Palm Beach Atlantic University Opera Workshop's production of Puccini's Gianni Schicchi in 2006. Allen has worked with a variety of churches as a professional choral section leader and soloist, and since 2021 has sung with the choir of Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Palm Beach. He was a percussionist and founding member of the Orchid City Brass Band. Allen was a member of the first-place Palm Beach State College Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee team (2005, 2013; participant 2001-present). He is the author of The History of Music Expounded in Verse, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt, 2010). He has a Bachelor of Arts in church music from Cedarville University, a Master of Music degree in music theory from Miami University and has completed doctoral coursework toward a PhD in music theory at The Florida State University.

Welcome to Saint Paul's Church

We are glad you are here. No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, and no matter where you are on the journey of life — you are welcome in this church. We invite you to participate in our worship service, or simply observe, as you wish.

We hope you will find Saint Paul's to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where you experience the presence of the risen Christ. We have been serving Christ in this location for two hundred seventy-five years. The monuments in our church and the graves in our churchyard reflect the conflicts and complexities of our nation's and our city's history. While our building is old and beautiful, our mission is contemporary and forward moving. Here you will find a people very much connected with the questions and struggles of modern life and faith and of following the way of Jesus.

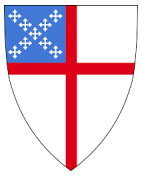
We are a community called to serve those in need in our city, in our nation, and around the world. Here you will find ministries with and for children, youth, parents, seniors, singles, and families in all configurations and stages of life.

More information about Saint Paul's Church is available on our website: saintpauls.org.

We invite you to share your contact information on a visitor's card, located in each pew and hand it to one of our clergy or ushers at the end of the service.

Connect with us

Find us on Facebook and YouTube
Saint Paul's Church Augusta, GA



Saint Paul's Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.
www.saintpauls.org 706-724-2485 605 Reynolds St. Augusta, GA 30901