Welcome to St. Paul's Elkins Park Church
An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

We are on a mission to know Christ; to make Christ known in our community; and to follow His Way of compassion and service to others.

The Rev. John D. Daniels, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate
David Antony Lofton, Music Director
Tessika McClendon, Soprano
Veronica Flemings, Acolyte

Holy Eucharist (BCP 355)

Prelude: Sing Praise **arr. Howard Helvey**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Opening Hymn: O God, Our Help In Ages Past **BLUE #680 VS. 1,2,3**

The Word of God (BCP 355)
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen..

Hymn of Glory: Glorious is the Name of Jesus **LEVAS #63**

The Collect of the Day (BCP 184)
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

The First Lesson: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-7 (BCP 694-95)

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love LEVAS #74 vs 1,2

The Gospel: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. John D. Daniels

The Nicene Creed (BCP 358)

Celebrant: Our Affirmation of Trust in All that is Holy

People: 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 worshipped 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 (BCP 392 (Form VI))
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
(*Silence*)
For all people in their daily life and work.
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Daniel, our Diocesan Bishop; for John, our Priest in Charge; for Simpson, our Priest Associate; for David, our Music Director; for Tessika, our singer; for Veronica, our acolyte; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all people everywhere;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
(*Silence*)
Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
(*Silence*)
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(*Silence*)
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession (BCP 360)
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
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 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.

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 (BCP 360)
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion (BCP 361)

Offertory Anthem:It is Well **Philip Bliss arr Mak Hayes**
Tessika McClendon, Soprano

The Doxology **BLUE #380 vs. 3**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (BCP 361)
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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. You have filled us and all creation with blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into on body. Through your Spirit, you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing the hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus **BLUE #S130**
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day your 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 (BCP 364)
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei: Jesus , Lamb of God **BLUE #S164**
Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Anthem: Have Thine Own Way, Lord **arr.George Stebbins**
Tessika McClendon, Soprano

Post Communion Prayer (BCP 365)
Let us pray.
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.

The Blessing
The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be with you and with those you love, this day, and for ever more. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Trust and Obey **LEVAS#205 vs 1,2,3**

The Dismissal (BCP 366)
Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Fugue from Pieces d'orgue **arr. Louis Marchand**

Please Join us for Coffee Hour in the Narthex following the service

<u>November Birthdays</u>

4 - Lyric Lindsey
9 - Jay Hammond
14 - Herb Welles
20 – Liam Reid
30 – Paul Krause
7 - Karen Whitney
12 - Lilian Weaver & M ethinks Lindsay
15 – Normand Goldstein
23 – Ugochinyere Anyanechi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule a meeting with Father John: If you would like to schedule a time to meet with Father John or want to speak with him at any time, please call at 484-983-7943.

Friends of St. Paul's Restructuring Announcement. The Friends of St. Paul's is restructuring and looking for church and community members to serve as board members and officers. If interested, please contact Carlene N. Welles at 757-206-3804 or cnbrd13@gmail.com.

The Prayer Band: A small, but faithful group, the Prayer Band has continued to meet faithfully over the last 10+ years. The Prayer Band meets every other Monday at 6 p.m. on Zoom. The next meeting will be October 12, 2026
Zoom ID: 85240760054; Password 728050.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Paul's: The Prayer Shawl knitting group meets on the 2nd Saturday every month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

St. Paul's Fall Birthday Celebration. Please join us on Saturday, November 14, from 1pm to 4pm at Jay Cooke Hall. For more details, contact Anneke, Carlene, Herb, or Yeisha.

Friends of St. Paul's Elkins Park Presents: Holiday Pops Concert. Join us and celebrate the holiday season on Saturday, December 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be $25.

Bright Lights Ministry – Hats and Mittens for St. Stephen's Homeless Outreach. Our former deacon, Jeannie Sachs, is seeking knitted or crocheted hats and mittens for donation. They must be bright, vibrant, and colorful. Contact Jeannie at deaconjeannie@stpetersglenside.org or 215-877-1765 ext. 403.

Food Donations: Remember to donate to the Food Pantry Wagon located in the Narthex.

Hospitality Hosts & Usher/Readers Wanted. We are scheduling hospitality hosts and usher/readers for November through January. Please contact Laura Pillsbury to volunteer (lauramspear@gmail.com or 215-870-3476)

Have an Announcement to Share with our Church Family? We'd love to include it in next week's service bulletin! Please send your announcement to office@stpaulselkinspark.org by **12:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday** so we can make sure it is included

Church Office Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am- 2:00 pm.