

Theme, Sermons & Scriptures For November 2025

Theme of the Month: A Thankful heart produces faithful hands!

Scripture: Psalms 136:1 O Give Thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. His Love endures forever!

From the Pastor's Desk concerning November'25

This month we are reminded that gratitude and faithfulness go hand in hand. A thankful heart doesn't just speak words of appreciation, it expresses them through faithful action. When we recognize God's goodness in our lives, our response should be more than just thank you; it should be here I am, Lord, use me.

Thanksgiving is more than a season; it's a way of living. Every act of service, every offering, every gesture of love becomes an extension of our gratitude to God. When our hearts are full of thanksgiving, our hands naturally become instruments of faithfulness.

Stewardship is not only about managing what we have, it's about honoring who gave it to us. The more we thank God for His blessings, the more intentional we become in using those blessings to glorify Him and bless others.

So this November, let's cultivate hearts of gratitude that move our hands to generosity, service, and faith. Because when we are truly thankful, we can't help but be faithful.

Sermons For The Month of November'25

First Sunday: A word from a dollar bill. (Proverbs 3:5&6) (Third Sunday)

First Sunday Summary

Every dollar bill has a message for us, to trust God. If you look closely, printed right on our currency are the words, "In God We Trust." That's not just a national motto; it's a spiritual reminder. Our money may say it, but our hearts must live it.

This message calls us to see our finances not just as means of exchange, but as instruments of faith. Every time God places resources in our hands, He's also giving us an opportunity to practice trust. When you give, when you save, when you spend, you are declaring whether you trust the money or the Master.

We must learn to rely on God as our true source. Jobs may change, markets may shift, and resources may come and go, but the same God who provided for you today will take care of you tomorrow.

So when money passes through your hands, let your heart take on the mantle of trust. Remember: our money has a message, trust God.

Second Sunday- Veterans Day. Guest speaker Chaplain Camille Williams
Honoring Those Who Serve/Served

Today we pause to honor the brave men and women who have served our nation with courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment. Their willingness to stand in harm's way reminds us of the deep cost of freedom and the power of faithful service.

As we give thanks this month, we recognize that gratitude and faithfulness are not only spiritual virtues, but lived examples in the lives of our veterans. They embody what it means to serve something greater than themselves. Their strength, discipline, and dedication mirror the words of Jesus: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Let us be thankful not only for their service, but for the spirit of sacrifice that points us back to the One who gave His life for us all. May we honor our veterans, not only with our words, but by living lives of faith, service, and gratitude worthy of their example.

We salute our veterans today and we thank God for you.

Third Sunday - When you've lost it all (Matthew 19:21-22) (First Sunday)
Third Sunday Sermon Summary

What do you do when you've lost it all?

In this passage, Jesus challenges the rich young ruler to sell all he has, give to the poor, and follow Him. The young man walks away sorrowful because his heart is tied to what he owns. This moment exposes a truth we all must face: what we possess can sometimes possess us.

This message invites us to reflect on how we define security and success. Too often, our sense of worth is built around what we have our money, our homes, our jobs, or our relationships. But when those things are gone, what remains?

Jesus teaches us that having God is greater than having things. We may lose wealth, status, or comfort, but if we still have God, we still have everything we need to survive. Loss may strip away what's temporary, but it cannot take away what's eternal.

So when life feels like it's all slipping away, remember this: sometimes God allows us to lose certain things not to break us, but to bring us closer to Him. In losing what we thought we needed, we discover that God is all we truly need.

Fourth Sunday - Today and is going to be a good day! (Psalms 118:24)

Fourth Sunday Sermon Summary

The holiday season brings joy to many, but for others, it also brings stress, sadness, or loneliness. Studies show that 89% of adults report increased stress during the holidays, and 64% of people with pre-existing mental health conditions say their symptoms worsen this time of year. On top of that, 55% of Americans admit to drinking more during the holidays than at any other time.

Perhaps your stress is triggered by the loss of a loved one. Maybe it's the quiet ache of loneliness, or the feeling that you've been forgotten. But I want you to know this truth: God did not make this day without you in mind.

There is something in this day that God wants to show you, bless you with, or use for His glory. So as you move through this season, decide to make your day. Speak life over it. Declare it boldly:

"Today is going to be a good day!"

Because when you choose to rejoice, no matter what the season brings, you align yourself with the promise of Psalm 118:24: This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

5th Sunday - We are celebrating our 146th Church Anniversary!

146th Church Anniversary Reflection

As we gather to celebrate another year in the life of our church, we pause to give thanks for God's faithfulness through every season. From humble beginnings to the blessings of today, we can boldly declare, "The Lord has been good to us!"

Every prayer prayed, every soul saved, and every act of service offered stands as a testimony that God's love endures forever. Our church is not just a building, it is a living, breathing witness of God's grace at work in His people.

Today, we look back with gratitude, we stand firm in faith, and we look forward with hope. The same God who brought us this far is not finished yet!

Happy Church Anniversary, St. Paul AME Worship Center!

First Sunday in Advent Reflection - HOPE

Theme: "From Gratitude to Glory: The Gift of a New Beginning"

Occasion: Church Anniversary & First Sunday of Advent

Today we stand at a sacred intersection — between reflection and anticipation, between gratitude for where we've been and hope for where God is leading us. As we celebrate another year in the life of our church, we do so with hearts full of thanksgiving. We look back and declare with confidence, "God has been faithful!"

But this day also marks the First Sunday of Advent, a season of expectation and preparation. Advent reminds us that God is still writing our story. The same God who carried us through every trial and triumph is still at work, doing a new thing among us.

Just as Israel waited for the promise of the Messiah, we too wait — not in fear or fatigue, but in faithful anticipation. We wait for renewed strength, fresh vision, and divine possibilities. Advent calls us to lift our eyes beyond what has been and to look forward to what shall be.

So today, we celebrate both where we've come from and where we're going. We give thanks for every prayer, every blessing, and every life touched through this ministry — and we open our hearts for what God is about to birth in this next season.

From gratitude to glory, from remembrance to renewal, we move forward in faith, knowing that the best is yet to come.

**First Sunday of Advent Responsive reading printed after scriptures.*

Scriptures For The Month of November

First Sunday "–A Word from a Dollar Bill" (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Focus: Trusting God as our ultimate provider and source.

- Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8:10–18 — Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth.
- Epistle: Philippians 4:11–13, 19 — Paul declares contentment and confidence that God will supply every need.
- Gospel: Matthew 6:25–33 — Jesus teaches not to worry about material things but to seek first the kingdom of God.

Emphasis: True wealth is not found in what's printed on our money, but in the trust we place in the God who provides.

Second Sunday – Veterans Day Sunday: “The Blessing of a Grateful Heart” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Focus: *Gratitude, service, and honoring faithfulness.*

- Old Testament: Psalm 100 — Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.
- Epistle: Colossians 3:15–17 — Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful in everything you do.
- Gospel: Luke 17:11–19 — The story of the ten lepers, where only one returns to give thanks.

Emphasis: Gratitude opens the heart and honors God—just as our veterans honor their nation through faithful service.

Third Sunday “–When You’ve Lost It All” (Matthew 19:21–22)

Focus: *Letting go of material things to hold on to God.*

- Old Testament: Job 1:20–22 — Job loses everything, yet worships and declares, “The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord”
- Epistle: Hebrews 10:34–36 — You joyfully accepted the loss of possessions, knowing you have something better.
- Gospel: Mark 10:17–22 — The rich young ruler walks away sorrowful because of his great possessions.

Emphasis: What we lose in life cannot compare to the life we gain when we follow Christ completely.

Fourth Sunday “–Today Is Going to Be a Good Day!” (Psalm 118:24)

Focus: *Choosing joy, gratitude, and faith amid life's pressures.*

- Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1–3 — God gives beauty for ashes and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.
- Epistle: Philippians 4:4–7 — Rejoice in the Lord always; let your requests be made known to God, and His peace will guard your hearts.
- Gospel: Luke 12:22–32 — Do not worry about tomorrow; your Father knows what you need.

Emphasis: No matter what the season brings, we can rejoice and declare that today is a day the Lord has made—so it will be a good day.

5th Sunday – 146h Church Anniversary Celebration

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 7:10–12 — Samuel sets up a stone and calls it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

Epistle: Ephesians 3:20–21 — “Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think... to Him be glory in the church.”

Gospel: Matthew 16:13–18 — Jesus declares, “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

The 5th Sunday of November is also the First Sunday of Advent!

146th Church Anniversary & First Sunday of Advent Litany

Theme: From Gratitude to Glory: The Gift of a New Beginning”

Advent Principle: Hope

Leader: Today, we celebrate the faithfulness of God through another year in the life of our church.

People: We give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His love endures forever!

Leader: From humble beginnings to this very moment, God has guided our steps and supplied our needs.

People: We remember His goodness, we rejoice in His mercy, and we renew our commitment to serve faithfully.

Leader: As we mark this Church Anniversary, we look back with gratitude—seeing the hand of God in every victory, every trial, and every prayer answered.

People: To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Leader: Today also begins a new season—the First Sunday of Advent.

People: We enter this season with hearts filled with hope, trusting that the same God who kept us will continue to lead us.

Leader: Advent reminds us that the light is coming—that Christ, our Hope, draws near.

People: We wait with expectation, believing that God is still doing a new thing among us.

Leader: As we move from gratitude to glory, from remembrance to renewal—

People: We lift our hands in praise and our hearts in hope, saying, “Come, Lord Jesus, come!”

Leader: This is our testimony: God has been faithful.

All Together: And our declaration: The best is yet to come!