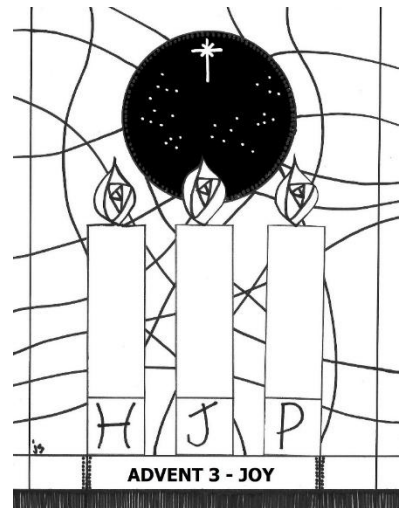


December 14, 2025

Advent III

PRELUDE

WELCOME



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church exists on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron / Neutral People. We honour the original ancestors of this land and also offer respect and friendship to our Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, Mississauga and Métis neighbours.

We give thanks for the First Peoples and all who have cared for the land and made it possible for us to dwell and do ministry on this land, and we commit ourselves to walk in right relations with one another.

GATHERING SONG

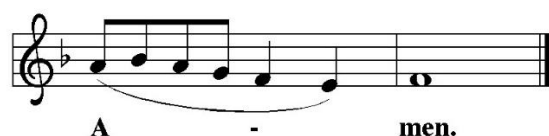
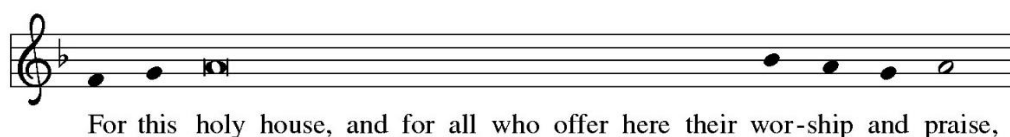
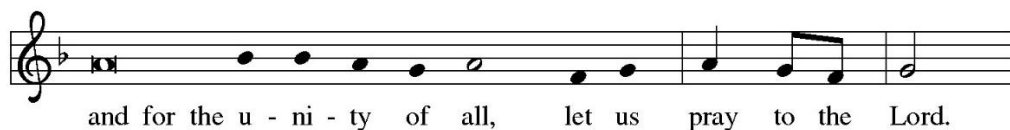
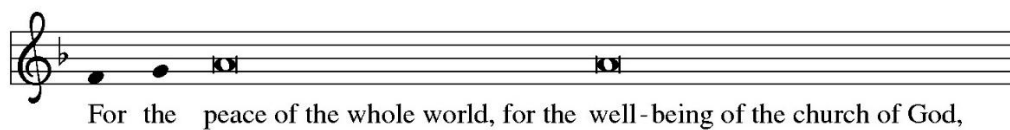
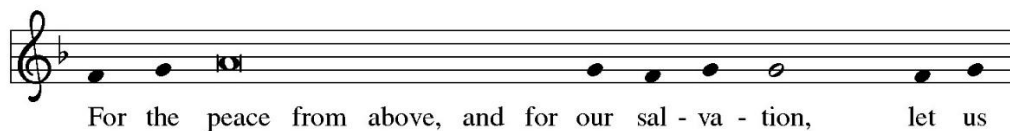
**Awake, Awake and Greet the New
Morn RED 242**

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, O God, **and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Light One Candle (verses one to three only)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Three candles on the Advent Wreath are lit as the verses are sung.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion in which all the potential obstacles have been removed.

- ¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it 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.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 (*Sung together in unison*)



- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**
**⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**
**⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.**
**⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous. R**
- ⁹ The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.**
**¹⁰ The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

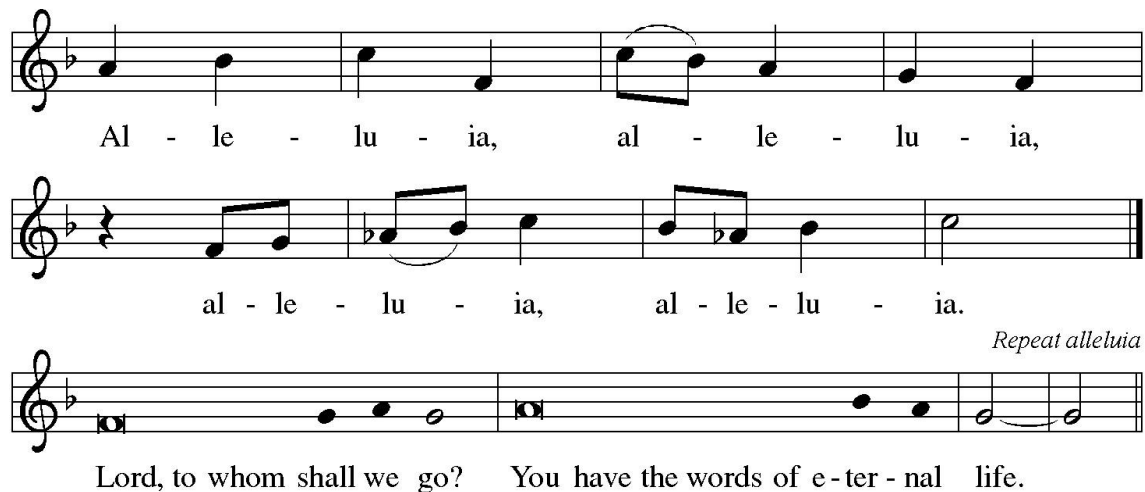
⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel of our Lord according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (... the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire...). From a prison cell, and based on what he has heard about Jesus' ministry, he wonders whether Jesus is actually the one who will do this.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the 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. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This 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."

The gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY Prepare the Way, O Zion BLUE 102

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

You renew the church in every age. We give you thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Help us restore what our greed has harmed. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Inspire all of us who are able to step up for those who cannot advocate for themselves. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Guide us to provide safety and help to our neighbours without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. We pray especially for the people of Venezuela who find themselves under threat of military violence, and whose lives are so upended by this threat. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones, and for those we know who desire our prayers: Anna-Liisa, Bud, Ruth, Werner and Debbie, John and Julianna, Ross and Karen, Ken and Matzi, Andrew, Joan, Alice, Irene, Greg and

Mary, Elaine and David, Kathryn, Kelly, John and Laura, Juan and Anita, Bill, Micah, Rosemary, and those we name before you in our hearts. (*silence...*). We pray for Dean and Anna-Liisa who mourn the passing of Anna-Liisa's brother The Rev. Martti Hyhko this past week. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You embrace all who die trusting in our promises. We give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, for we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all!
And also with you.



OFFERTORY

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com-ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom

and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, money, and food,

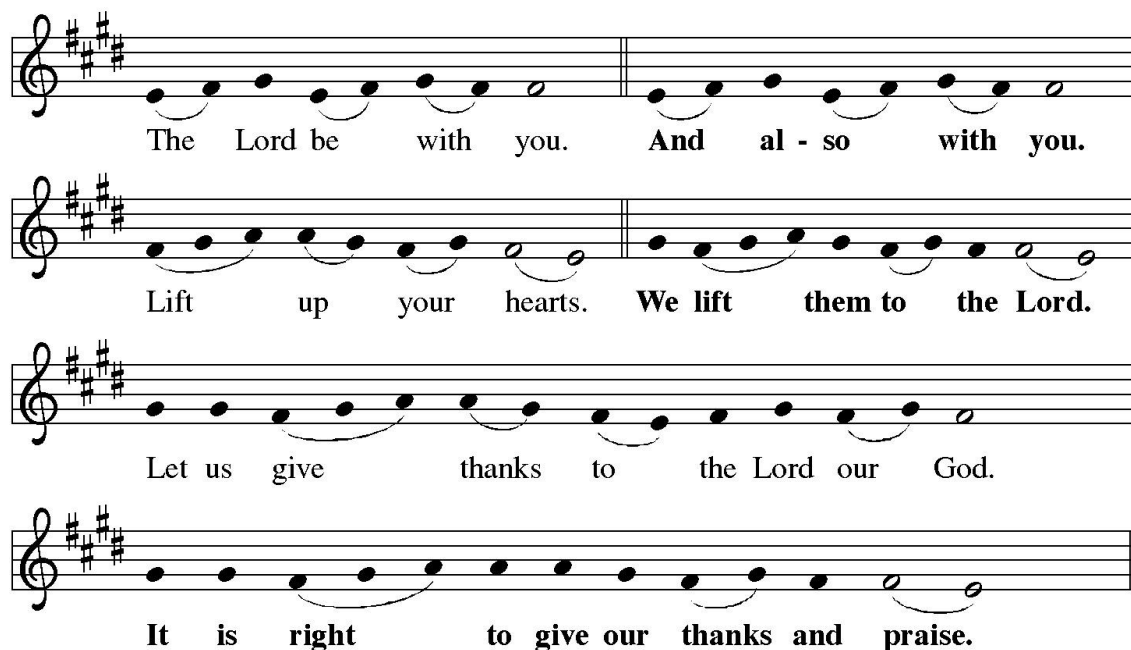
and make us messengers of your mercy and love

for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Saviour.

Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

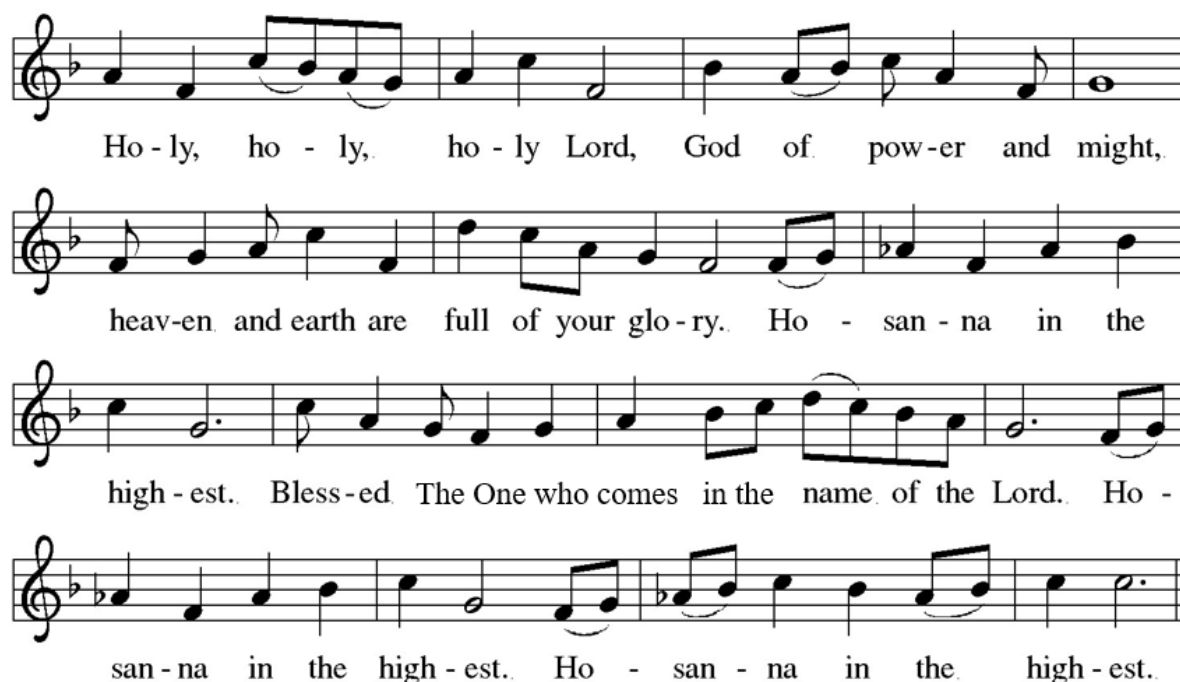
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

... and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed The One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for Christ Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

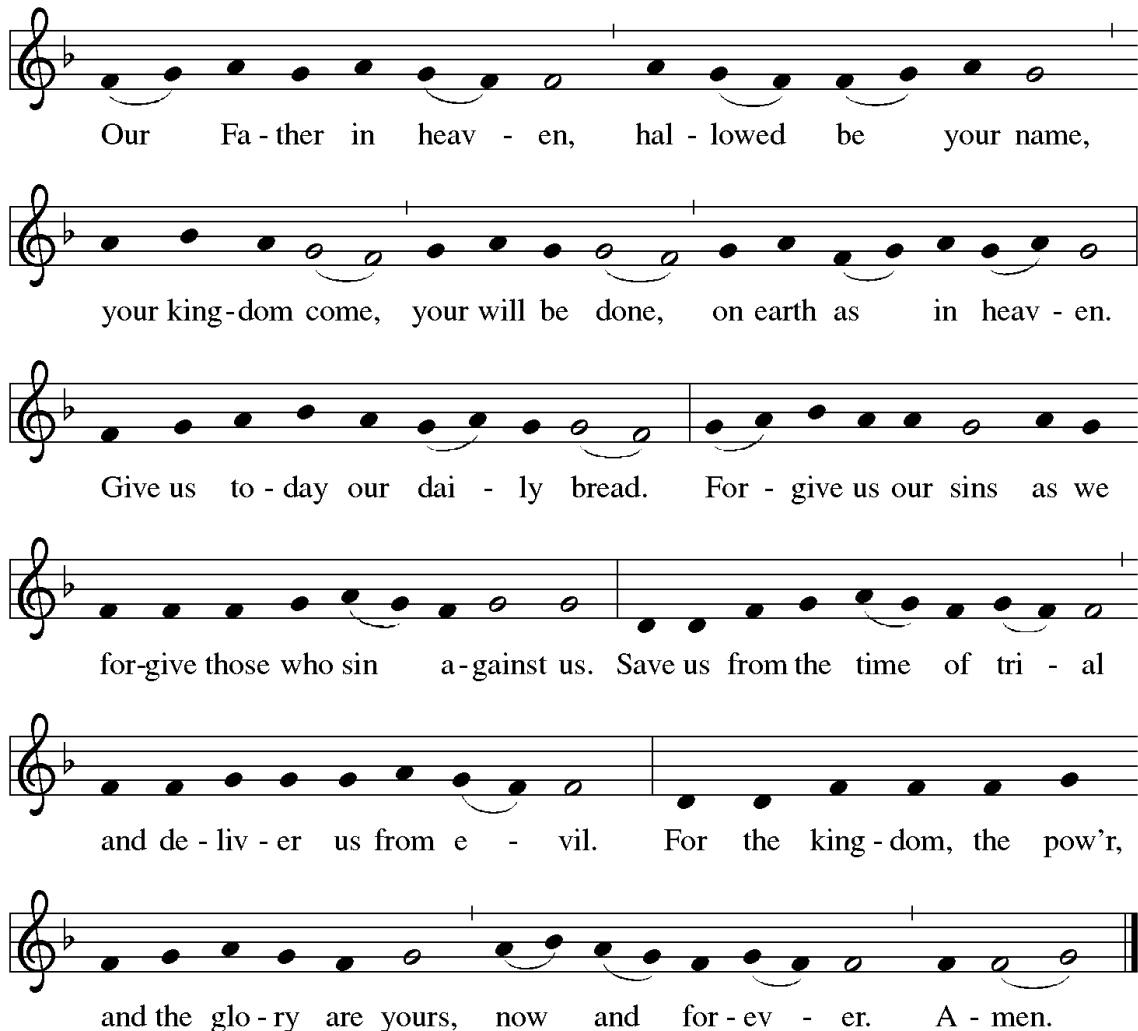
Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your holy realm.

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Christ welcomes you to this table of hope.

Come, gather with all God's people who watch and wait for the coming of Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

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.

Wait for the Lord

BLUE 94

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

RED 252

Hark! The Glad Sound

BLUE 98

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen, keep, and unite us now and forever. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be
fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**The blessing of the God of life be ours.
The blessing of the loving Christ be ours.
The blessing of the Holy Spirit be ours,
To cherish us, to help us, to make us holy.**

SENDING SONG People Look East BLUE 91

DISMISSAL

With love and compassion, **come, Lord Jesus.**
With judgement and mercy, **come, Lord Jesus.**
In power and glory, **come, Lord Jesus.**
In wisdom and truth, **come, Lord Jesus.**
Let us go into the world rejoicing; Christ is near!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Announcements and Information

	Today	Next Sunday
Assisting Minister	Michelle Normandin	Christine Morrison
Servers	Christine Morrison John Szymanski	Marisela McDougall Kishan Gunawardene
Reader	Deborah Szymanski-Potts	Kate Stuttaford
Greeters	Marisela McDougall	Sheila Chappel
Ushers	Jan Neilsen Dennis Kunze	Jan Neilsen Dennis Kunze
AV booth	Michele Altermann Brian Janzen	John Szymanski Brian Janzen
Altar Guild	Janet Weigel Ann Sanders	Janet Weigel Ann Sanders
Counters	Sandra Christie Kate Stuttaford	Suzanne Worthen Kate Stuttaford
Flowers		
Coffee Hour		Geoff and Julianna Stephens

We pray for:

ACC Dr. Andrea Mann, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office.

ELCIC Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration.

MOR Mr. David Jones, District President, and the members of Board of Elders of the Canadian District of the Moravian Church Northern Province.



Midweek Advent Devotions: Nigel Bunce has prepared *Evening Prayers for Advent* which are available on the All Saints YouTube channel.

Greeters: If you can help with this important hospitality ministry please contact the church office. *Thank you.*

Flowers for Advent and Christmas: Donations of poinsettias would be welcome, please contact Ann Sanders at 519-829-1225 if you would like to add some seasonal colour to the nave. *Thank you.*



The Ass♥ciates

a support group for caregivers of those with memory loss or dementia, meets again on Tuesday **December 16 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Parlour. It offers a safe space for sharing our experiences, from the challenges of being a caregiver, to tips for self-care.



Connections: The deadline for the next issue of *Connections* is **December 21, 2025**. Please submit items to Christine Morrison at cjmorrison263@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Services: Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help with the 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. services. *Thank you.*



Silvercreek Community Market: Please consider buying the specific items listed below — For January we need **peanut butter, canned fruit & vegetables, school snacks and cooking oil. We always need rice and lentils.** *We do not need any plastic bread tabs or reuseable grocery bags at this time. Thank you.*



Also, we are getting a delivery of food items collected by Capital Paving employees over their "12 Days of Christmas" Food Drive. Everyone is welcome to come at **9 am on Wednesday Dec. 17** to help sort and put the food away. *Thank you.*

2026 Offering Envelopes are available in your mailboxes now. Please note that all offerings for 2025 must be received by noon on December 31, 2025, electronic transfers must be dated December 31, 2025. *Thank you.*

LOOKING AHEAD: December 15 — 21

Tuesday 16	2:00 p.m.	The Associates, Parlour
	5:00 p.m.	Men's Fellowship Rose Head Hall
Wednesday 17	9:00 a.m.	Announcements due to Office
	9:00 a.m.	Food Drive/ sorting Rose Head Hall
Thursday 18	9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Silvercreek Community Market Rose Head Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice, Nave
Sunday 21	8:30 a.m.	Advent 4 Holy Communion—Nave
	10:00 a.m.	Advent 4 Holy Communion—Nave

Guelph Male Choir
presents

What Sweeter Music
Celebrating Seasonal Festivals
Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Solstice and Christmas



Sunday, December 14, 2025

Featured Music: "The Gift" written by award winning Indigenous composer Russell Wallace



Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 3:00pm
Harcourt Memorial United Church
87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, ON

Tickets: \$17 available from choir members, \$20 on-line or at the door. Website: guelphmalechoir.com

The Guelph Male Choir are proud sponsors of the Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph.

Sigi has tickets for the concert

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. German Service
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Service
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Holy Communion will be available at all 3 services



Christmas Day Service

10:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols