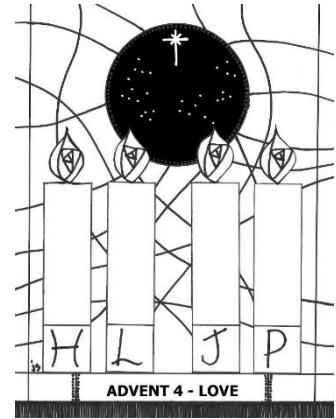


**December 21, 2025**

*Advent IV*

**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.**

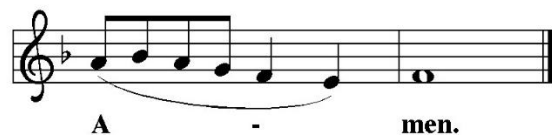
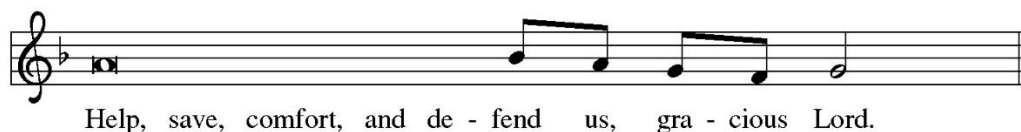
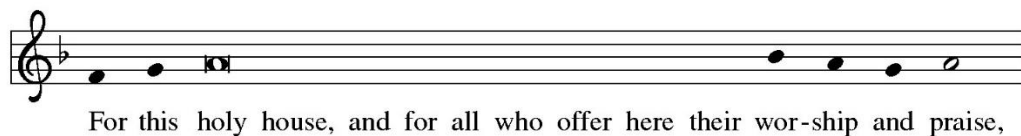
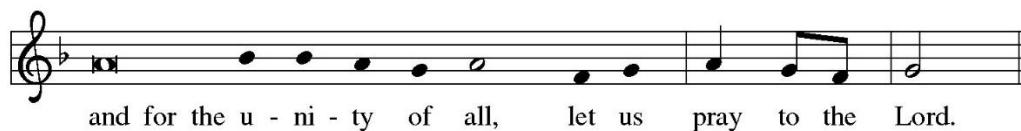
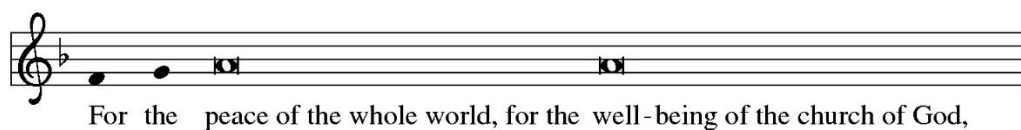
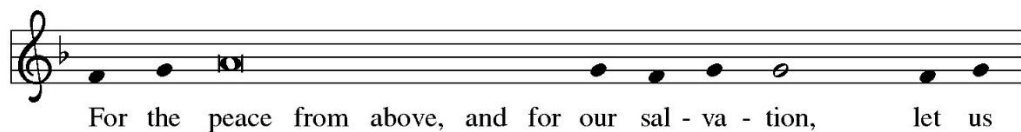
**GATHERING SONG    O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
(verses 1-4, 6) RED 257**

**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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from all that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### Light One Candle



- 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!

*Four candles on the Advent Wreath are lit as the verses are sung.*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

*Under threat of attack from neighbouring countries Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said,

"I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** (*Sung together in unison*)



**<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the  
cherubim.**

**<sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and | come to help us. R**

**<sup>3</sup> Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

**<sup>4</sup> O LORD | God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your | people  
pray? R**

**<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.**

**<sup>6</sup> You have made us the derision | of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

**<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

**<sup>17</sup> Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

**<sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn a- | way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.  
<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**



## **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle appointed by God to spread the gospel.*

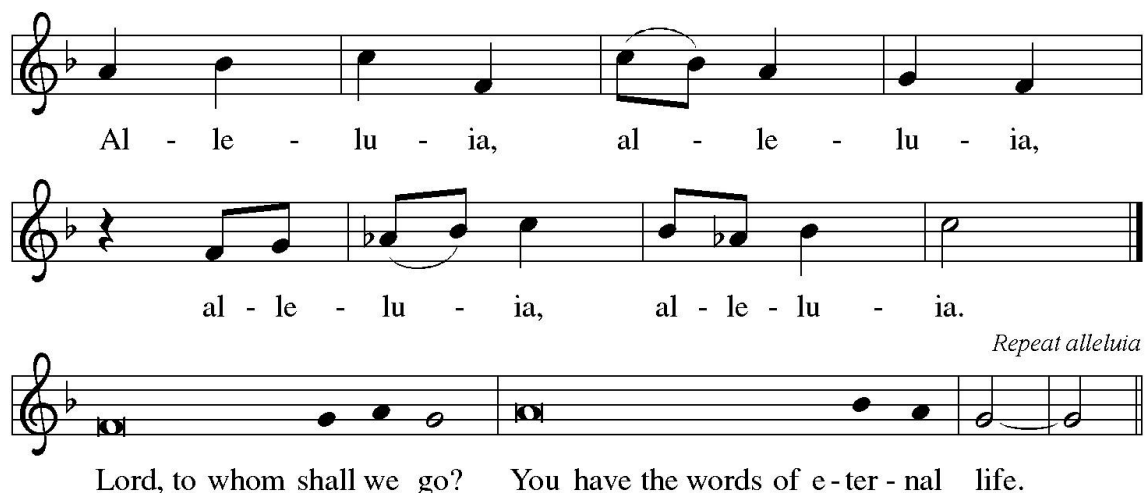
<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1:18-25

The holy gospel of our Lord according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital

relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## HOMILY

### HYMN OF THE DAY      How the World Longs for Your Birth BLUE 90

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival, O God. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May



we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbours. We pray for the people of Venezuela living under threats of attacks by the American military, and for our Jewish brothers and sisters concerned for their safety at their worship and public gatherings. May your dream of peace on earth come quickly. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. We pray especially for 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...*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. 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,

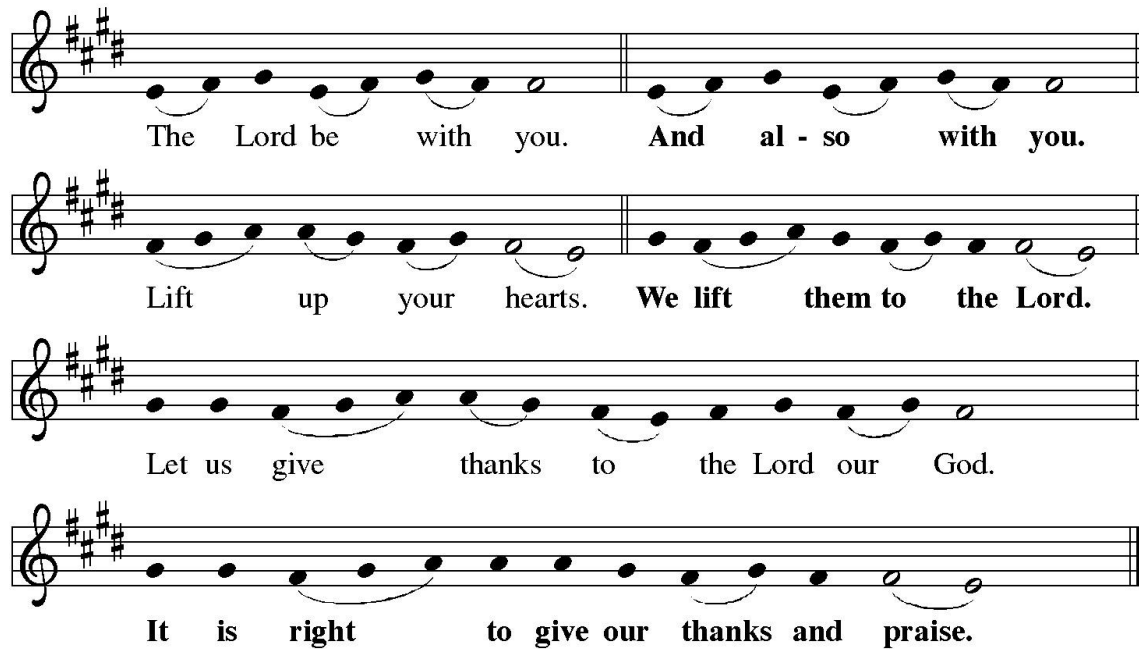
and make us messengers of your mercy and love

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.

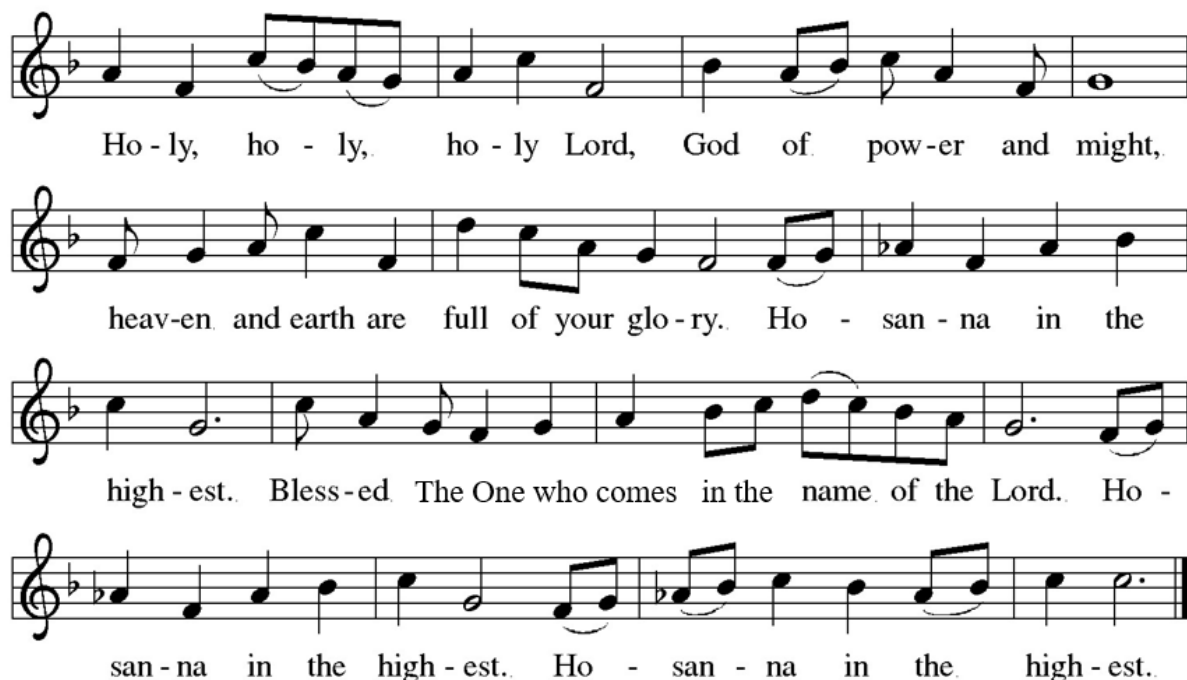
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

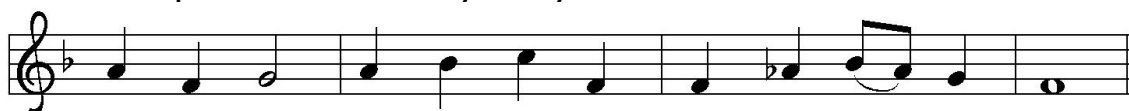
## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

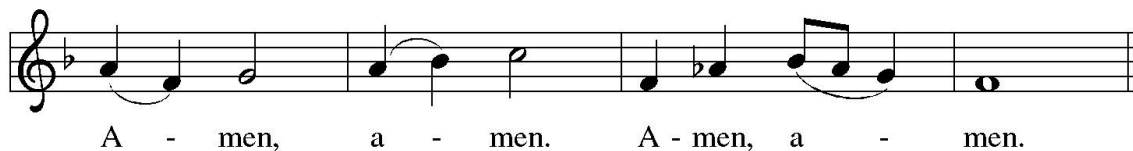
With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

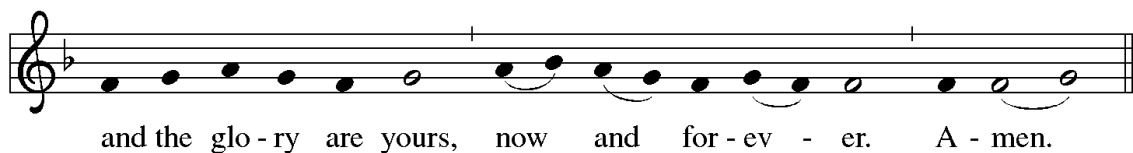
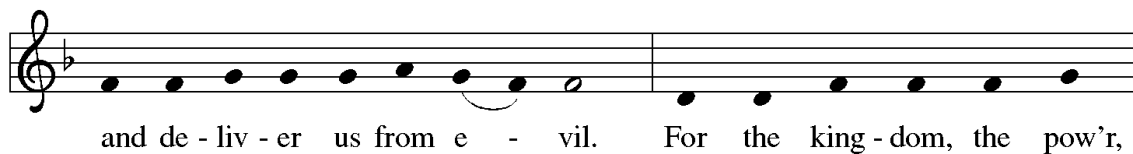
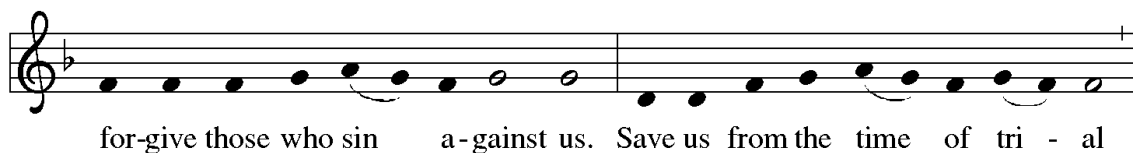
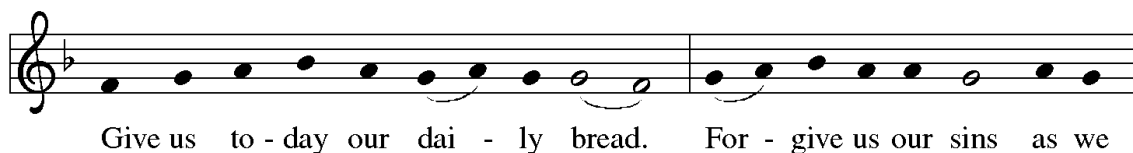
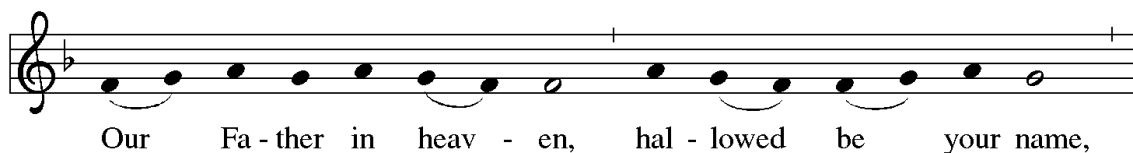
Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.

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**

**O Come Divine Messiah**

**BLUE 95**

**Come Now, O God (next page)**



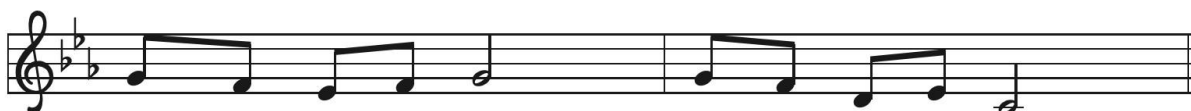
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.  
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.  
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.  
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.  
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.  
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

## 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   Joy to the World   RED 267**

### **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**

	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Christine Morrison	Penny Richards
<b>Servers</b>	Marisela McDougall Kishan Gunawardene	Marisela McDougall Laura F Mann
<b>Reader</b>	Kate Stuttaford	Val Webb
<b>Greeters</b>	Sheila Chappel	Bill & Jette Thomas
<b>Ushers</b>	Jan Neilsen Dennis Kunze	Jan Neilsen Dennis Kunze
<b>AV booth</b>	John Szymanski Brian Janzen	John Szymanski Brian Janzen
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Christine Morrison Ann Sanders	Christine Morrison Ann Sanders
<b>Counters</b>	Suzanne Worthen Kate Stuttaford	Suzanne Worthen Sandra Christie
<b>Flowers</b>		
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Geoff and Julianna Stephens	

***We pray for:***

**ACC** The Rt. Rev. Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; Dawn Maracle, Indigenous Justice Animator.

**ELCIC** Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the National Bishop, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Peter Wall, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship.

**MOR** The Rev. Sue Keonig, Director, and team of Northern Province Racial Justice and Healing.

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

***Connections:*** The deadline for the next issue of *Connections* is **today**. Please submit items to Christine Morrison at [cjmorrison263@gmail.com](mailto: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 — 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.*

***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.*

***No Streaming Dec. 28:*** Please note that the service will not be streamed or recorded on December 28.

## **LOOKING AHEAD: December 22 — 28**

Wednesday 24	5:00 p.m.	German language Service Nave
	7:00 p.m.	Family Candlelight Service Nave
	9:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service Nave
Thursday 25	10:00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols Nave
Sunday 28	8:30 a.m.	Christmas 1 Holy Communion—Nave
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas 1 Holy Communion—Nave

### **Organist**

Peter West

### **Staff**

Michele Altermann, Administrative Assistant

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

## *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