

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Today at 1:30 – Carolling

Mitten Tree – Our mitten tree has been set up again in our Place of Welcome. Please help us decorate it with mittens, socks, and toques to be donated to Streets Alive

Painting with “Bob” – Dec 17th at 1 pm


Christmas Pageant – Next Sunday, Dec 21st during service

Christmas Eve Service – Dec 24th at 5 pm

While everything around us and in our lives seems to speak hurry up, we are invited to take a moment, to enter the wide-open space, to wait in stillness and the presence of God.


"SERVICE OF LIGHT OPENING" *Holden Evening Prayer*

Leader:




Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:




the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:




be with us in the light of this morning

All:



and chase away the shadows of our fear.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

and shine within your peo - ple here. —

The musical score is written on a single staff in G minor (three flats). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats. The tempo is marked 'All:'. The melody consists of a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. This is followed by a double bar line. The next measure is in 3/4 time, starting with a quarter note C5, followed by a quarter note Bb4, and a half note A4. This is followed by another double bar line. The final measure is in 2/4 time, marked '2' and 'poco rit.', and contains a whole note G4. The lyrics 'and shine within your peo - ple here. —' are written below the staff, with 'peo - ple' under the first measure and 'here. —' under the second measure.



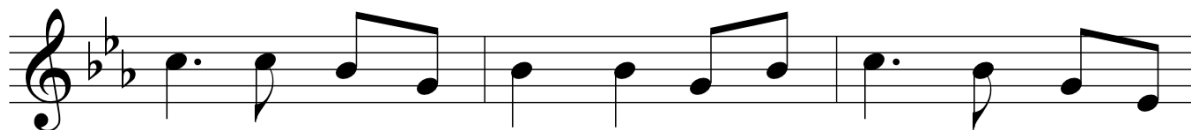
1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



mor - ning dawns a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

"Come, Light of Joy"



Candlelighters (two voices)

- A: The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus, who came as a vulnerable child to live among us and to show us the path of peace.
- B: We light again the candles of hope and peace, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.

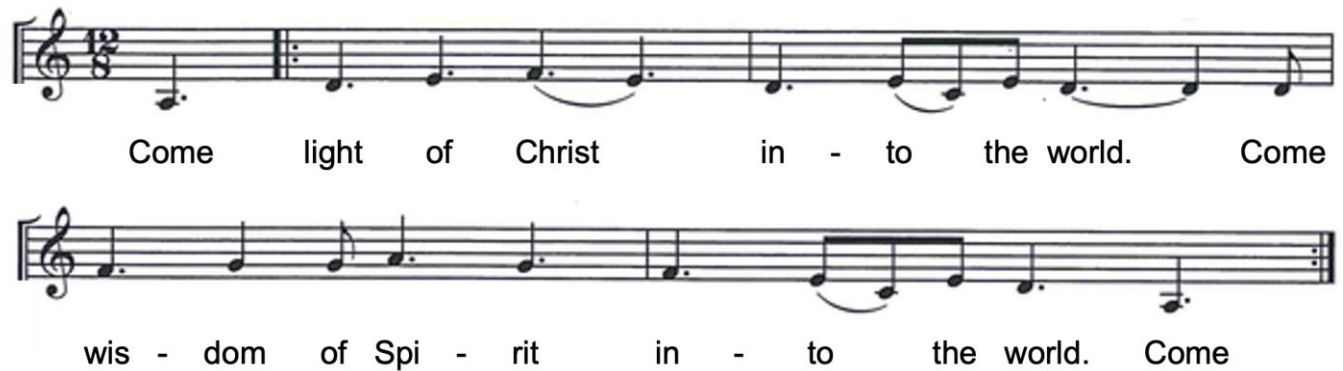
Light the first and second candles.

- A: There is joy in the anticipation of the Advent season. Just as Mary waited for the birth of her son, we count the weeks and days to celebrate Christmas. Waiting makes space for imagination and preparation, and joy fills our hearts in that waiting.
- B: Today, we light the candle of joy because joy is in the promise that the holy one comes to bring us joy.

Light the third candle.

- A: Jesus Christ you are the light of the world. May we have eyes to see you and ears to hear you.
- B: Come into our world today. Amen.

Sing twice



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

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

Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
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."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
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

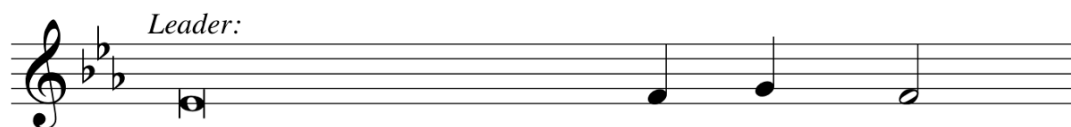
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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.
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.
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.

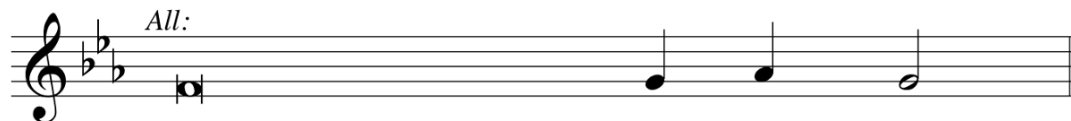
This is what God is saying to us today

Thanks be to God.

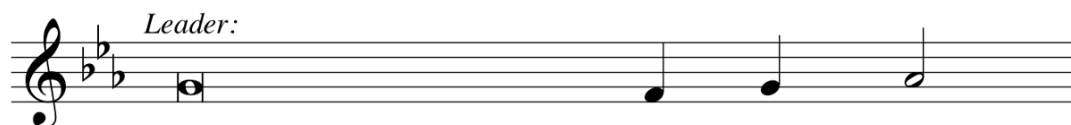
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



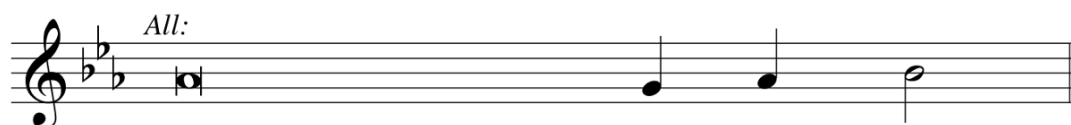
Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?



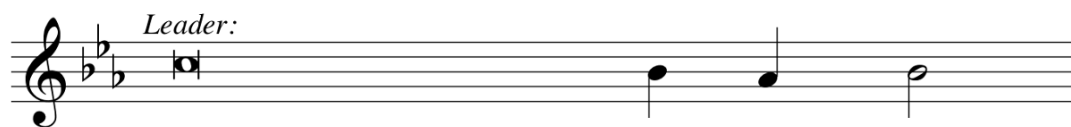
You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Speak to us now that we might hear you



and fill us with your truth and grace.



Holy Spirit, come now a - mong us



Alleluia, Je - sus come.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

"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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The sermon for today has been prepared and shared by Pastor Sean Bell who serves Resurrection Lutheran in Saskatoon, SK Synod.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! The Glad Sound" ELW 239 – *piano, bass*

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

PRAYERS – Holden

A *Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

B

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: [A] [B]

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

Leader: [A] [B]

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

Leader: [A] [B]

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:

4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
 5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
 6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
 7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
 8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:
 9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
 10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:

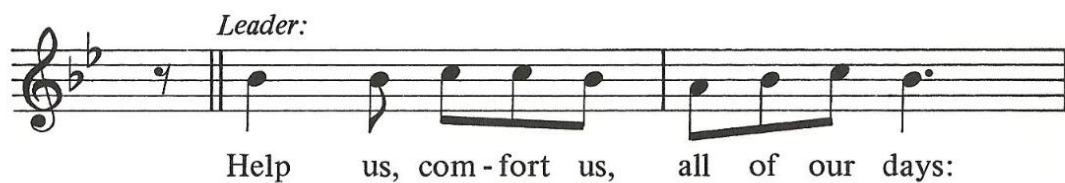
Spoken Petitions (after Petition 9):

We pray for especially for Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Lori, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda H, Murray, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Ray, Alan T and those we name silently now.

Sing: God of mercy, hold us in love.

Bless the work of Creative Fingers and keep close Margaret Haubrich and Rae Haugen.

Sing: God of mercy, hold us in love.



WE SHARE THE MEAL


OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

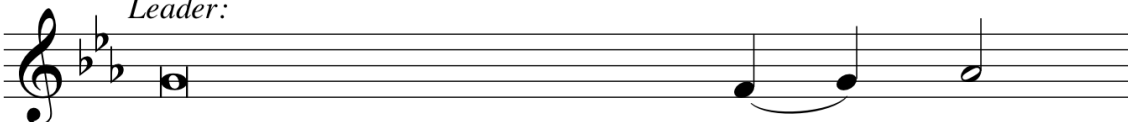
May God be with you all . . . (*Holden Evening Prayer, p. 8-9*)

Leader: *All:*



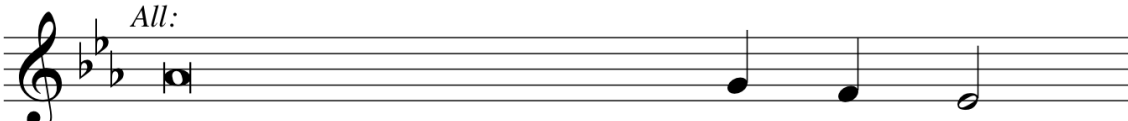
May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Leader:



Let us sing our thanks to ——— God,


All:



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All:



A - men.

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 for all our hopes and dreams, for Mary's openness to your will,
blessed are you for Christ's coming as a child, for your Son Jesus,
Word made flesh among us, for the hope of his coming again.

In the night in which he was betrayed
our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and gave 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 to all 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.
For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we remember Jesus crucified, buried and risen
until he comes again.

In your promise everywhere around us, hold us.
In our longing for a new world and a new living, cradle us.
In the hunger for justice that aches in us, feed us.
In the search for healing in our broken world, find us.
In the gathering around the table, in the breaking of bread and spilling of wine, be the life within us.
In this community of faith, reveal yourself O God,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Awaiting the coming kingdom, we pray as Jesus taught us

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

***Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you***

COMMUNION VIDEO

COMMUNION SONGS

"A Story for All People" W&P 2

1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in
 2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in
 3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the
 4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to
 5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll

fear of end - less night, send forth your word of
 hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we
 guest is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es
 turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly
 go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -

com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The
 lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We
 crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -
 Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We
 va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The

world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,
 watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er
 pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and
 won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal
 ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful

poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and
 trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that

mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.
 man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.
 God who is, and was, and is to come.
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - joice!
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

Refrain

A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -
 day. A song of love and heal - ing, a
 light to show the way.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note and a quarter rest at the end of the third line.

"Wait for the Lord" ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
 Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note and a quarter rest at the end of the second line.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal and by your grace, send light to conquer darkness and give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to proclaim the greatness of your light and life among us now, and in the fullness of your kingdom to come, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.


BLESSING Holden Evening Prayer, p. 22-23

Leader: *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days.

All:



A - men.

SENDING SONG "People Look East" v 1 & 4 ELW 248

Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing

An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,

life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look

with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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