

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**10:00AM**

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**St.Thomas**  
THE APOSTLE

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# **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Prelude:** Where Jordan Cuts the Wilderness ~ C. Callahan

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

Dear friends, we gather on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.

**May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.**

May we always seek to respect the histories, spiritualities and cultures of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

**May we walk together the path of reconciliation and right relations.**

**Opening Hymn:** 108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

Text Latin, tr. Edward Caswall, Music William Henry Monk © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Hark, a herald voice is sounding:

"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.

"Cast away the dreams of darkness,

O ye children of the day!"

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,

let the earth-bound soul arise;

Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,

shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,

comes with pardon down from heaven;

let us all, with deep repentance,

pray that we may be forgiven,

4 that when next he comes with glory,

and the world is wrapped in fear,

with his mercy he may shield us,

and with words of love draw near.

5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

### **Advent Wreath Lighting**

We light a candle each of the four Sundays in Advent. The light of the candles grows brighter each week as we wait in joyful expectation for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

**Each candle reminds us of the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brings to the world. We receive these gifts, and we are called to share them with each other, and in our world. We light the candle of peace this week.**

### **Advent Song**

Text and Music by John L. Bell © 2001 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland CCLI License #1826689

He came down that we may have hope, (sung 3x)  
Hallelujah for evermore.  
He came down that we may have peace, (sung 3x)  
Hallelujah for evermore.

### **Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Collect for Purity**

Almighty God,  
**to you all hearts are open,**  
**all desires known,**  
**and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Trisagion**

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.  
(x3)**

### **The Collect of the Day**

God of justice,  
clear our lives of hatred and despair  
and sow in us seeds of joy and peace;  
so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us  
as we await the coming of the Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit,  
lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FWM Proposed Collects (2004) alt.

*Children go to Sunday School*

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10 (Andrea Teekasingh)

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the

breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

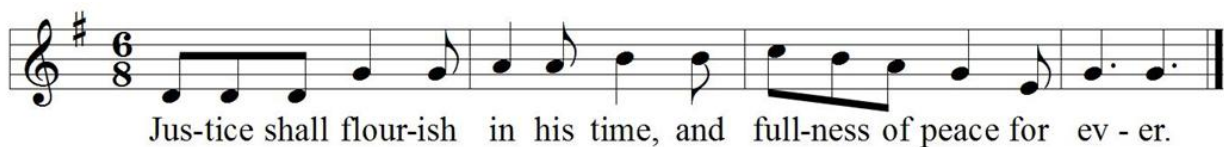
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

*Setting: Gordon Johnston*



- 1 Give the king your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. **R**
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth. **R**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. **R**

**Epistle:** Romans 15:4-13 (Sue Perry)

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn: 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness**

Text Is. 40:3-11, para. James Lewis Milligan, Music Henry Hugh Bancroft © 1938 Estate of Henry Hugh Bancroft Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # A-740499

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places,  
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, give voice to good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
The works of pride all perish,  
like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.

3 But your word, O God, is faithful,  
your arm, O Lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations,  
and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,  
and fold the lambs to your breast;  
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,  
and give to the weary rest.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,

the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places,  
where the Lord our God may go!

**The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of Christ.

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



## **Sermon**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,  
as we say,

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People (Tom Bryant)**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,  
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.

Let us confess our sins,  
confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

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 you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours 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 upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **The Preparation of the Gifts**

**Hymn:** 105 Where Jordan Cuts the Wilderness

Text Brian Ruttan, Music Sixteen Tune Settings © 1998 Brian Ruttan CCLI License #1826689

1 Where Jordan cuts the wilderness, a burning voice now warns:

"You brood of snakes, you hypocrites, prepare! Messiah comes.

2 There comes a day of harvesting the fruit of faith and love:  
the useless culled, the evil purged. Prepare! Messiah comes.

3 The heritage of Abraham means less than desert stones  
unless we share our need and wealth. Prepare! Messiah comes.

4 Exploiters of the poor and weak with rage and theft be done.  
Prepare the way of holiness, prepare! Messiah comes.

5 With water I baptize you now in readiness for one  
whose Spirit bathes, whose fire refines--prepare! Messiah comes."

### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

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, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

### **The Great Thanksgiving** (Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 2)

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we

injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness.

You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

**Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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."

Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come.

Therefore we proclaim our hope.

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

**Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting Christ's coming in glory  
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread #5**

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

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

## **Invitation to Communion**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Fraction Anthem: Come, Come Emmanuel**

Text and music: James J. Chepponis © 1995 GIA Publications Inc.  
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**Come, come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel.**

## **Holy Communion**

*Gluten Free wafers are available*

## **Communion Hymn: O Ancient Love**

Text and Music: Michael Joncas © 1994 GIA Publications Inc.

1 “O ancient love, processing through the ages;  
O hidden love, revealed in human form;  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

2 O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;  
O lowly love, that knows the mighty’s scorn;  
O hungry love, that lay within a manger:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

3 O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;  
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

4 O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;  
O boundless love, that rises with the morn,  
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.”

**Anthem:** Wait For the Lord - Jacques Berthier

### **Prayer after Communion**

God for whom we wait,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day  
when the hungry will be fed with good things.  
Send us forth to make known your deeds  
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

## **THE SENDING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **Children’s Talk**

### **Announcements**

### **Doxology**

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

## **Closing Hymn: 101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

Text James Montgomery, Music Johann Cruger, adapt. William Henry Monk © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

3 Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

4 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand for ever:



that name to us is Love.

**Dismissal**

Go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Pasticcio (*excerpt*) ~ Jean Langlais

*~~ Everyone is invited to stay for Fellowship Hour after Service ~~*

## **8:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Presider/Preacher:** Rev Maria Nightingale

**Greeter:** Andrea Teekasingh

**Reader/Intercessor:** Barry Parker

## **10:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST (BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES)**

**Presider:** Rev Tim Kehoe

**Preacher:** Rev Maria Nightingale

**Duty Warden:** Karen Scott

**Server:** Kirk Michaelis

**Sidespersons:** Eunice Clarke, Howard Foster

**Reader:** Andrea Teekasingh, Sue Perry

**Intercessor:** Tom Bryant

**Lay Administrators:** Tom Bryant, Flo Cheesman

**Altar Guild:** Babs Dunstan, Susan Smith

**Fellowship Hour:** Sue and Dave Huddleston

## **CONTACT LIST**

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**Assistant Organist:** Richard Frith

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**Donation Options:** <https://www.stthomasaltavista.ca/pages/donate-online>

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In the event of a **pastoral emergency** please contact Fr Tim or Rev Maria. For other enquiries, please call Wendy at the office.