

Advent 2026

Saint James Lutheran Church in Johnston, Iowa
Pastor Bill Bernau

We're glad you're here and hope you will come again!

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Comforting God, **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:

Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Entrance Song #240 — Light One Candle

Greeting The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

Nov 29	260	The King Shall Come
Dec 6	241	O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Dec 13	248	People, Look East
Dec 20	257	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Vss 1-4

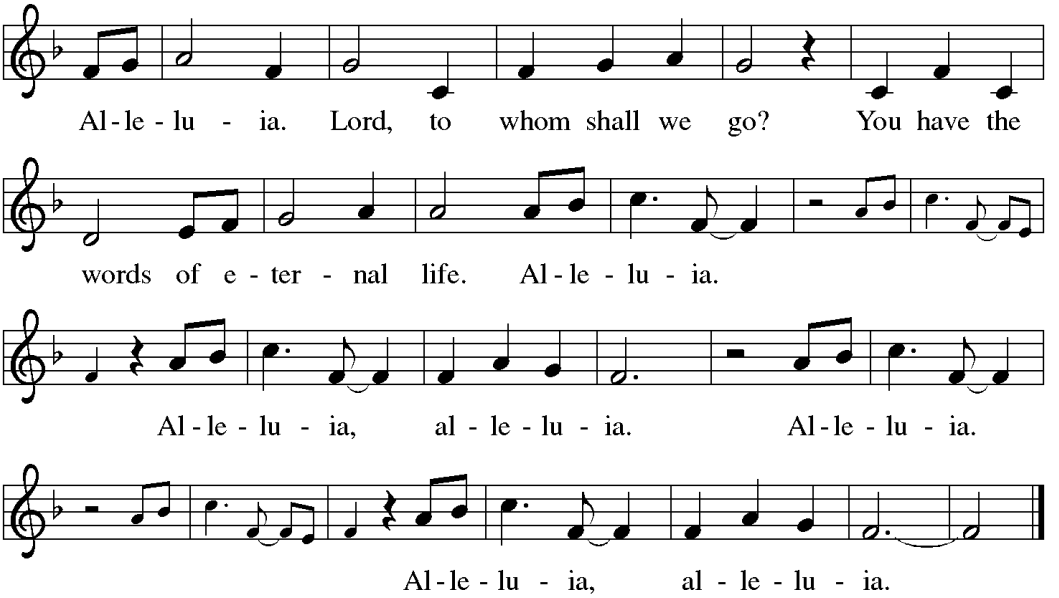
Prayer of the Day (see insert)

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

The Lessons (see insert)

The Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel: (see insert)

Before the reading…

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading…

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Song of the Day

Nov 29	436	Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
Dec 6	249	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Dec 13	242	Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn
Dec 20	265	The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Creed

Let us confess our shared faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

The Prayers of Intercession (see insert)

The Peace *(Sunday only)*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

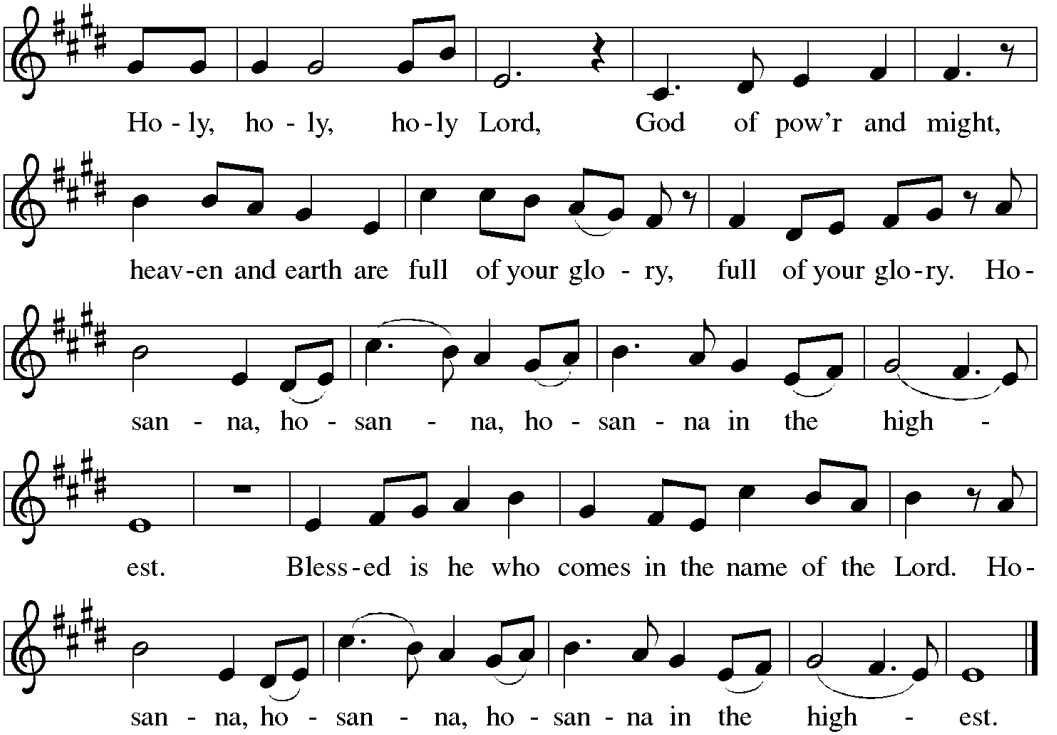
The Offering – *Choir Anthem*

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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 your Son 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 risen. Christ will come again.

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. **Amen.**

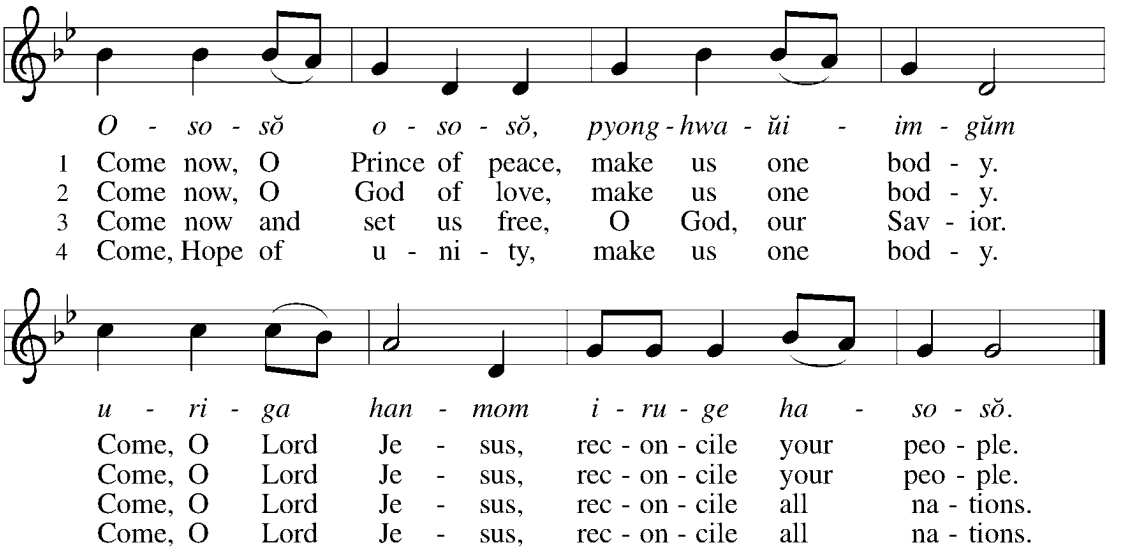
Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver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

The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

Please be seated. All are welcome at the Lord's table. We receive communion by intinction (i.e. dipping the wafer into the cup). Please use a little Purell on your hands before coming forward. For those who would prefer not to dip their wafer, you may be assured that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for you in, with and under one element.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososŏ, Ososŏ



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
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Communion Hymns

Nov 29	445	Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Dec 6	266	All Earth Is Hopeful
Dec 13	453	Baptized and Set Free
Dec 20	296	What Child Is This

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Nov 29	439	Soon and Very Soon
Dec 6	264	Prepare the Royal Highway
Dec 13	254	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Dec 20	267	Joy to the World

Dismissal

Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.