

Diocese of Ottawa • Anglican Church of Canada

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024



Book of Alternative Services, p. 185

***Third Sunday  
of Advent***

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Sung Eucharist ~ 10 a.m.

# Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist

*We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*



*This service is video recorded, streamed, and broadcast. By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video in our on-line worship offering through St. John's website and Facebook pages.*



*Hymns are from the blue Common Praise hymnbook unless otherwise indicated.*

*Today's service can be found on page 185 of the green Book of Alternative Services (BAS) located in the pew-back in front of you.*

# THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Prelude** – "*Chorale on 'Humility'""* (Archer)

**Announcements**

**Processional (Opening) Hymn**

**134** – "*While By the Sheep We Watched*"(arr. Young)

**Greeting**

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**Children's Talk**

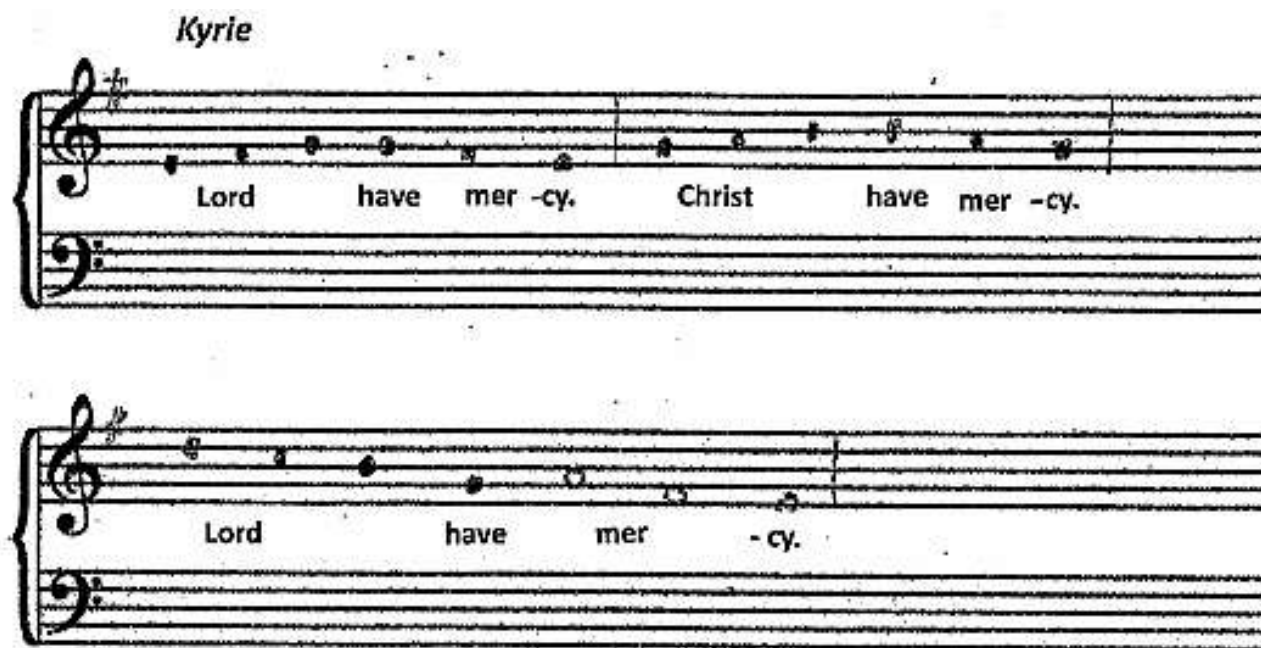
**Collect**

**for**

**Purity**

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**The Kyrie** *Sung as printed here.*



## **Collect of the Day**

God of power and mercy,  
you call us once again  
to celebrate the coming of your Son.  
Remove those things which hinder love of you,  
that when he comes,  
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder  
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 35:1-**

### **10**

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 singing. 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 unstopped; 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 traveller, 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 146:4-9**

*Tune 85/St. Agnes*

Happy are they whose hope is in  
The God whom Jacob knew;  
Who made the heavens, earth, and sea,  
Whose promises are true.

To those oppressed, the Lord our God  
Gives justice constantly;  
He feeds the hungry and all those  
In prison he sets free.

The Lord lifts up all those bowed down  
And gives the blind new sight;  
The stranger, widow, fatherless,  
He strengthens by his might.

God brings the wicked to their doom,  
And he will reign always;  
From age to age, O Zion, sing  
To God unending praise.

### **Second Reading**

### **James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, 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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering

and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28 by Owen Alstott, OCP, 1990.



## Holy Gospel

## Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeller: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you**

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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, the lepers 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 offence 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."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

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### **Prayers of the People**

**Choir Anthem** (Please remain seated) — "***Gentle Mary***"

### **Confession and Absolution**

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### **The Peace**

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*People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.*

### **Offertory Hymn**

**148** — "***See Amid the Winter's***

***Snow***"

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

## Prayer over the Gifts

God of hope,  
renew in us the joy of your salvation  
and make us a living sacrifice to you,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer 2

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### Sanctus (*sung*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Sanctus. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,'. The second staff contains 'God of power and might.'. The third staff contains 'Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The fourth staff contains 'san - na in the high - est.'. The music is written in a single melodic line on a four-staff system, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and ties.



## The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come;  
Your will be done  
On earth, as in heav'n.  
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, and the power, and the glory are yours;  
Now and forever.  
Amen.

## Breaking of the Bread 5

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

**All: Happy are those who are called**

**to supper of the Lamb.**

**Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)** *Sung as printed here.*

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

O lamb of God that ta - kest a - way the sin of the world, Have

mer - cy u - pon us. O us. O lamb of God that

ta - kest a - way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

## Communion

*All who are baptized are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine of Holy Communion. At the Greeter's direction, please make your way to receive the elements if you wish to. All are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

## Hymns during Communion

**137** – *"What Child is This?"*

**136** – *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

**125** – *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

## Prayer after Communion

Merciful God,  
may this eucharist free us from our sins,  
fill us with unending joy,  
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology

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## The Blessing

## Recessional Hymn

**153** – *"Good Christians All,*

*Rejoice"*

## Dismissal

## Postlude

**134** – *"While By the Sheep We Watched"* (arr.

Young)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lessons and Carols** – This evening at **7.00pm**

**Christmas Memorial Flowers** – If you wish to remember loved ones with memorial flowers this Christmas, please contact the Parish Office with the names of the people you wish to be remembered. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Office. Please make cheques payable to St. John's Altar Guild. The deadline is **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

**\*\*December 24<sup>th</sup> Services** – Please note that **there will be no 10am Holy Eucharistic service that day**, however, we will be holding services that evening at 7.00pm and 11.00pm.\*\*

**2026 Offering Envelopes** – The 2026 weekly giving envelopes are now at the back of church, sorted alphabetically. If you do not see your name or I have missed someone, please let me know. As well, there are extra boxes of envelopes if you or someone you know would like a set. – Tammy Mulrooney, Envelope Secretary.

**Christmas Choir** - For those of you that love Christmas music, take the opportunity to join the Christmas Choir. This group will sing for another few weeks, and then go to the TGIE (thank goodness it's Epiphany party). Practices are held **Friday and Saturday mornings at 10am**. For further information or to sign up, please contact Wendy at: [wendy.earl75@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy.earl75@yahoo.com).

**Mid-Week Coffee Hour! Wednesdays at 11.00am** – Everyone is welcome to join our additional coffee hour where we can enjoy great coffee and fellowship. All are welcome! If you love coffee, if you like coffee, if you don't like coffee, please come out! We are excited to see how the Holy Spirit works in this new fellowship time. We hope new friendships are formed and positive connections

are made. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Porter or Thomas.

**2025 Contributions** - December 31<sup>st</sup> is a Wednesday this year. The last day to submit your contributions for 2025, will be Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Any cheque, e-transfers, tithes, etc., must be dated no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Offerings submitted after January 4<sup>th</sup>, will be entered as 2026 contributions. Thank you.

**PRAY K7A** – This month, we will gather here at St. John's on ***Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm.*** We will be praying for the coming year, and giving thanks for the year that has passed.

Let us continue to pray for whomever God might call to become the next Bishop of Ottawa, and pray for those who carry those responsibilities in the meantime.

## **Services in Advent and Christmas**

### **Sunday December 21**

**8am** – Said Eucharist, Advent 4

**10am** – Sung Eucharist, Advent 4

### **Wednesday December 24**

**7pm** – Christmas Eve Communion

**11pm** – Christmas Eve Communion

### **Thursday December 25**

**10am** – Christmas Morning Said Eucharist



Presiding Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer  
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer  
Communion Assistant: Kevin Lewis\*/Kathy Porter  
Reader/Intercessor: Donna Howard  
Greeters: Linda MacLaren & Faye Moore  
Altar Guild: Terri Marsden & Debbie Lewis  
Organist: Wendy Stokes-Earl  
Readings for next Sunday, Dec 21, 2025 ~  
IS 7:10-16; PS 80:1-7, 16-18; ROM 1:1-7; MT 1:18-25

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**

2 George Street South, Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 1X4  
613.283.1261 | stjohs.smithsfalls@gmail.com  
www.stjohn-smithsfalls.com

*Follow us on Facebook at:*

St-John-the-Evangelist-Anglican-Church-Smiths-Falls

Laura Savage – Parish Administrator

Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday 9am – 12 noon

Thursday 1 – 4pm

Friday 9am – 12 noon

**Weekly Liturgies**

Holy Eucharist – Sundays 8am & 10am\* – Wednesdays 10am

\*Sunday School offered at 10am from September – June

The Reverend Dr. Thomas Brauer, Presiding Celebrant & Preacher

The Reverend Canon Brian Burrows – Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Jim Roberts – Honorary Assistant

Wendy Stokes-Earl – Organist

Dan Willis – Rector's Warden 613.884.5095

Lois Arkell – People's Warden 613.485.9181

Tammy Mulrooney – Deputy Warden 613.485.3128

Pat Lee – Deputy Warden 613.485.3368

Tammy Mulrooney – Envelope Secretary

sjsfenvelopesecretary@gmail.com