EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00
14 DECEMBER 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

We are a home away-from-home,

with people from different places becoming sisters and brothers in Christ.

Our members come from 40 countries and six continents. Some are in Geneva for decades, others for only a few months. All help the parish to be a community of shared beliefs, experiences and concerns. Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and recreation bring families, friends and acquaintances together. Such bonds are precious in a city of so many welcomes and farewells.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Prayer leader: Maureen Gumbe

Reader: Sivin Kit

Altar care: Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Fulata Moyo, Monika Sandvik,

Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi

Ushers: Erandi Hassink, Damaris Hassink

Offering counters: Fulata Moyo, Njoroge Njuguna Church school: Kiki Lawal, Irene Ndwiga, Ritu Suna Videographers: Ray Woodcock, Breanna Ndwiga

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation
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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Third Sunday of Advent + 14 December 2025

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Welcome

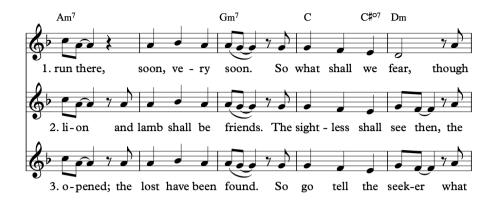
Prelude

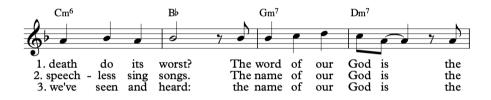
Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

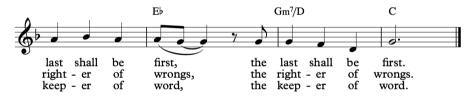
Greeting (rise)

To walk in the light of the Lord, to walk the holy way even though it leads through deserts, to walk where springs of water delight our thirst, to walk patiently in the peace of the Lord, who is always near, to walk where fear gives way to joy, to walk singing the wonders of God's love, we join the hope-filled pilgrimage leading home, where weak hands are strengthened, feeble knees are made firm, and hearts overflow with praise.









Old Testament Reading (sit)

Isaiah 35:1-4

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."

Anthem I offer you peace Choirs
English, Mahatma Ghandi. Music, Karl Jenkins

I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you. I offer you friendship.
I see your beauty. I hear your need. I feel your feelings.
My wisdom flows from the Highest Source. I salute that Source in you.
Let us work together for unity and love.
An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind.

Prayers for Peace

Old Testament Reading (continued)

Isaiah 35:5-10

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.

Dove of peace, fly here to find us, feathers softly stroking the earth.

Dove of peace, so soft, so silent, please protect each innocent birth.

Dove of peace, we reach to touch you, pure and white, please comfort our fears.

Spread contentment gently near us, spread your wings and dry all our tears.

Dove of peace, fly here to find us, feathers caught in circles of light.

Dove of peace, so soft, so silent turn each day to sweet sleep each night.

Congregational Prayer for Peace



Music and Korean © Geonyong Lee, Korean National Institute of Arts, 700 Seocho-dong, Seocho-ku, Seoul, Korea. English © Marion Pope, 211 College St, Apt. 135, Toronto, Ont., Canada M5T 1R1.

- 2. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, sa-rang ŭi-im-gŭm, u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.
- 3. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, cha-yu ŭi-im-gŭm, u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.
- 4. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, tong-il ŭi-im-gŭm, u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Epistle Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. Brothers and sisters, 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, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Alleluia (rise)

Ms. Hlar Hay, Myanmar



Ha-le-lu, Ha-le-lu-ja, Ha-le-lu, Ha-le-lu-ja, Ha-le-lu-ja!

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Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 11. *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, 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 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.*

Alleluia

Sermon (sit) Andy Willis



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and bring us

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 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 Intercession (sit)

God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Peace (rise)

Walk in the light of the Lord.

Gathering of Gifts

Ewe thina

Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry. You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.



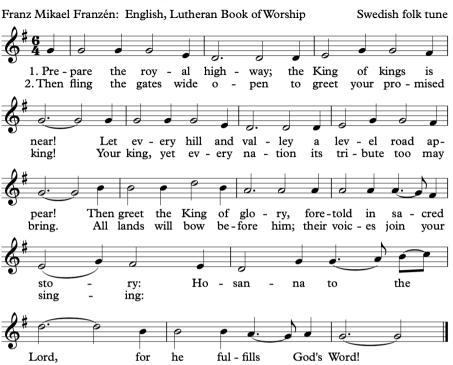
South African traditional (Zulu). English Anders Nyberg and Sven-Bernard Fast South African traditional. Arrangement Anders Nyberg



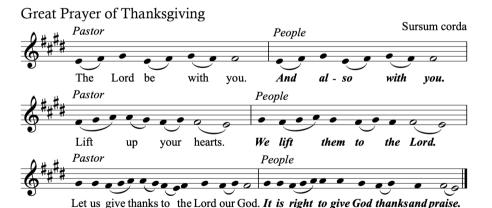
Original words and melody South African tradition. English translation and arrangement $\, \odot \,$ 2003 Peace of Music Publishing www.peaceofmusic.com

- 2. He breaks the bonds of hell, dying on the cross. We walk his way.
- 3. The tree of freedom blooms by his empty grave. We walk his way.

Offering (rise) Prepare the royal highway



English © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Administered by Augsburg Fortress.



Preface

For the word becoming light, running to the furthest corners of the universe, creating, *thanks*.

For your walking in the garden, enjoying the company of human beings,

thanks.

For the slaves walking through the sea on dry land, dancing freedom with Miriam's tambourine.

thanks.

For Ruth walking with Naomi finding a new home, *thanks*.

For Amos walking to the king to speak to him your word of justice, *thanks*.

For the Word made flesh, walking among us full of grace and truth, *thanks*.

For all those walking in the light, from generation to generation, from place to place,

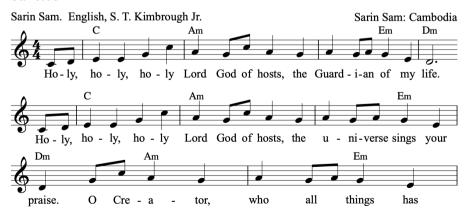
faithfully witnessing to your love in Jesus Christ, faithfully preparing the way for peace,

faithfully welcoming others into your realm,

thanks.

With all those on the Holy Way, rejoicing on the way home, we join in the ongoing hymn of praise.

Sanctus





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Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

Remembering Christ, we walk his way, nourished by his body, present for us in this bread, and strengthened by his blood, present for us as we drink from this cup.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

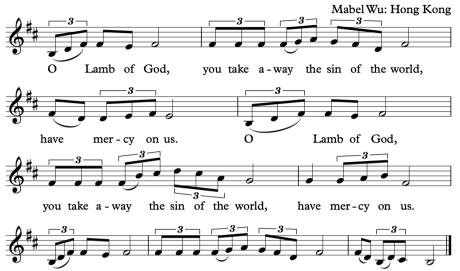
Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

in our many languages

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.

O Lamb of God



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

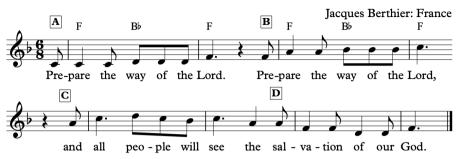
Melody, Mabel Wu © 1994 Taosheng Publishing House, Hong Kong.

Communion

All are welcome for communion. You are invited to walk past the creche and then to the place of distribution. After receiving the bread, pick up a cup. The dark-colored pitcher has wine, the lighter one has grape juice. After drinking, place the cup on the tray and return to your seat. We begin with the choir and then move across the room toward the side door. After the main floor, the people in the balconies come.

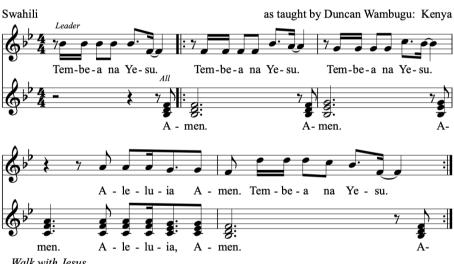
Songs during Communion

Prepare the way of the Lord



Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France

Tembea na Jesu



Walk with Jesus.





Joy to the world



Sending Forth (stand)

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements (sit)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Worship Services

All are welcome to join in the celebration of Christmas

Christmas Eve, 24 December 17h30
Candlelight, carols, and the story of God's love born among us

Christmas Day, 25 December 11h00
The celebration continues with Holy Communion and carols

Advent 2025 - Walk in the light of the Lord

Advent is a prayerful journey toward the coming of Christ in Bethlehem. We often focus on the destination (i.e, Christmas). But this Advent, we pay attention to how we walk. The prophet Isaiah guides us. We walk in the light. We walk preparing the way as we walk. We walk surprised by God's deliverance as we traverse difficult terrain. We walk alert to the signs of God's grace. We walk toward peace.

For the four Advent services, the congregation will be invited to come to communion in stocking feet. So it might help if you wear warm socks, although most of the service we will keep our shoes on. In some parts of the world, Christians take off their shoes when entering sacred spaces as a sign of humility and respect. Invite friends and neighbors to come and walk with you on the way to Christmas in the light of Christ.

Christmas Carol Singalong - 21 December at 17h00

On Sunday 21 December, the English- and German-Speaking Congregations will hold a Christmas carol singalong at the church at 17h00. Weather permitting, we'll be in the church garden, singing for one another and for our neighbors in the Old Town—and if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll be in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be provided afterward; all are warmly welcome.

Treasurer's Update: Consider a Year-End Gift

As of 30 November, our congregation is approximately one month behind in giving—meaning we need to double our regular income this month if we're going to meet our 2025 budget and fully fund our ministry for this year. We need to raise over 60,000 CHF in December, whereas our monthly average income is under 30,000.- chf. Please consider making a year-end gift to the congregation, perhaps in gratitude for what our ministry has meant to you this year. We believe we can meet our goal, but it's going to take every one of us pitching in with big and small additional contributions. Thank you for your generosity!

Creative Writing Group - Tuesday, 16 December at 19h00

Everyone who loves to write is invited to join the creative writing group, meeting in the Gemeinderaum at the church, once a month on Tuesday evening, 19h00 - 20h30. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 16 December at 19h00. Bites will be provided. All welcome! Please contact Cynthia Wilbers or the church office for further info.

Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: 17 January, 21 February, 14 March, 18 April. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, or the office for more information.

Young Adults' Group

If you're 18-30, you have a place here! Join our young adults group to grow in faith, build friendships, and walk with Christ. We'll be meeting up one Friday and one Saturday per month at church (top floor). To get connected, please text or approach Naomi (+41762146607), Olivia (+41764493137), or Ano (+41795502633).

Nursery Care Available for Young Children

Nursery care is available during worship on Sunday mornings for children age 3 and under. Two paid staff—Simone Lange and Beatrice Tarimo—will alternate weeks working in the nursery from 11h00 to 13h00. Children are always welcome in worship, but for families who wish, this option will now be available. Contact the church office with any questions.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

21 December – Group C 25 December – All 28 December – Group D 4 January – Group E

If you can help on a week when your group is assigned, please let your group's coordinator know

Cover image: Photo by Hendrik Morkel on Unsplash

This Week's Schedule:

Tues, 16 Dec	19h00	Being With course	
	19h00	Creative writing group	
Wed, 17 Dec	12h00	Being With course	
Thurs, 18 Dec	19h30	Choir practice	
Fri, 19 Dec	19h00	Rehearsal for carols singalong	
Sun, 21 Dec	11h00	Worship and church school	
	17h00	Christmas carol singalong	
Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30			

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. Thank you for your support! There are three ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

By Cash: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship. **By U.S. dollar check**: Make the check payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," and on the memo portion, write "GMG 0858".

If you are a guest in our congregation today, please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We'd love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.

	ELCG Connection Card	
Name		
Phone		
Email		
Comments		
New to Geneva? Y/N		Date
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